Cardinal Marsh SWA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)
GPS Coordinates: 43.3243035,-92.0761585
Ownership: State
Description: A very diverse site with several marsh segments, grasslands, crop fields, both upland and floodplain forests plus the Turkey River running through it.
Habitat: Cardinal marsh attracts waterfowl at normal pool and shorebirds when low & in season. Warblers in the woods and sparrows in the brush.
Directions: In northwest Winneshiek Co. Take Hwy. 9 about one mile north out of Ridgeway to Madison Rd., and go three miles west on Madison to 335th Ave. Proceed to 345th Ave. and turn right (north), and soon see another parking area. About one half mile farther north from here is a lane leading east (right) to a parking area at the north end of the marsh. A .pdf map of Cardinal Marsh is found at: http://www.state.ia.us/government/dnr/organiza/fwb/wildlife/maps/cardin~1.pdf
Public Hunting Area
Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Chipera Prairie
GPS Coordinates: 43.1291397,-92.0182234
Ownership: County
Description: 80 acres of grassland with mowed hiking trails.
Habitat: Mostly grassland, with 30 acres of remnant prairie. There’s also an old farm grove. Bobolinks, sedge wrens and eastern meadowlarks nest here. Good for sparrows in migration.
Directions: From Fort Atkinson, take Hwy 24 west. Turn right at 128th street and cross the railroad tracks. Take another right turn immediately after crossing the railroad tracks and follow the access road for 1/4 mile east and 1/4 mile north to reach the Chipera Prairie parking lot.
Public Hunting Area
Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Coon Creek W.A. (Important Bird Area)
GPS Coordinates: 43.3219736,-91.6433197
Ownership: State
Description: This is a huge 1700 acre public hunting area that’s 3/4 woodland and 1/4 crop fields and grassland. The Upper Iowa River and Coon Creek (a trout stream) either border or cut through the area.
Habitat: Rugged terrain that’s tough to access except by farm service roads on the area. Woodlands are being managed for ruffed grouse. Oak timbers, red cedar thickets and floodplain forests can all be found here.
Directions: In eastern Winneshiek Co., rather tricky to reach and not in the atlas. SOUTH PARKING AREA: Off Hwy. 9 at the south edge of Freeport, take Old Stage Rd. into and through town. Outside of
town Old Stage bends east. From that point proceed east about 3.5 miles, through many twists and turns, to 138th Ave. Turn north on 138th and proceed 2.5 miles, gradually winding eastward again, to Coon Creek Rd. A parking area is a little under a mile north on Coon Creek, on the right side at the first bend leftward. NORTH PARKING AREA: From above, continue on Coon Creek Rd. about 1.5 miles, eventually bending back west and then south, to 143rd Ave. Turn north on 143rd and shortly come to River Rd., across the river. Turn right (which at this point is northward again) on River Rd. and proceed two miles, eventually heading east, to a sharp bend northward again. From this point continue one half mile to an access road on the right, which will quickly go southeast, and follow this to the parking area at

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |

Ft. Atkinson Sewage Ponds (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.1476381,-91.9280148

Ownership: City

Description: Three pond segments surrounded by chain link fence.

Habitat: shoreline habitat is black plastic ringing the water edge where birds walk and look for insects along the shore. They can be seen with binoculars, or better yet a spotting scope.

Directions: Just north of Fort Atkinson on Hwy 24. The sewage ponds are on the right just after crossing the Turkey River.

Amenities: Parking |

Lake Meyer County Park (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.1717249,-91.9085312

Ownership: County

Description: The 150 acre park has a 30 acre lake surrounded by woods and grasslands.

Habitat: Oak-hickory forest, a maturing pine forest, some grasslands and lake habitats can be found here.

Directions: About 1.5 miles west of Calmar. Take Highway 24 west and turn right on Lake Meyer Rd.

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

Seed Savers Exchange (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.3825492,-91.8010729

Ownership: Private (see directions for access)

Description: This 890 acre area is privately owned but open to birders. Seed Savers Exchange grows heirloom vegetables for sale. There are organic gardens, an apple and fruit orchard, pastures and woodlands plus a trout stream winding through the property.

Habitat: Upland woods, pasture, organic gardens and an apple orchard, plus a trout stream and farm buildings.

Directions: Travel north of Decorah on Hwy 52 for about 3 miles to the North Winn Rd. (W34). Turn right (north) and travel about one mile to the Seed Savers Exchange parking lot on the right side of the
highway.

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