Badger Lake (Important Bird Area)
**GPS Coordinates:** 42.152124,-96.22823  
**Ownership:** None listed  
**Description:** 1109 acres of winding oxbows on both sides of I-29 just north of Whiting Iowa. Parking spots are located on Cashew Ave, Buckley Ave, 150th, and off of K42. Best viewing is along 140th east of the interstate and on 150th. A good pdf download of a map of the area is available at: http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting/Places-to-Hunt-Shoot/Wildlife-Management-Areas/Public-WMAs-Counties-K-M then click on Badger Lake  
**Habitat:** 1/3 wetland and 2/3 upland. In season: Waterfowl, Loggerhead Shrike, American Woodcock, American Bittern, Sedge and Marsh Wren along with many other species.  
**Directions:** Take the Whiting exit, #120, off I-29. Follow county rd. K-42 west for about 100 yds then turn north on Cashew Avenue. Follow Cashew until you reach Buckley Ave and turn north (right) to 140th. Turn right and cross over the interstate. Viewing on your right. Other areas to view are along Buckley Ave and west on 145th and then to 150th going west. There are place to walk and view grassland and march species as well as lake viewing.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Parking |

---

Blue Lake (eBird Hotspot)
**GPS Coordinates:** 42.0456385,-96.1651025  
**Ownership:** Multiple  
**Description:** 250 acre lake connect to Lewis and Clark State Park in western Monona County.  
**Habitat:** Lake with wetlands on south side of the road. Waterfowl and marsh species along with the occasional Common Gallinule, American Bittern, and other waders.  
**Directions:** I-29 at Onawa, IA Take exit 112 and turn WEST on Hwy 175. Proceed ~1 mile. Lake will be on both sides of the road.

**Amenities:**

---

Lewis and Clark SP (eBird Hotspot)
**GPS Coordinates:** 42.0327193,-96.16436  
**Ownership:** State  
**Description:** Lewis and Clark State Park consists of 176 acres located in western Monona County. The park features camping, picnicking, boating, swimming, and fishing on 250-acre Blue Lake.  
**Habitat:** Woodland, wetland, and lake. Waterfowl can be incredible. Woodland and marsh birds in season.  
**Directions:** I-29 at Onawa, IA Take exit 112 and turn WEST on Hwy 175. Proceed ~1.5 miles west to Park Loop on your right (west side of the lake). Turn right and proceed north into the park.

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | Camping | Cabins |
Loess Hills SF Preparation Canyon Uni (Important Bird Area)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.8894651946799,-95.9243774414063

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** 4125 acres of Loess Hills forest. Deciduous trees and also pines and cedar. Some upland grass areas along with several ponds and wetlands. Parking: a number of spots though not well marked. A couple of picnic shelters but no restrooms. Some trails--most not well marked but can be seen if looking for them. Preparation Canyon State Park (RESTROOMS and water are available here) is located in the NE corner of this section of Loess Hills State Forest.

**Habitat:** Forest, wetlands, ponds, creeks, and upland. Work all the internal roads. Birding can be incredibly good most of the time. Take time to work the forest edges, trails, creeks, and ponds.

**Directions:** On I-29 take Exit 105 (~ 8 miles south of Onawa) and go EAST on E60 through Blencoe. Follow E60 as is winds east and south and eventually into the Loess Hills State Forest. E60 is the main road through the forest.

**Amenities:** Parking |

---

Loess Hills WA (Important Bird Area)

**GPS Coordinates:** 42.0998018055896,-95.971155166626

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** Located about 10 miles NE of Onawa this 2665 acres of upland and timber is set in the incredible Loess Hills. Home of the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. Bird and habitat are a great attraction. Primitive camping is available.

**Habitat:** Upland and timber with some ponds and creeks and occasional wetlands. Work the roads--Oak Ave, 178th St, Nutmeg Ave, and 205th Sr. Cuckoos, warblers and other woodland bird, as well as grassland birds. Fantastic place to go birdwatching. Primitive camping is allowed in some locations.

**Directions:** Start Point: Onawa, IA. From I-29 Exit 112 proceed 2.5 miles to Filbert Ave. Turn left on Hwy L12. Proceed 7.2 miles on L12 then take a slight right onto Nutmeg Ave. Proceed .4 miles where you will take a HARD right onto 178th St. You are now entering the Loess Hills Wildlife Area. PARKING is available on Nutmeg Ave and at intersection of Oak and 178th

**Amenities:** Parking | Trails |

---

Preparation Canyon State Park (Important Bird Area)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.8903213779162,-95.9122753143311

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** 344 acre State Park: Several trails wind their way through the rugged Loess Hills, and along the many streams and springs found in the area. These trails will also take you to the hike-in camping sites. A nature study area is located in the eastern area of the park. Camping is WALK-IN only.

**Habitat:** Large number of trails through the forest. Best birding is along the edges of the forest and in the canopy.

**Directions:** On I-29 take Exit 105 (~ 8 miles south of Onawa) and go EAST on E60 through Blencoe.
Follow E60 as is winds east and south and eventually into the Loess Hills State Forest. After entering the state forest on E60 you will come to first intersection--turn left (north) on Oak Ave. Follow Oak Ave into 314th St (a slight right). Follow 314th St to Preparation Canyon Rd which will take you into the state park.

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

**Sylvan Runkle State Preserve**

**GPS Coordinates:** 42.1022302630262, -95.9715843200684

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** West side of Loess Hills Wildlife Area. 12.4 miles of trail bordering 178th Street on the south, Oak Ave on the east, and Nutmeg LANE on the west.

**Habitat:** Upland grasses and woodlands with some streams. More than 100 bird species habituate the preserve, including yellow-billed and black-billed cuckoos, scarlet tanager, yellow-throated warbler and much more.

**Directions:** Start Point: Onawa, IA. From I-29 Exit 112 proceed 2.5 miles to Filbert Ave. Turn left on Hwy L12. Proceed 7.2 miles on L12 then take a slight right onto Nutmeg Ave. Proceed .4 miles where you will take a HARD right onto 178th St. Proceed 2.1 miles to Oak Ave. Park vehicle and proceed 100 yards north on Oak Ave. to sign for Sylvan Runkel are your left (west) side of Oak Ave.

**Amenities:** Parking | Trails | Camping |