Annett NC (Important Bird Area)
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.2968326674179,-93.5801629367065  
**Ownership:** County  
**Description:** The nature center is home to the staff of the Warren County Conservation Board. The surrounding area has trails, a bird blind, and a hawkwatch tower.  
**Habitat:** Wetlands, woodlands, and grasslands with some restored big bluestem prairie.  
**Directions:** Go south of Indianola for five miles on Hwy 65-69. At the point where the highways split, turn right (west) at the sign for Lake Ahquabi SP. At the park entrance, turn right again (north) and follow that paved road for about a mile. One parking area is almost directly across from the north state park entrance and the nature center is a bit further to the north.  
**Amenities:** Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails |

Bank Swallow Bend WA (eBird Hotspot)
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.3422136,-93.4844685  
**Ownership:** County  
**Description:** The former Diehl wetlands is now a new county park managed by the Warren County Conservation Board. Access and parking has been improved.  
**Habitat:** Shallow wetlands with a couple of deeper ponds; grasslands interspersed with some row crops. Bald Eagle nest is easy to view from the south access looking to the southeast. Look for Short-eared Owls over the grasslands in winter.  
**Directions:** In central Warren Co. 3.5 miles east from U.S. 65/69 in Indianola along Hwy. 92, take S-23, the road to Milo, one mile south to a four-way stop at Kennedy St. Continue south about 3/4 mile on the now-gravel road, 168th Ave., to the pond on the east side, just before the river.  
**Public Hunting Area**  
**Amenities:** Parking | Trails |

Banner Flats WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.4498034,-93.5248947  
**Ownership:** State  
**Description:** An area with a high water table along Middle River, there are usually a variety of wetlands interspersed with primarily scrub. The Summerset Bike Trail, from Indianola to Carlisle, traverses several miles through the area. An observation deck provides a nice view of the marsh and is along the trail just east of the state park shooting range.  
**Habitat:** Wetlands, grasslands, shrubs, some mature trees along Middle River. This is a good place to find Bell's Vireo.  
**Directions:** North of Indianola in northern Warren Co. Take U.S. 65/69 north six miles from Hwy. 92 to Elk Horn St. Turn right and proceed one mile east to 138th Ave., at the end of Elk Horn, and the entrance is south at the end of a short spur.
Public Hunting Area
Amenities: Restrooms | Parking | Trails | ADA Accessible Trails

Blue Flag Marsh (Important Bird Area)
GPS Coordinates: 41.4478487615798,-93.7600188329816
Ownership: County
Description: Small wetland managed by the Warren County Conservation Board south of Cumming in the western part of the county.
Habitat: Shallow wetlands and some grasslands. Home to the only Warren County record of nesting King Rails.
Directions: A small public wetland south of Cumming in northwest Warren Co. Take the Cumming exit east from I-35 and turn south on 25th Ave., the first gravel road south upon entering Cumming, across from the parking lot for the nature trail. Take 25th about two miles south, past Delaware St., to the wetland on the east side. The gravel path on the north side of the wetland is private property and should not be used.
Amenities: Parking |

Hooper WA (Important Bird Area)
GPS Coordinates: 41.2774718548475,-93.5890316963196
Ownership: State
Description: This impoundment extends the Lake Ahquabi landscape to the south although much of the habitat is different. It is frequented by fisherman.
Habitat: Much of the habitat here has been somewhat manipulated with a lot of scrub surrounding the lake. Of most interest to birders are the plantings of cedar and pines which can be prime spots in winter for Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls.
Directions: In southern Warren Co. Out of Indianola, take U.S. 65/69 south five miles to Hwy. 349 to the west. Go west one mile on Hwy. 349 as if to Lake Ahquabi S.P. Just before entering Ahquabi, turn south to the Hooper Area.

Public Hunting Area
Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Lake Ahquabi SP (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)
GPS Coordinates: 41.2876552,-93.5887632
Ownership: State
Description: This state park in south central Iowa consists of a man-made lake surrounded by oak-hickory timber. It is a popular fishing lake and has some concessions as well as a swim beach.
Habitat: Mostly oak-hickory timber with some shrub edges. A number of cedars are mixed into the woodlands. Target species include Summer Tanager and Northern Parula and occasionally Yellow-throated, Cerulean, Kentucky, and Hooded Warblers.
Directions: From the town of Indianola: Take US Highway 65/69 south to county road G58. Turn right on
G58, and this road will take you to the park.

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

**Lundy Acres**
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.4177199948725, -93.5886172595215
**Ownership:** County
**Description:** This is a small county park with a nice trail through lowland woods along a small stream. It has been a good place to find migrating passerines.
**Habitat:** Woodland with some shrubby edge.
**Directions:** Approximately halfway between Des Moines and Indianola, turn west on county highway G24. Go west for about a mile and turn left on 115th Ave. After crossing Middle River you will soon come to the park entrance on your right.
**Amenities:** Parking | Trails |

**Otter Creek County Park**
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.2465793286587, -93.5312461853027
**Ownership:** County
**Description:** Warren County park with a variety of habitats.
**Habitat:** Mature woodland, grasslands, and scrub. Cooper's Hawk and Pileated Woodpecker nest here.
**Directions:** Go south of Indianola for five miles to the Lake Ahquabi corner where Hwy 65 and Hwy 69 split. Turn left on Hwy 65 and drive east for about 1.25 miles. Turn right onto 140th Ave. Some minimum maintenance roads will now dictate your path. Go south for about a mile to your first left turn (Pioneer St.). This short road will soon force a right turn for another short distance where you turn left onto Polk St. In about .5 miles turn right at the T intersection and go south on 150th Ave. for a mile. When you reach Quebec St. turn right for the entrance to the park.
**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking | Trails | Camping |

**Red Rock WMA--Hartford area (eBird Hotspot)**
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.4840598, -93.3564236
**Ownership:** State
**Description:** A part of the Red Rock Wildlife Management Area where South River makes a connection with the Des Moines River.
**Habitat:** Primarily river bottom with various pools resulting from flooding. During times of low water this can be a great place for shorebirds.
**Directions:** This area is accessed from Hwy 5, south of Hartford, in Warren Co. Follow the Webb Camping signs. Instead of entering Webb's take the dead end road to the Des Moines river.
**Amenities:** Parking |

**Rolling Thunder Prairie**
**GPS Coordinates:** 41.2017746907885, -93.6548785510254
Ownership: County

Description: 282 acres of mostly native prairie.

Habitat: Native prairie with some scrub habitat. This is a great place for October sparrow watching.

Directions: Go south of Indianola on Hwy 69 to County Hwy G76. Go west (right) for about four miles to 80th Ave. Turn north (right) and watch for the parking area on the west side of the road in about a 1.5 miles.

Amenities: Parking |

Runnells Overlook (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.4739075177978,-93.3301864206092

Ownership: State

Description: This parking area overlooks the Des Moines River bottom and can be a great place to scan for waterfowl and shorebirds when water conditions are right. It is an inviolate refuge and is closed to entry from early September through the end of the waterfowl season. Prior to closing walking down the hill may get one closer to some of the wetlands. It can also be a great place to do some hawk watching as raptors move down river.

Habitat: The habitat of this area is totally dependent on water levels and floods. It may be a huge lake, isolated wetlands, or may have food plots planted.

Directions: From Hwy. 5 southeast of Hartford, turn left on Hwy. 316 towards Runnells. In about 2.5 miles the road makes a sharp bend to the left/west. The parking area is immediately on your right.

Amenities: Parking |

Summerset Bike Path (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 41.4457985496944,-93.5345613956451

Ownership: County

Description: This eleven mile bike trail follows an abandoned rail line between Indianola and Carlisle. The southern half goes through rolling hills before descending to the Middle River bottom land and Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park and adjacent wetlands. Restrooms are available in the park which is approximately halfway.

Habitat: Upland scrub with a variety of woodland birds on the southern end; lowlands with wetland species from the river to Carlisle. The bike trail is a good place to find Bell's Vireo.

Directions: Park at either terminus (Indianola or Carlisle) or at the state park to access the trail. The trailhead in Indianola is about a half block east of Hwy 65/69 on Euclid.

Amenities: Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | ADA Accessible Trails

Woodland Mounds Preserve (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 41.3437762525406,-93.4024143218994

Ownership: County

Description: On a ridge above the South River, this oak/hickory timber has cultural significance as it protects some mounds of the Woodland Indians. Many trails wander through the area and there is a nice
picnic area at the parking lot.

**Habitat:** Primary oak/hickory timber with occasional southern species like Summer Tanager, Pileated Woodpeck, and Cooper's Hawk found. This is a good area to find Winter Wren in season.

**Directions:** In eastern Warren Co. 3.5 miles east along Hwy. 92 from U.S. 65/69, take S-23, the road to Milo, two winding miles to Keokuk St. on the east. Proceed 1.5 miles east on Keokuk. After crossing the river watch for Kirkwood, a rock road, on your left. Turn here and take it 2+ miles to the preserve entrance. Note that the Google map is incorrect!

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking | Trails |