



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Louisa County

Printed on 4/24/2024

Cairo Woods Wildlife Area (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.2005999,-91.3529062

Ownership: County

Description: 525 Acres Timber and prairie

Habitat: In central Louisa Co. Trails are winding and complex, defying easy verbal description. Start with the trail closest to the fence at right, and follow it as it heads generally northeast into various brush-and-meadow sections, mostly along and off the right side of the trail. One of the early right-going trails is easily seen to be a loop around a small field; this is worth checking, but it is the next right-going trail that heads into the most chat-productive shrubby area. If you have the right area, there should be a trail on the far side of the shrubby area going downhill and rightward and into a wooded section along a creek (listen for White-eyed Vireo in this shrubby section as well). Has many equestrian trails that are mowed. Lots of edge effect on the area.

Directions: From Columbus City go (S) on X-17 for 3.86 miles, turn L (E) on 95th St for 1.6 miles, then R (S) on T Ave. for .49 miles, L (E) on 90th Ave. for .96 miles and finally L (N) on S Ave. for .4 miles

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Cone Marsh (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.39477,-91.40833

Has Site Guide

Ownership: State

Description: Former oxbow of the Iowa River. 728 Acres

Habitat: Area is 1/2 Marsh, state manages about 1/3 of total area, the other portions are managed by private groups. . There are several parking areas for viewing along the west and south sides of the marsh, including a dike walk on the west side.. The private areas can be viewed from the roads around and through the marsh

Directions: In northwestern Louisa Co. From Lone Tree in southern Johnson Co., follow X-14 south about six miles, including some turns, to G-28. Continue south from this point on V Ave., a gravel road, about one half mile to the northwest corner of the marsh. Or from Conesville in Louisa Co., take 250th St. (becoming 220th) west from Hwy. 70 about 2.5 miles to the southeast corner of the marsh. There are several parking areas for viewing along the west and south sides of the marsh, including a dike walk on the west side. Also, 1.5 miles east along G-28 from X-14, take T Ave. south one mile for viewing of the marsh's east side. Three parking lots

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Indian Slough (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.2288945360737,-91.2170791625977

Ownership: County

Description: Iowa River flood plain, 1100 acres

Habitat: Wetland and shallow open water, brush, timber and prairie. mowed equestrian trails - 4 parking lots

Directions: In eastern Louisa Co. Two miles north of Wapello on U.S. 61, just north past the Iowa River, take K Ave. west about 1.5 miles to the slough's Main Access entrance road on your left, where K bends right. From the parking area enter the fields at right and take the trails to the edge of the slough, walking generally northward. A trail will eventually parallel the shoreline. There is also viewing as you first approach the parking area.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Odessa WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.1756591,-91.0734864

Ownership: Federal - COE

Description: 4,139 acres. This is the south end of Lake Odessa and is managed by the DNR. It is mostly sloughs in the bottom ground with cabins along the bluff side. The main access for trails is on the Toolsboro access.

Habitat: 1/2 timber, 1/4 lake, 1/4 marsh. Water control with tubes to the Mississippi River. Toolsboro access has description of trails.

Directions: .5 miles E of Wapello on Hwy 99, 3.5 miles NE on G 62, .25 miles N on X 61

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Port Louisa NWR (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.2199535,-91.1303673

Ownership: Federal - COE

Description: open water and wet areas for waterfowl management closed to public in the fall from September 15 to January 1 The area is managed by the USFWS and protected by a levy with tubes to control water levels.

Habitat: the trail for bottom land is a gravel service road of about 5 miles in length, has some dry areas along the trail. open water is multiple sloughs The trail head on the upland portion is at the Headquarters which is woods and a small open area

Directions: In eastern Louisa Co. Just west of Grandview, take U.S. 61 south a little more than three miles from Hwy. 92 to G-56, which is a gravel road east off U.S. 61 (or, take U.S. 61 north 3.5 miles from its intersection with Hwy. 99 in Wapello). Go east on G-56 three miles to a T-intersection at X-61. Turn north on X-61 and then very quickly turn east on 120th St. Continue east on 120th, downhill and then into the wildlife refuge.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Port Louisa NWR--Horseshoe Bend (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.1136328,-91.0921097

Ownership: Federal - COE

Description: 2,606 acres of Iowa River flood plain. Managed by USFWS and closed to public September 15 to December 1.

Habitat: Grassland, wet meadows with seasonal flooding which leaves ruminant pools of water

Directions: From Wapello, go east on Cty 99 (formerly State 99) for 2-3 miles to 114th Ave. Follow that gravel rd for 2.2 miles. At that point land is on each side of the rd. with cables to prevent vehicles from driving on the area.

Amenities: Parking |

Toolesboro Access (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.1411098,-91.0564041

Ownership: Federal - USFWS

Description: the outlet tubes for the Odessa complex is at the end of the road, the road to the tubes has wooded wet areas and ponds on both sides managed by DNR

Habitat: ponds and sloughs near the Mississippi river with substantial wooded areas. The road runs between wooded backwaters. 0.4 miles from the gate come to a parking area on the left. The trail from here leads beside a section of wetland to the right. This wetland is larger than appears and can be circumvented, not smoothly, from its far side. Otherwise the main trail, sometimes very muddy, leads eventually between two woodland ponds; ultimately through open land to a small lake. Continuing on the road leads along more wooded backwater, to the access.

Directions: In southeastern Louisa Co. Begin in Toolesboro on Hwy. 99. Follow the sign for the access pointing you north, along Prairie St. At the bottom of the hill is a gate, which begins the public area. The road runs between wooded backwaters. 0.4 miles from the gate come to a parking area on the left. The trail from here leads beside a section of wetland to the right. This wetland is larger than appears and can be circumvented, not smoothly, from its far side. Otherwise the main trail, sometimes very muddy, leads eventually between two woodland ponds; ultimately through open land to a small lake. Continuing on the road leads along more wooded backwater, to the access.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |