Green Valley SP (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.1018626,-94.3840599

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** 990-acre state park which includes a 390-acre lake. Nature and multi-purpose trails, many bordering the lake, provide excellent opportunities to for birding. Variety of trees and brush provide excellent habitat for numerous avian species both migrant and permanent residents.

**Habitat:** Woodlands, brush, lake, marshy areas. Excellent during migration periods and also many summer and year round residents.

**Directions:** Start Point: US 34/Iowa 25 (aka Summer Ave) on south side of Creston. Proceed NORTH on IA 25/Summer Ave for 1.7 miles to West Towline Street. Turn left (WEST) on proceed .5 miles to P27/Green Valley Rd/Lincoln St. Turn right (NORTH) and proceed 2.5 miles to IA 186/130th Street. Turn left (WEST) and go .3 miles to main park entrance. There are several other access points around the lake and many opportunities to view lake and walk the trails.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking | Trails | Camping | Cabins |

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Summit Lake (eBird Hotspot)

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.069775,-94.3914413

**Ownership:** Multiple

**Description:** 250 acre Summit Lake with Mitchell Marsh--a large wetland area at the upper end of the lake. Parking and scoping from this area are decent. The lake is surrounded by private property but there is access to Mitchell Marsh if you make your way to the far NE corner of the lake on 150th Street just west of Green Valley Rd. There is a SMALL questionable parking area on the north side of 150th. You can walk the dike that parallels the marsh northward. Mitchell Marsh actually extends south into Summit Lake on the south, as well as, north of 150th towards Green Valley SP. This northern part can be viewed and walked from the dam

**Habitat:** Lake, marsh, with patches of grassland and some edge woods. Waterfowl, marsh birds, and some woods birds.

**Directions:** Start Point: US 34/Iowa 25 (aka Summer Ave) on south side of Creston. Proceed NORTH on IA 25/Summer Ave for 1.6 miles to West Towline Street. Turn left (WEST) and proceed 1.0 miles. Parking is on you left (south side of the road). See notes above for more view areas.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Parking |

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Talmage Hill Park and WA

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.0270534121957,-94.0937805175781

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** This 210-acre area on the north side of Highway 34, 2 miles west of Thayer, is one of the
County's most beautiful natural areas. It abounds with habitat diversity, from the 5 acre pond, marsh and timbered areas to the upland game areas. It is used extensively by wildlife enthusiasts as well as for an outdoor classroom for environmental education.

**Habitat:** Woods, marsh/wetland, grasslands. Diversity of habitat makes it good for birding year round

**Directions:** Start Point: Intersection of US 34 and P64 (just SOUTH of Thayer. Head WEST on 34 for 2.4 miles. Parking will be on the right (NORTH) side of the road. The wildlife area is on the north side of the road and the Park in on the south side of the road.

**Amenities:** Parking |

**Thayer Lake Park & Area**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.0208046782352,-94.0715074539185

**Ownership:** Multiple

**Description:** Afton Lake--Small park with parking, picnic areas, pit toilet, and camping. Facilities are somewhat degraded but the birding is decent. Drive the park and the "loop" Thayer Lake Rd (on north and west sides), 197th Rd on the south, and P64 on the east. Many places to stop, look, and listen.

**Habitat:** Lake, some woods surrounding the lake, brush, wetlands.

**Directions:** Start Point: Intersection of US 34 and P34 (just SOUTH of Thayer). Head SOUTH on P64 to the first road going right (West) which is Thayer Lake Rd. Proceed west and curve south. Entrance to park will be on your left. Also work the "loop" see Site Description.

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking |

**Three Mile Lake (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.0805157,-94.2203808

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** 880 county park in north central Union County, just north of Afton. Contains a large well developed lake surround by woods. Marsh and grasslands are also well represented. You could easily spend 1/2 day visiting the various areas of this lake alone.

**Habitat:** Lake, woodlands, and some marshy areas. Conceivably most Iowa species could be encountered here during the year.

**Directions:** Start point: Intersection of US 34 and IA 169 (just north of Afton) Proceed northwest on US 34 for .2 miles. Turn right (NORTH) on Creamery Rd/P53 and continue 3.5 miles to H-33. Turn left (WEST) and proceed to the lake. There are several access points to the lake itself on the east side and MANY places to bird around the lake.

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

**Twelve Mile Lake**

**GPS Coordinates:** 41.060909292508,-94.260721206665

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** 635 acre lake just off U.S. Highway34 about 1/2 between Afton and Creston. Twelve Mile Lake is surrounded by 1,000 acres great habitat. Prairie woodlands along with patches of woods, marsh,
and grasslands. There are numerous access points for bird watching on all sides of the lake. Some private but still plenty of places to stop and bird.

**Habitat:** Lake, wetlands, some grassland, and some woods! Migration times would be most productive but birds seem to be there any time of the year

**Directions:** Start Point: Intersection of US 34 and P43/Lark Ave (about 1/2 way between Creston and Afton. Proceed NORTH about 1/2 mile to main access area.

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