



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Marshall County

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Arney Bend WA

GPS Coordinates: ,

Ownership: None listed

Description: 203 acres of river booth woods, grassland, and a pond. Run by the Marshall County Conservation Board.

Habitat: Grasslands, pond, and woods along the Iowa River. Good for flycatcher in migration, cuckoos, herons, wood ducks, and woodland birds. There are trails but kind of limited. Make your own way.

Directions: Start Point: Intersection of IA 330 and S75 (about 1/2 north of Albion in Marshall County). Head WEST on S75 for ~ 1/2 mile. Continue straight WEST on 160th (NOT S75 which goes north) for another 1.2 miles to Lafayette Ave. Turn right (NORTH) onto Lafayette and continue 1 mile on Lafayette (go around a corner to the west). BEFORE you get to the next curve going NORTH there will be a lane heading SOUTH--should have a posted sign there but.... Take this lane heading SOUTH and then turn WEST. Proceed to the parking area.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Grammer Grove WA (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.1676763,-93.0355546

Ownership: County

Description: 121 acres of wooded hillsides and river bottom woods along the Iowa River. BOW hunting for deer is allowed but NO OTHER HUNTING.

Habitat: Wooded hillsides and river bottom area. Outstanding for warblers one the years--35 species of warblers recorded here!! Good place for woodland birds during migration and summer. Pileated Woodpecker here year round. Site of the Grammar Grove Hawk Watch (25 years with some amazing counts during some of those years).

Directions: Start point: Intersection of t CR S75, CR E18, and IA 311 at the south edge of Liscomb. Proceed 1 miles SOUTH on S75. Turn right (WEST) onto 125th and proceed 1 mile to Knapp Ave. Turn left (SOUTH) and go 1/4 mile. Turn right (WEST) into the lane going to Grammar Grove. Proceed to the parking lot.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | Camping |

Grimes Farm Nature Center (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 42.021476,-92.9692365

Ownership: County

Description: Nature Center with 160 acres of forest, wetlands, prairie, and a lookout tower. Marshall County Conservation Board is in charge. Restrooms and drinking water available ONLY when Nature Center is open!

Habitat: Forest, wetlands, and prairie. Good mix of birds is possible and there are feeders at the nature

center

Directions: NW of Marshalltown. COMPLICATED by easy if you follow directions so... From the WEST: Start at intersection of US 30 and IA 300 (this is several miles west of Marshalltown). Proceed WEST to Exit 181 (approx 2 miles). Take the exit and follow it eastward to Oaks Ave/Highland Acres Rd (1.4 miles). Turn left (NORTH) and proceed .7 miles to 233rd Street. Turn left and proceed .6 miles to parking. From the EAST: Start at intersection of US 30 and Marshalltown (Exit 185 do NOT get off this is just a start point). Proceed WEST and TAKE next the exit marked Oaks Ave (approx 2.5 miles). Turn right (NORTH) and proceed .7 miles to 233rd Street. Turn left and proceed .6 miles to parking.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails |

Hendrickson Marsh

GPS Coordinates: 41.9362129,-93.2398612

Ownership: Federal - NPS

Description: 780 acre area- 2/3 upland and grasses and 1/3 marsh and open water lake. ***MUCH of this is in STORY county.

Habitat: Marshall County areas is mostly marsh and lake. Shorebirds can be good if water is low. Ducks, herons, swallow, and pied-bill grebes.

Directions: Starting in Rhodes (SW Marshall County) intersection of S52 and E63 travel WEST on E63 ~ 2.6 miles to 740th Ave (may say Arney Ave). This is the county line between Marshall and Story Counties. Turn right (NORTH) onto 740th Ave/Arney Ave. and proceed .4 miles to the parking lot on the left (WEST). Marsh can be viewed on BOTH sides of the road. Keep in mind that the parking lot is in Story county. Everything on the EAST side of the road is Marshall County and everything on the WEST side of the road is Story County

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Drinking Water |

Iowa River WA

GPS Coordinates: 42.074236,-92.941363

Ownership: None listed

Description: 484 acre county area NW of Marshalltown: Iowa River Wildlife Management Area (WMA) contains ponds, grasslands, and river bottom woods.

Habitat: Ponds, grasslands, and river bottom woods.

Directions: From Marshalltown center--intersection of IA 14 and E35 go NORTH .6 miles to Riverside Street. Turn left (WEST) for .3 miles then bear right (NW) onto N. Center Street. Proceed 1.4 miles to Sand Rd and turn left (WEST). Proceed 1 miles to parking lot. This should be on the left (SOUTH) side of the road partway through a curve.

Amenities:

Marietta Sand Prairie

GPS Coordinates: 42.099407,-93.039529

Ownership: County

Description: 229 acre county sand prairie (dry grassland).

Habitat: Grasslands.

Directions: From intersection of IA-330 and 180th (north end of the town of Marietta) follow 180th Street 2.4 miles as it winds west and north. At Knapp Ave turn right (NORTH) for 1/2 mile to the parking lot on the right (EAST) side of the road.

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Nicholson Ford Marsh

GPS Coordinates: 42.056455,-92.880357

Ownership: None listed

Description: Small marsh area consisting of 78 acres of grassland and old vegetation. Some shallow areas with water. Additionally, you are right next to the Linn Creek Greenbelt Recreation Trail which has several access points within 100yds. Great for walking and biking and birding.

Habitat: Grassland and old vegetation. Enough water/moisture to support rails and occasional American Bittern but not enough water to be of concern (may not need any kind of boots at all). There are some kind of bike trails there. Linn Creek Greenbelt Recreation Trail wanders on 3 sides of this marshy area as well as east and north. Should be some good birding depending on time of year.

Directions: From Marshalltown center intersection of IA 14 and E35 go NORTH for .5 miles to E Marion Street. Turn right (EAST) and proceed 1.4 miles. Park on the side of the road. Marsh is on the SOUTH side of the road.

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Prairie Creek Wildlife Refuge (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 42.122358,-93.213863

Ownership: Private (see directions for access)

Description: Fantastic grasslands belonging to Carl and Linda Kurtz. Permission is easily obtained they are always HAPPY to show off their property. Contact info is: 641-477-8364 or email of cpkurtz@netins.net There is NO parking but Carl and Linda will handle that when you contact them. They may even offer you something to drink or a reststop in their home.

Habitat: Amazing prairie with incredible prairie birds and plants.

Directions: Start point: SE corner of St Anthony (NW Marshall County). Proceed 1 mile WEST on CR E23. Prairie Creek WMA is on the NORTH side of the road just BEFORE you get to Binford Ave.

Amenities: