



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Lee County

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Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.

GPS Coordinates: ,

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: In western Lee Co. Out of Donnellson take U.S. 218 south two miles and continue south on Hwy. 27, the road to Argyle, where 218 bends southeast; 5.5 miles from this point enter Argyle and turn west on 295th St., where there is an old wooden church. Go three miles west, including the transition from 295th to Belfast Rd., and including several turns toward the end, to the edge of the Croton Unit. A short turnoff to a parking area is on the right along a straight stretch of road. A very rough trail leads north into the woods from here, easiest to explore by simply following the creek. Walking the road from the parking space west to the bridge is also productive.

Amenities:

Ft. Madison Riverfront Park

GPS Coordinates: 40.6287207875886,-91.3078103962471

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: In downtown Fort Madison along Highway 61, and next to the BNSF railroad bridge.

Amenities:

Green Bay Bottoms

GPS Coordinates: 40.6520736255363,-91.2270140647888

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: In eastern Lee County. Three miles either north of Ft. Madison or south of Wever, take J-50/190th St. east from U.S. 61 for two miles, past the railroad tracks, to 355th Ave. Follow 355th south about one mile to the marsh at left (east).

Amenities:

Heron Bend Conservation Area (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 40.5734,-91.42562

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: In eastern Lee Co. Heron Bend is about seven miles downriver from Ft. Madison along U.S.

61, between 260th and 270th Sts., east side of the highway.

Amenities:

Junkyard near Argyle

GPS Coordinates: 40.5347909372512,-91.6077563166618

Ownership: Private (see directions for access)

Description: This rural junkyard, full of old cars and appliances, has become well-known to Iowa birders as the most reliable place for Bewick's Wren in the state. It is private property and birding must be done from the road, but in a fairly high percentage of trips there a Bewick's is at least heard.

Habitat: Junkyard surrounded by forest and scrub.

Directions: In western Lee Co. Out of Donnellson take U.S. 218 south two miles and continue south on Hwy. 27, the road to Argyle, where 218 bends southeast; 5.5 miles from this point enter Argyle and turn west on 295th St., where there is an old wooden church. Go two miles west including the transition from 295th to Belfast Rd. Soon there will be a sharp turn right, and at the following sharp turn left is the junkyard area where the wrens have been found.

Amenities:

keokuk

GPS Coordinates: 40.3870015198541,-91.3915756344795

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: US Hwy 218 into town. Turn right (southwest) on S. 2nd Street, go one block, then left (southeast) on Johnson Street for about three blocks to Mississippi Drive. Follow Mississippi Drive southwest to near its end where a boat access area is found.

Amenities:

Mississippi River -- Pool 19 (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6228699605912,-91.3329935073853

Has Site Guide

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: Off U.S. 61/Hwy. 2, follow 20th St. to its end at the river. This is a standard Ft. Madison birding stop with no known prohibition against scoping from this location. If sun angle is a problem, return to U.S. 61, proceed upriver and cross the bridge into Illinois at Hwy. 2/Ill. 9. Take Ill. 96 downriver through Niota, and at the first bend leftward, leave 96 and continue on the gravel road straight ahead. Soon take your first right, another gravel road, and scope the backwater directly along the road (Illinois birds). Continue from here looking for places to scope the river itself through small clearings in the trees (a bit tricky).

Amenities:**Mississippi River Lock and Dam # 19 (Iowa) (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)****GPS Coordinates:** 40.3957184,-91.3751793**Has Site Guide****Ownership:** None listed**Description:****Habitat:****Directions:** In the town of Keokuk, there is a boat ramp where people feed ducks, and watch Bald Eagles come in to roost.**Amenities:****Montrose****GPS Coordinates:** 40.533203752492,-91.4144031819887**Ownership:** None listed**Description:****Habitat:****Directions:** In southern Lee Co. (1): Enter into Montrose from U.S. 61, now driving on Main St., straight to the river, where there's a park. (2): Exit Montrose upriver on 1st St./River Road (You should pass the cemetery on your left), until it fairly soon meets U.S. 61. Scope from the small Linger-Longer rest stop here. (3): Enter onto U.S. 61, heading upriver toward Ft. Madison. Look for the first road east toward the river, 276th St., at a gas station-convenience store. Follow 276th to the river and scope from where it turns sharply left. * See the Nauvoo entry for Pool 19, which often affords better viewing of the duck rafts, and the majority of which are still Iowa birds.**Amenities:****Montrose Marsh****GPS Coordinates:** 40.5353984103629,-91.4191406965256**Ownership:** None listed**Description:****Habitat:****Directions:** This marsh is in the town of Montrose just off US Highway 61.**Amenities:****Rand Park (eBird Hotspot)****GPS Coordinates:** 40.4109132,-91.3823498**Ownership:** None listed**Description:****Habitat:****Directions:**

Amenities:

Shimek State Forest--Croton Unit (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 40.5456626,-91.6162164

Has Site Guide

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions:

Amenities:

Shimek State Forest--Donnellson Unit (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 40.642781,-91.6703033

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions: In western Lee Co. The entrance is 5.5 miles west of U.S. 218 along Hwy. 2, north side of the road. Stop at the first picnic area you come to on the right side of the entrance road. Walking back along the road itself and listening is often productive, particularly for Hooded Warbler. There is also a trail at the far edge of the picnic area, from along which many good birds are reported. The trail soon loops back to the picnic area if you turn left near the footbridge. A .pdf map is available at <http://www.iowadnr.com/wildlife/wmamaps/donnellson.pdf>

Amenities:

Shimek State Forest--Farmington Unit (Lee Co) (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 40.6397489,-91.7112494

Ownership: None listed

Description:

Habitat:

Directions:

Amenities: