

A GUIDE TO THE



INDIANA

BIRDING

TRAIL

*“Adventure awaits on the  
Indiana Birding Trail”*



INDIANA AUDUBON  
SOCIETY, INC. FOUNDED 1898

From the shores of Lake Michigan to the banks of the Ohio River, and everything in between, Indiana's diverse habitats have supported the documentation of over 400 bird species.



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## The Indiana Birding Trail

From the shores of Lake Michigan to the banks of the Ohio River, and everything in between, Indiana's diverse habitats have supported the documentation of over 400 bird species. Whether seeking close encounters with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Indiana Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary or observing Bald Eagles roosting on the Mississinewa, adventure awaits on the Indiana Birding Trail.

Located within the Mississippi Flyway, Indiana is a prime migratory zone. Birds cruise back and forth between the far northern arctic, passing through Central America, to arrive in Argentina. The prairies, wetlands and forests of Indiana provide resources for birds to fuel up during migration, and the lakefront experiences massive spring migratory congregations as birds rest and prepare for the flight over Lake Michigan. Not to mention the wide variety of bird species that return to Indiana each spring to find mates and raise their young before returning to their wintering grounds farther south.

Whether just getting started as a new birder or enjoying birds as a traveler in the Hoosier state, the sites featured in this guide highlight some of the best state parks, fish and wildlife areas, and county parks to experience impressive wildlife and scenic beauty.

Divided up into five regions, Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast Indiana, this guide outlines habitats, eco-regions, and climate influences that effect species diversity and provide distinctive birding opportunities. Follow the Indiana Birding Trail to discover endless wildlife viewing opportunities.

## Birding Ethics

To maximize time spent in the field while causing minimal impact on bird species and habitats, please follow these fundamental guidelines to ensure safe wildlife viewing. For more information on birding ethics, visit the American Birding Association (ABA) website.

- Stay on paths, roads, and trails where available to limit habitat disturbance.
- Keep noise to a minimum and limit bird song playback. Do not use playback in heavily birded areas.
- Crouch down to make yourself appear smaller or consider using a blind.
- Limit flash photography, artificial lighting, and sound recordings.
- Always keep your distance from nesting, display areas, and important feeding sites.
- Make sure you pick up all trash and supplies used while viewing.
- Abide by the laws and rights pertaining to each property you are visiting. Be conscious of hours of operation, appropriate parking areas, and other visitors to the property.
- Be a role model and advocate for birding in Indiana. Lead others by example and please encourage onlookers to learn about birding and the Indiana Birding Trail.

[listing.aba.org/ethics/](https://listing.aba.org/ethics/)



Imagine



what



you will



discover



around



The Bend's



trails



and parks.



#OnlyinTheBend



# Make great birding memories naturally with the Indiana DNR

Indiana State Parks, Nature Preserves, Fish & Wildlife Areas and State Forests offer the best of birding, along with great amenities for overnight stays in campgrounds, cabins and lodges, hearty meals at state park inns, shelters for picnicking, great trails, guided birding hikes and programs, and plenty of parking and restroom access.



## Grab your binoculars and find us along an Indiana Birding Trail!

### Northeast

- Chain O'Lakes SP
- Limberlost Swamp CA
- Mississinewa Lake
- Pigeon River FWA
- Pisgah Marsh FWA
- Pokagon SP
- Salamonie Lake
- Tri-County FWA

### Northwest

- Indiana Dunes SP
- Jasper-Pulaski FWA
- Kankakee FWA
- Kingsbury FWA
- Potato Creek SP
- Prophetstown SP
- Tippecanoe River SP
- Willow Slough FWA

### Central

- Brookville Lake
- Fort Harrison SP
- Mounds SP
- Pine Creek GBH
- Pine Hills NP
- Summit Lake SP
- Turkey Run SP
- Whitewater Memorial SP

### Southwest

- Goose Pond FWA
- Lincoln SP
- McCormick's Creek SP
- Monroe Lake
- Spring Mill SP

### Southeast

- Brown County SP
- Clifty Falls SP
- Charlestown SP
- Falls of the Ohio SP
- O'Bannon Woods SP
- Yellowwood SF

SP – State Park  
 FWA – Fish & Wildlife Area  
 SF – State Forest

NP – Nature Preserve  
 GBH – Game Bird Habitat  
 CA – Conservation Area

DNR Website: [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov)

State Forests: [dnr.IN.gov/forestry](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry)

DNR Camping: [camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov) or 1-866-CAMP-IN

State Parks: [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov)

Nature Preserves: [dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve](http://dnr.IN.gov/naturepreserve)

Birds of Indiana State Parks Checklist: [on.IN.gov/INStateParkPublications](http://on.IN.gov/INStateParkPublications)

Fish & Wildlife: [wildlife.IN.gov](http://wildlife.IN.gov)

State Park Inns: [IndianalInns.com](http://IndianalInns.com) or 1-877-LODGES1



# Bendix Woods County Park

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - NW

56960 Timothy Rd, New Carlisle, IN 46552-9522  
Accessed from State Rd 2

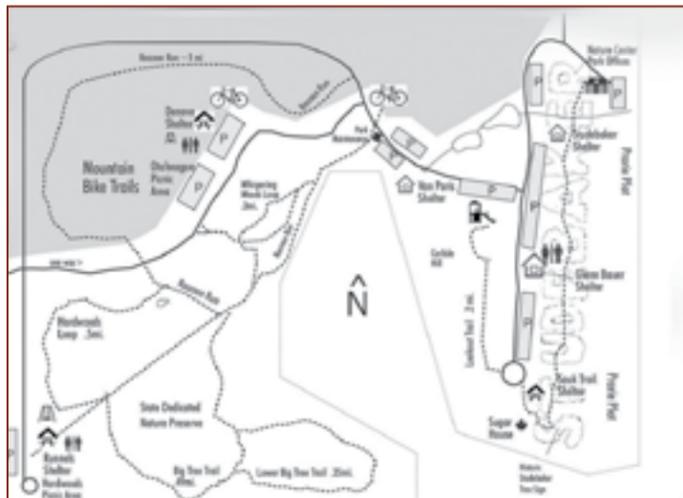
**Bendix Woods County Park** consists of 195 acres of woodland, prairie and open space. Glacial end moraine geology gives this park a rolling topography uncommon in this section of the state. Located within the park is a 27-acre IDNR State Dedicated Nature Preserve composed of mature beech-maple woods, where the spring ephemeral Large-Flowered Trillium display is notable here in April and May.

Access the Nature Preserve from Big Tree Trail during spring migration for a variety of thrushes, vireos and warblers, as well as Scarlet Tanagers. Great Horned Owls and Barred Owls nest here. Mixed feeding flocks often gather in September.

In winter, search for Hairy, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers. Check the ponds at the center of the park for Wood Ducks and an occasional Green Heron. Rich edge habitat attracts Northern Waterthrush and other migrants in spring. The evergreen trees is a 13-acre historic living sign that spells the word STUDEBAKER, as seen from the air, is worth checking for Red-Breasted Nuthatches present most months and summer resident Indigo Buntings. Red-Tailed and Broad-Winged Hawks have nested here. The 4-acre constructed prairie attracts nesting bluebirds and a mix of sparrows. Watch overhead for Chimney Swifts.

by Evie Kirkwood

**Typical birding time: 1-2.5 hours**



Red-breasted Nuthatch by Shari McCollough



**Admission:** Vehicle entrance fees apply on peak winter and summer weekends.

**Accessibility:** Most restrooms are ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Year-round restrooms located at the Glenn Bauer Shelter (daily) and at the Nature Center (weekdays). Park maps and a small gift shop located in the Nature Center. Seasonal restrooms located at picnic sites throughout park. Campground accommodations across the highway. Find restaurants within 10 minutes in the town of New Carlisle.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season birding site. Late April-May is best for songbird migration.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L3864742

**Hours:** Park hours vary seasonally. Gates often open by 8am on weekdays and at 10am on weekends and holidays. Closed Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day.

**Parking:** Parking found throughout.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all park rules and regulations.

St. Joseph County Parks  
(574) 654-3155  
sjcparks.org/572/Bendix-Woods



# Beverly D. Crone Restoration Area

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - NW

21448 Jackson Rd, South Bend, IN 46614  
South of Ireland Rd at intersection of Linden Rd and Jackson Rd west of US 31



Henslow's Sparrow by Carol Goodall

**Beverly D. Crone Restoration Area** is a former landfill consisting of 111 acres in southwest South Bend. A gravel trail makes for easy birding around the edge of the grassland, with a cross-trail that cuts through the center. What Crone Restoration Area lacks in quantity, it more than makes up for in quality, as it provides ideal habitat for a variety of grassland species.

Local birders have found this to be a hotspot for typically hard-to-find species such as Henslow's Sparrow, Sedge Wren, Dickcissel and Eastern Meadowlark, which are vocal and easily observed during breeding season. Other notable grassland species found here include Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Bobolink and American Kestrel.

Watch for Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkeys feeding in agricultural fields to the east. Rarities spotted here include Blue Grosbeak and Merlin. During winter months, Rough-legged Hawks occasionally perch in the eastern tree line.

by James Spier

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Gravel walking trail.

**Amenities:** None on site. Restaurants and other facilities located on Ireland Rd, a few miles to the east.

**Best Times to Bird:** Mid-June through August

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L2290289

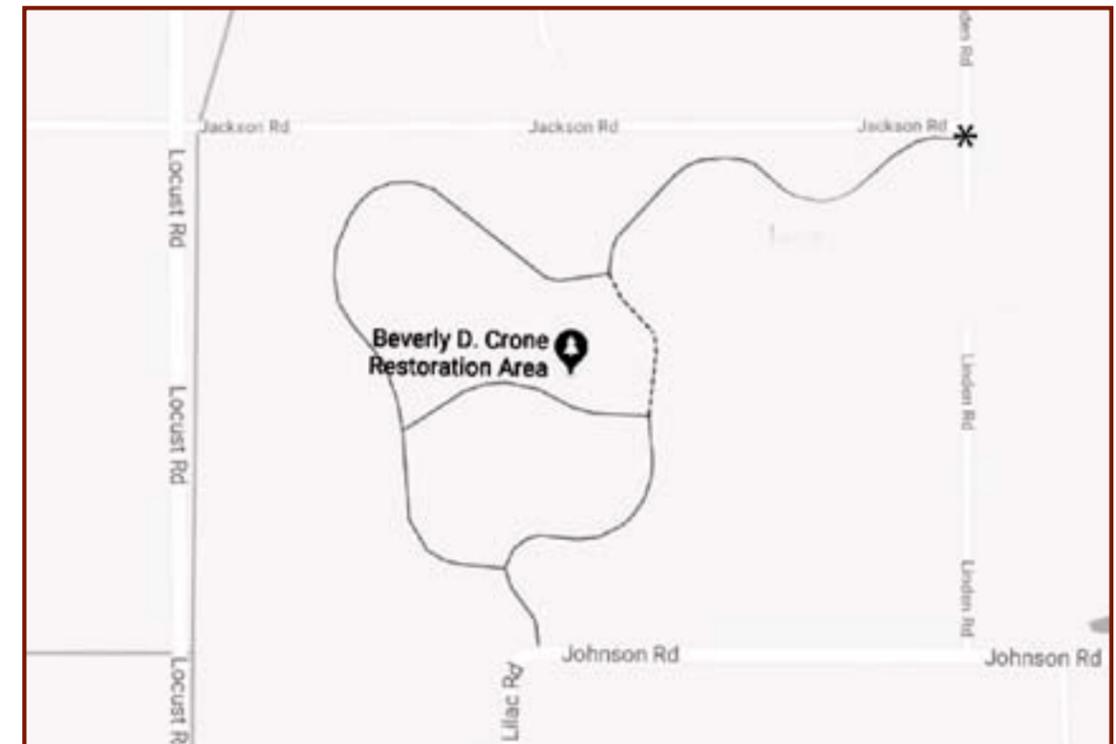
**Hours:** Dawn to dusk.

**Parking:** Two small parking areas. East end at the corner of Jackson and Linden Roads. West end near the corner of Jackson and Locust Roads.

**Restrictions:** Pets must be on leash. Please obey all rules and regulations.

St. Joseph County Parks  
(574) 277-4828

sjcparks.org/577/  
Beverly-D-Crone-  
Restoration-Area



# Boot Lake Nature Preserve

ELKHART COUNTY - NE

51430 CR 3, Elkhart, IN 46514  
Turn east onto Williams Ln, continue straight to entrance

**Boot Lake Nature Preserve** is an Important Bird Area of the National Audubon Society and it's not hard to see why. With over 200 bird species logged onsite, Boot Lake's reputation as a migration magnet is well-deserved.

Just a few short miles from Elkhart and the Michigan border, the preserve offers upland woods, native prairie, and emergent wetlands—all rolled into a 300-acre bundle. Here, birders can be true explorers, often rewarded intimate encounters with rarities found few places in the state. In the native prairies, hear Henslow's Sparrow hiccups and rapid-fire Sedge Wren chatter from deep within towering sunflowers and blades of bluestem.

An overlook platform in the southern prairie grants commanding views of restored grassland. Near sunset, the view here gets even more epic as flocks of waterfowl and majestic Sandhill Cranes soar low overhead to descend on the lake. As water levels on the lakes drop, shorebirds like Wilson's Snipe, Semipalmated Plover, and White-rumped Sandpiper may also drop in.

Walking the trails, you might not guess its unusual past, but a portion of the site has been reclaimed from the city's sludge farm. This transformed site is now a state-dedicated nature preserve, protecting Indiana's rare and endangered plants and wildlife.

During mid-May migration you can find some truly elusive birds here. Among the kaleidoscope of warblers, spring attracts specialties like Mourning, Connecticut, Golden-winged, and Prairie. Fall brings some truly special finds as both Nelson's and LeConte's Sparrows have been found on-site.

by Annie Aguirre

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**



Sedge Wren by Annie Aguirre

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** ADA-accessible 0.4-mile gravel trail from upland woods to the prairie.

**Amenities:** Picnic shelter and portable restrooms. Fuel, food, lodging in nearby Elkhart six miles south.

**Best Times to Bird:** Brimming with birds during migration and sprinkled with rarities throughout the rest of the year. The perfect spot for any bird treasure-hunter ready to explore and snag some rare gems.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L161396

**Hours:** Seasonal. Typically 9am-5pm or 9am-8pm.

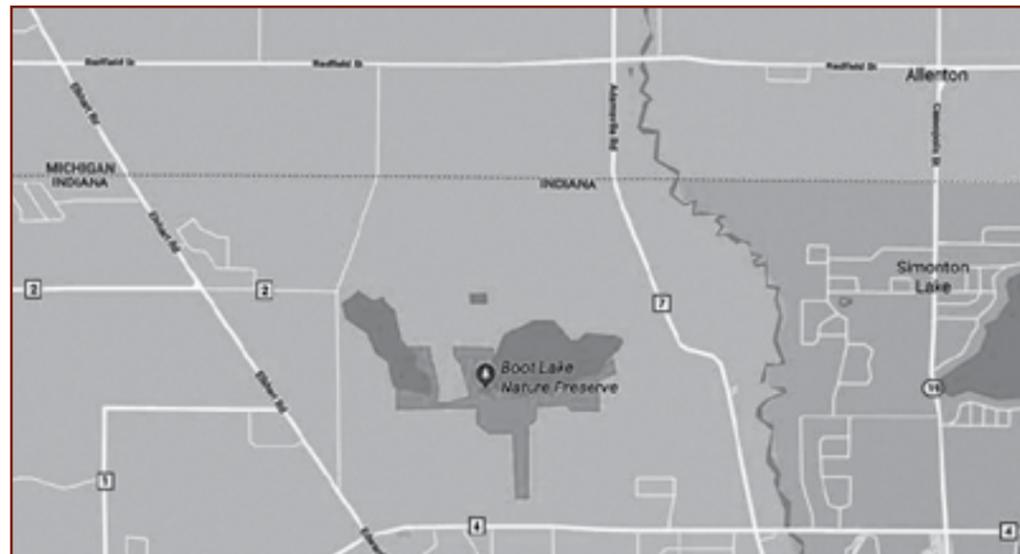
**Parking:** Gated parking lot open during seasonal hours.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations.

## Elkhart County Parks

(574) 535-6458

[elkhartcountyparks.org/destinations/boot-lake](http://elkhartcountyparks.org/destinations/boot-lake)



# Brookville Lake

FRANKLIN COUNTY - C

Quakertown: 3056 Quakertown Ramp Rd, Liberty, IN 47353  
Mounds SRA: 14108 SR 101, Brookville, IN 47012

**Brookville Lake** in southeastern Indiana has more than 25 miles of hiking trails, boating opportunities, and nationally renowned recreational and sport fishing. The lake hosts three protected areas: Mounds SRA (not to be confused with Mounds State Park in Anderson), Quakertown SRA, and Whitewater Memorial State Park.

With few other large waterways nearby, the lake and surrounding woodlands draw some unique bird species. The Brookville Lake and Whitewater State Park properties support one of the most significant assemblages of migrant and nesting avian species in eastern Indiana. Congregations of migrant waterfowl, diverse neotropical passerines, and nesting endangered raptors are its fundamental characteristics.

Stands of secondary and near-climax forest exist along the reservoir, especially along Adena Trace at the southwestern edge of Brookville Lake, and these habitats provide critical breeding habitats for many neotropical migrants, including declining interior forest species such as Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler found here each summer. Louisiana Waterthrush breed near the small streams of these forest stands, and Prairie Warblers nest in the younger growth of the woodlands.

Two of Indiana's endangered raptors species, Bald Eagle and Osprey, find adequate breeding territories here. A single eagle's nest is occupied annually along the lake, and several Osprey nests have been active over the past few years, which is quite significant considering the Osprey nesting population in Indiana likely totals less than twenty pairs.

by Theresa Wilson

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**

Osprey by Kevin Wyckoff



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Many roadside parking lots and boat launches for birding.

**Amenities:** Restrooms are available throughout the area. Lodging, gas, and food located in Liberty to the north, and Brookville to the south.

**Best Times to Bird:** Waterfowl spring migration: February-April; Fall, October through freeze-up.

**eBird Hotspot:** Whitewater Memorial SP: eBird.org/hotspot/L654762

**Hours:** Generally year-round 7am-11pm.

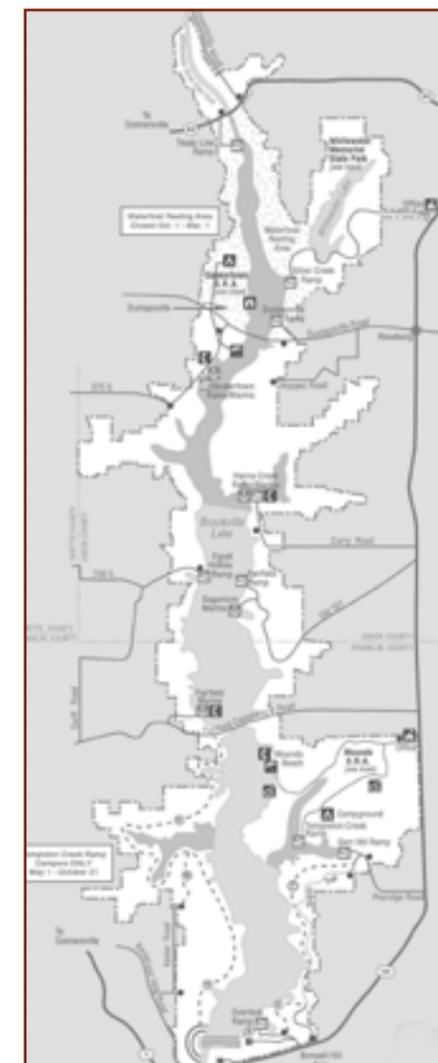
**Parking:** Available in several lots in designated areas around the lake.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulation which occur at stateparks. [IN.gov/6468.htm](http://IN.gov/6468.htm)

(765) 647-2657 (Brookville Lake)

(765) 458-5565 (Mounds)

[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Brown County State Park

BROWN COUNTY - SE

1405 State Rd 46 West, Nashville, IN 47448  
North Gate just east Nashville, use West Gate just west of Nashville for campers and large vehicles

Indiana's largest state park, **Brown County State Park** is known for its vast, rugged hills, beautiful ridgetops, and cloud blanketed ravines. Breathtaking vistas grant visitors views of the forest canopy unlike any other in the state, as vultures and raptors such as Broad-winged Hawks ride thermals on Brown County's iconic ridges.

At the north end the historic two-lane covered bridge spans a brushy streambank, and the adjacent floodplain and open fields give birders a chance to see Killdeer, Belted Kingfishers, Bared Owls, and Eastern Bluebirds. Easily observe Bald Eagles glide along Salt Creek looking for a meal.

Trails 1-5 and 8-9 are perfect examples of upland mesic forest. Find an array of warbler species such as Cerulean, Prothonotary, and Black-throated Green Warblers. Lush, wooded areas provide great habitat for Red-headed Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Pileated Woodpeckers.

Observe a variety of feeder species year-round from the nature center observation room. Finches, woodpeckers, Northern Cardinals, Blue Jays, and sparrows are often present, with Dark-eyed Juncos returning in the winter.

A nighttime hike into the interior woodland habitat provides opportunity for Eastern Whip-poor-wills, and the occasional Chuck-will's-widow. Eastern Screech, Barred and Great-Horned Owls are also a great nocturnal treat.

by *Patrick Haulter*

**Typical birding time: 2-3 hours**



Summer Tanager by Ryan Sanderson

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** The Friends Trail is paved, located next to the Park Office. Facilities are ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Accommodations available in the Abe Martin Lodge, which serves food in the Little Gem Restaurant. Modern restrooms in the nature center, bird observation room, the park office, the Abe Martin Lodge, and seasonally at the Upper Shelter, Lower Shelter, and Strahl Lake. Vault toilets located throughout the park. Find dining, lodging and shopping in nearby Nashville.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration, summer breeding.

**eBird Hotspot:** <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L281601>

**Hours:** Regular park hours are 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** At trailheads, nature center, picnic areas, and the Abe Martin Lodge.

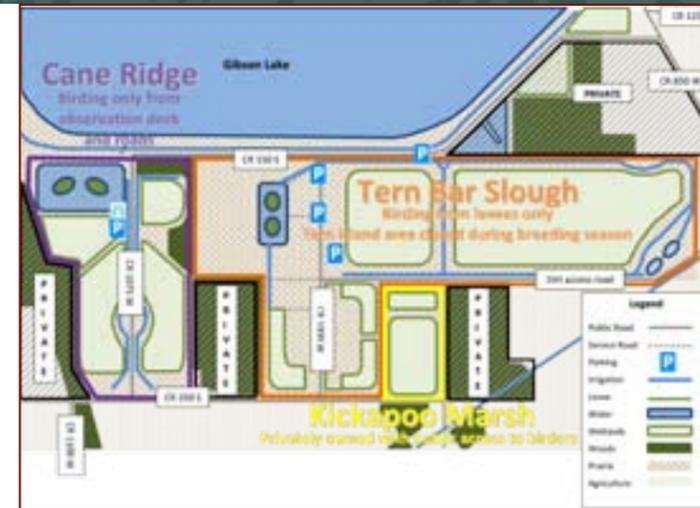
**Restrictions:** A summary of property rules can be found at [stateparks.in.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.in.gov/6468.htm).

Indiana DNR  
(812) 988-6406  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Cane Ridge WMA-Tern Bar Slough WDA

GIBSON COUNTY - SW



Cane Ridge: 38.333167, -87.766694  
Tern Bar Slough: 38.333210, -87.752529  
Located west of I-69 and north of I-64

**Cane Ridge Wildlife Management Area** is a 463-acre property that provides wetland habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, gulls and terns. As part of the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge, this joint restoration project is managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Duke Energy Habitat Conservation Plan to provide a nesting area for the federally endangered "interior" Least Tern. In addition to supporting a breeding colony of these birds, Cane Ridge is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. Most birding will be done from the county roads, or from the observation deck at Cane Ridge.

**Tern Bar Slough Wildlife Diversity Area**, which lies immediately east of Cane Ridge, consists of 840 acres of grassland, scrub and wetland habitat under Indiana DNR management.

by *Mark Welter*

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Parking and observation deck at Cane Ridge are handicap-accessible; the parking area and levee trails at Tern Bar Slough are not.

**Amenities:** None on-site. Nearest facilities and accommodations are in either Mt. Carmel, IL (15 minutes away) or Princeton, IN (20 minutes away).

**Best Times to Bird:** Both can be productive any time of year. Spring and fall migration are obvious high points, but summer yields breeding Least Terns, grassland birds, migrating shorebirds and heron. Winter into early spring sees a massive influx of waterfowl- especially Snow Geese, which occupy nearby Gibson Lake in the tens or even hundreds of thousands.

**eBird Hotspot:** Cane Ridge: [eBird.org/hotspot/L320465](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L320465)  
Tern Bar Slough: [eBird.org/hotspot/L1255081](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L1255081)

**Hours:** Daylight hours only.

**Parking:** The Cane Ridge observation deck has a large gravel parking area. Tern Bar Slough has small gravel or dirt parking areas, some of which can become quite muddy when it rains.

**Restrictions:** Birding at Cane Ridge is only allowed from the observation deck or the county Roads; walking the levees is not permitted. Walking the levees is allowed at Tern Bar Slough, except during Least Tern nesting season, when portions of the area may be closed off.

US Fish & Wildlife Service  
(812) 749-3199  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)

Common Tern by Allee Forsberg



# Celery Bog Nature Area

TIPPECANOE COUNTY - C

# Chain O' Lakes State Park

NOBLE COUNTY - NE

1620 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Entrance west of bridge on north side of Lindberg Rd

**Celery Bog** is a 195-acre nature park located on the north-west side of West Lafayette, and with 258 species recorded on eBird, Celery Bog ranks as the tenth best Indiana eBird hotspot. The wetland area covers approximately 100 acres, with three observation decks that overlook several pools and ephemeral ponds.

Access two observations decks from the 2.5 miles of natural trails that meander through woods, savanna, prairie, and along the west side of the bog. Four miles of paved trails connect to the West Lafayette trail system, which accesses the northern observation deck. Birders sometimes make additional observations from the Wal-Mart parking lot, and a pedestrian walkway on the north side of the Celery Bog bridge provides another overlook.

Natural trails are generally well maintained. However, in early spring, periods of heavy rain, especially along the bog, may render trails quite muddy and nearly impassable. Mosquitoes are plentiful during the late spring, summer and early fall.

by *Barny Dunning*

**Typical birding time: 1-4 hours**



Northern Shoveler by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Handicapped parking available at the nature center and the gravel lot. Nature center and paved trails are handicapped accessible.

**Amenities:** Restrooms available at the nature center during hours and may be available through an exterior entrance. Two gas stations within a mile east of the bog at Lindberg and Northwestern. Food and other amenities available in either direction on Northwestern Avenue.

**Best Times to Bird:** Generally best along edge trails. Increased activity throughout the park during migration seasons. Peak times during mornings and evenings. Summer activity on the wetland area is limited when the bog surface becomes covered with algae and other aquatic plants.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L445373

**Hours:** Open dawn to dusk. Lily Nature Center open Wed-Sat 10am-5pm and Sun 1-5pm. Closed Mon-Tues. Nature center closed during Purdue football home games and various holidays.

**Parking:** Paved parking is available near the Lily Nature Center. Gravel lot accessible from the entrance prior to nature center.

**Restrictions:** Fishing and boating not permitted. Pets must be on a leash. Drones are NOT permitted. Cycling permitted on paved trails only. The east side of the bog is the Kampen Golf Course and is not part of the park. Otherwise follow posted rules.

**West Lafayette Parks and Recreation**  
(765) 775-5172  
[westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1242238355744.htm](http://westlafayette.in.gov/egov/docs/1242238355744.htm)

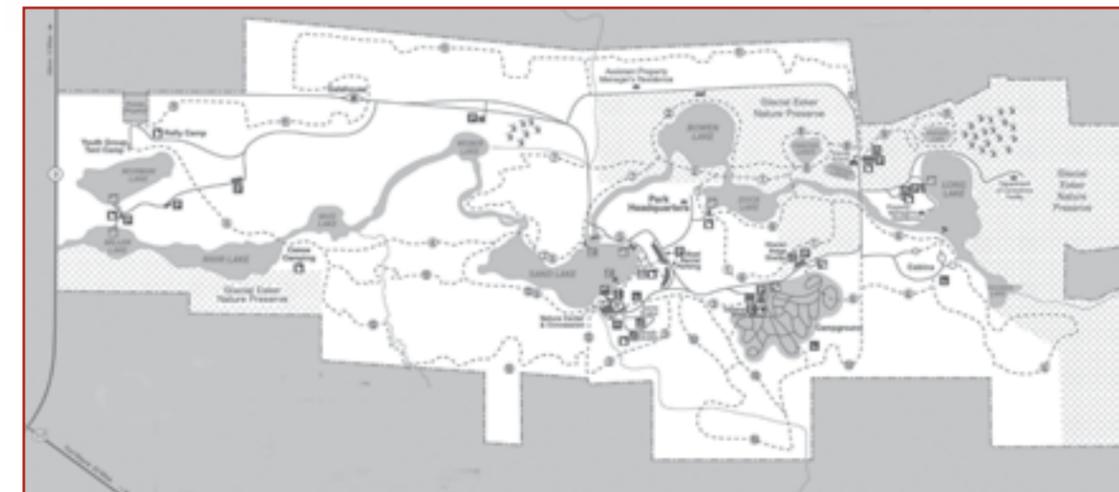


Veery by Kevin Wyckoff

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** No ADA accessible or paved trails, but the park has a trail-ready motorized wheelchair available for use with reservations.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets located throughout the park. Modern facilities at the beach open Memorial Day-Labor Day. Nature center at the beach facility open Memorial Day-Labor Day.



2355 E 75 S, Albion, IN 46701  
Gatehouse one mile east of State Rd 9 on CR 75 S

**Chain O' Lakes State Park** consists of thirteen lakes with over 20 miles of trails around the shorelines, nine of which are connected by channels. Accented by rolling hills formed by advancing glaciers 10,000 years ago, heavy, regenerating forests surround the park.

Trails around Sand Lake, Dock Lake and Trail 4 offer exposure to the park's rich birding habitats. If pressed for time, past the summer breeding season, Trail 4 may be replaced with Trail 8 starting at the Stanley Schoolhouse. Canoeing is unique way of birding the park in season via the multiple lakes and interconnecting channels.

During summer, Trail 5 around Sand Lake, and Trails 1 and 6 around Dock Lake produce Prothonotary Warblers, American Redstarts, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Least Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Baltimore Orioles, and occasional Broad-winged Hawks.

Accessible from the Canoe Camp or nearby parking lot, Trail 4 traverses a heavy forest filled with Wood Thrush, Veery, Scarlet Tanager, Ovenbird, as well as Hooded and Kentucky Warblers. Rather than doubling back on the same trail, consider using Trail 12 for the return trip. Due to the heavy forest cover, Trail 4 is quiet past nesting season.

by *Don Gorney*

**Typical birding time: 2-6 hours**

On-site camping and housekeeping cabins. The small town of Albion a few miles north. Larger towns 30 to 45 minutes away.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round although May-August is the peak of songbird activity.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L200665

**Hours:** The park hours are 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** Parking available throughout, only in designated areas.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at stateparks. IN.gov/6468.htm.

**Indiana DNR**  
(260) 636-2654  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Charlestown State Park

CLARK COUNTY - SE

12500 State Rd 62, Charlestown, IN 47111  
Just east of Charlestown, 14 miles from Falls of the Ohio



**Charlestown State Park** is Indiana's third largest state park with over 5,000 acres, originally part of a 15,000-acre Indiana Army Ammunition Plant established during WWII which closed in the early 1990s.

Explore diverse habitats, such as floodplains of the riparian Ohio River shoreline and Fourteen-mile Creek. Steep bluffs cap a limestone plateau with woods, meadows, and rare glades. Seven trails allow visitors to access much of these habitats.

The summer months draw Eastern Bluebirds, Brown Thrashers, Prairie Warblers and White-eyed Vireos to the Class A Campground edges. Look for songbirds and raptors on Trail 1. Follow Trail 3 to Fourteen-mile Creek for possible kingfishers and herons. Watch for Bald Eagles and Osprey along the Ohio River.

Woodland edges near the Oak Shelter produce Summer Tanagers and Indigo Buntings. Various summer warblers breed in the park in different habitats, observable from hiking trails.

by Alan Goldstein

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Trail 5 is the most accessible, as well as parking lots, shelters, picnic areas, and along the Riverside Overlook.

**Amenities:** Electric and full hookup sites in campground. Find restaurants in Charlestown. Lodging available in Sellersburg and Jeffersonville. Vault toilets inside the park.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Spring and fall is great for migratory birds. At night, listen for Barred Owl, Eastern-screech Owl and Great Horned Owl. Winter Wren is a target during cold season.

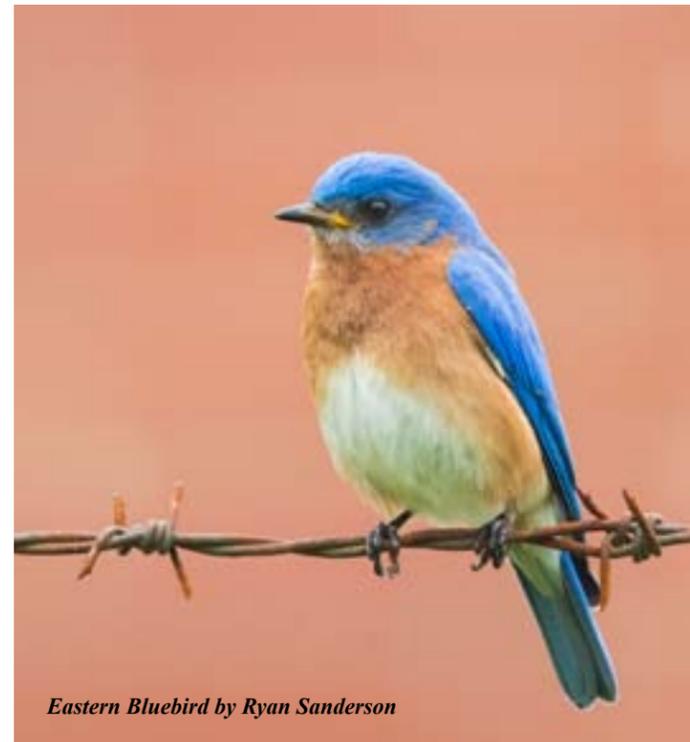
**eBird Hotspot:** <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L756474>

**Hours:** Regular park hours are 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** Ample parking at trailheads, office, picnic areas, and river.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
**(812) 256-5600**  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)

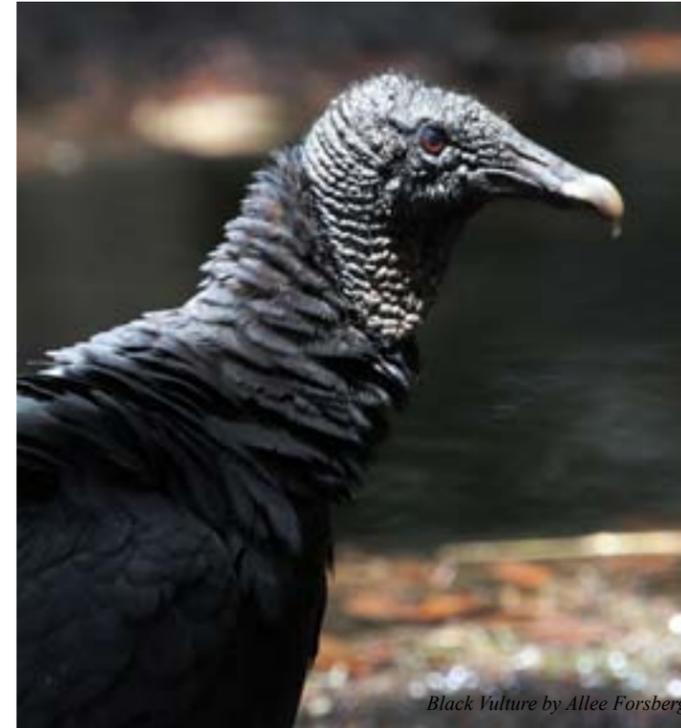


Eastern Bluebird by Ryan Sanderson

# Clifty Falls State Park

JEFFERSON COUNTY - SE

2221 Clifty Drive, Madison, IN 47250  
About 4 miles south of US 421 and SR 62 intersection



Black Vulture by Allee Forsberg

**Clifty Falls State Park** covers over 1500 acres that showcase its sheer cliffs, plunging waterfalls, and Ordovician fossils. In 1920, it became Indiana's third state park.

The Clifty Canyon Nature Preserve contains mesic forests on the lower slopes and ravine bottoms, and dry oak-hickory forests on the upper slopes and ridgetops. Most of the park's trails are within the nature preserve and range from moderately rugged to very rugged. Visit Trail 8 for best views of nesting species like the Louisiana Waterthrush, Great Crested Flycatcher, along with Scarlet and Summer Tanagers.

Observe occasional Golden-crowned Kinglets, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches during winter. Year-round Bald Eagles, Black Vultures and Turkey Vultures frequently fly over the canyon.

The Madison State Hospital farmed Trails 9 and 10 until 1965 when they donated it to the park. These trails are flatter and travel through a younger forest filled with a very dense undergrowth of shrubs. During summer, hear songs of White-eyed Vireo, Prairie Warbler, and Indigo Bunting, and watch for the occasional American Woodcock strutting across the trail.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, Brown Thrasher, and Eastern Towhee are common throughout the park. In addition, the nature center, open year-round, has feeders that attract a variety of woodpeckers, finches, sparrows, and more. Spot the occasional Peregrine Falcon from the back lawn of the Clifty Inn.

by Kayla Leach

**Typical birding time: 1-8 hours**

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** A short section of Trail 7 is ADA accessible to the Clifty Falls overlook.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets. Modern restrooms available which may be closed in winter. Restrooms available 24/7 at the Clifty Inn. Electric and non-electric sites in campground. Dine at the Clifty Inn or browse the gift shop. Lodging within 5-10 minutes in Madison.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season birding site. Late April-May. Songbird migration peak in September.

**eBird Hotspot:** <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L686119>

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders generally welcome earlier on request.

**Parking:** Available at trailheads, nature center, Clifty Inn and Big Clifty Falls.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
**(812) 273-0609**  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Cool Creek Park & Nature Center

HAMILTON COUNTY - C

2000 E 151st Street, Carmel, IN 46033  
1/8 mile east of US 31, enter park at roundabout

**Cool Creek Park**, despite its relatively small size at only 91 acres, has proven to be one of the best sites in Central Indiana for viewing migrant passerines. Opened by the Hamilton County Parks Department in 1990, Cool Creek remains one of Hamilton County's most popular parks, with over 160 species observations.

In addition to four miles of hiking trails, a modern nature center features a popular bird viewing window with a bird taxidermy collection viewable free of charge.

A mile-long paved loop yielding two separate parking areas makes for easy navigation of three interior trails. At the Nature Center lot, enter Tulip Trail (1.5 miles), the longest footpath that circles the park's perimeter. Paw-paw Trail (0.5 miles), the shortest trail, runs from the Nature Center lot through the park's southern end. From the Picnic Area parking, Beech Trail (1 mile) covers the north end of the park.

Cool Creek flows through the park, and although it usually dries up by late summer, it attracts many birds in the spring. Footpaths flank both sides of the creek, allowing for access to much of its length. Warbler migration in both spring and fall is typically very good, with 32 species recorded in the park. The creek bend near Shelter C is a hub for spring warbler activity. Pause a few moments on the bench to watch for Canada and Hooded Warblers.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-2 Hours**



Canada Warbler by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Very accessible and provides an easy walk for birders of all ages.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms in the Nature Center. Located within the Carmel and Indianapolis metro area, offering all possible amenities needed.

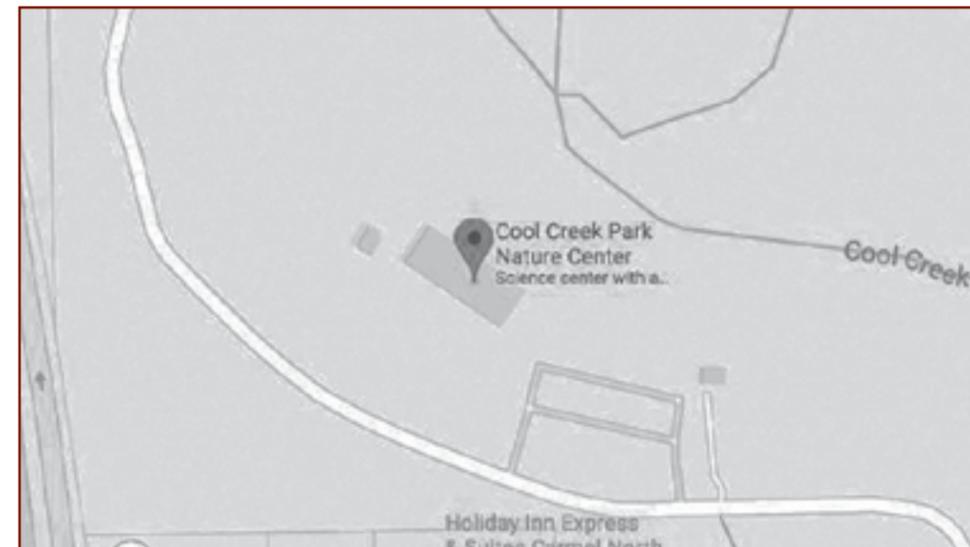
**Best Times to Bird:** Most notable in spring and fall migration, but morning summer walks prove productive too.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157756

**Hours:** Park hours vary seasonally. Gates often open by 8am on weekdays and 10am on weekends and holidays. Closed on Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day

**Parking:** Parking occur throughout.

**Hamilton County Park**  
(317) 774-2500  
[hamiltoncounty.in.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Cool-Creek-Park-12](http://hamiltoncounty.in.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Cool-Creek-Park-12)



# Eagle Creek Park

MARION COUNTY - C

7840 W 56th St, Indianapolis, IN 46254  
Enter south at W 56th St or north at 71st St



Barred Owl by Allee Forsberg

**Eagle Creek Park's** large reservoir and 3,900 acres of deciduous woods, ponds, mudflats, scrubs and grasslands offer year-round encounters with resident and migrant birds. Note four highlighted locations within the park:

**The Ornithology Center (OC)** overlooks a bird sanctuary enclosed by the Coffe Dam, where ducks, geese, cormorants, gulls, and herons rest. Find trail maps and learn of recent sightings. In winter months, check the sanctuary islands from the outdoor viewing platform or from the indoor observatory. Watch the feeders between fall and early spring for Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Purple Finch and an assortment of sparrows and woodpeckers. Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5am, Sun 1-5pm.

**The Coffe Dam** is a 2-mile loop around the bird sanctuary, well-liked for outstanding reservoir views. Enter the loop from the North Gate parking area or the Ornithology Center. Allow at least 90 minutes when birding Coffe Dam in its entirety.

Tucked back off 62nd Street, the **Ice-Skating Pond** includes a larger main pond and two smaller ones where birding is most rewarding in late spring and early fall. Walk slowly around the shrubs and ponds, checking the cattails in the main pond for sly Least and American Bitterns, Sora, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule while listening for Marsh Wren. Allow 45-90 minutes at this location.

Birders flock to the **Marina** between fall and spring for its easy access and 180-degree views of the reservoir. Scoping when trees are bare yields distant-yet-extended looks at loons, mergansers, scaups, and grebes. From late April through mid-May, arrive within 30 minutes of sunrise to observe warblers, flycatchers, and vireos foraging for

insects. The peninsular tree line attracts songbirds in high numbers during peak spring migration, and just walking the perimeter of the parking lot and access road can be very good birding.

by Whitney Yoerger

**Typical birding time: 1-2 Hours**

**Admission:** Daily entrance fees: \$3 by bike/foot, \$5 by car for Marion Co. residents, \$6 by car for all other visitors. Annual passes available at varying rates.

**Accessibility:** Most park trails are compacted soil or gravel. Two ADA-accessible loops are in development for the West Side Trail with intended completion in 2021.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms at the marina and within the Earth Discovery Center and Ornithology Center. Porta-potties throughout. Nearby lodging found 3 miles east of the park.

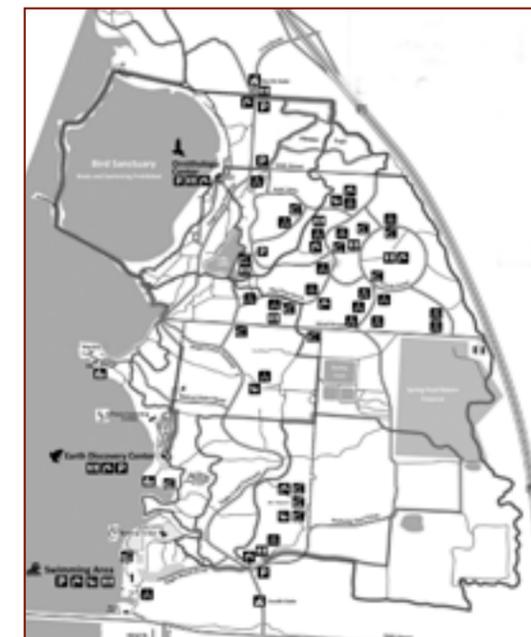
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157179  
OC: eBird.org/hotspot/L1763593  
Coffe Dam: eBird.org/hotspot/L2580472  
Ice Skating Pond: eBird.org/hotspot/L1152431  
Marina: eBird.org/hotspot/L2335265.

**Hours:** Year-round, generally from dawn to dusk. Specific hours vary by month.

**Parking:** Numerous lots throughout.

**Restrictions:** Bicycles on paved roads only. Canoes, kayaks, and boats between 8 ft. and 26 ft. with motors up to 10 horsepower are allowed. Dogs must always be leashed.

**Indy Parks & Recreation**  
(317) 327-7110  
[eaglecreekpark.org](http://eaglecreekpark.org)



# Eagle Marsh Wetland Preserve

ALLEN AND HUNTINGTON COUNTIES - NE

# Falls of the Ohio State Park

CLARK COUNTY - SE

6801 Engle Rd, Ft Wayne, IN  
East of I-69, along south edge of Engle Rd

**Eagle Marsh** is a 756-acre wetland nature preserve located on the southwest border of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Over ten miles of trails allow hikers to access varied habitats of shallow-water wetland, sedge meadow, prairie, mature forest and young trees. With adjacent Fox Island County Park and other privately-owned natural land, Eagle Marsh provides almost two square miles of habitat for birds and other wildlife.

In 2015, as part of an effort to prevent Asian carp from crossing into the Great Lakes watershed, the US Corps of Engineers built a berm called the Continental Divide Trail which is accessible to hikers from a parking lot off Engle Rd. This trail joins part of Trail 1 and the Towpath Trail—a remnant of canal days which is now part of Fort Wayne Trails—for a three-mile hike that provides a good overview of the preserve.

Additional trails in the east end are accessible from the parking lot. The parking lot of the BSA Scouts office provides access to trails at the west end of the property.

by Ed Powers

**Typical birding time: 1-3 Hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** There are no paved trails.

**Amenities:** Portable toilets behind the Barn. Hotels and restaurants available in nearby Fort Wayne, particularly around I-69 and W Jefferson Blvd.

**Best times to bird:** Migrant ducks are found February-April, peaking in March, with smaller numbers October-December. Shorebirds found mostly April-June and July-October. Marsh birds, such as rails, bitterns and herons occur beginning in April-May, some continuing into the summer.

**eBird Hotspot:** <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L983966>

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset.

**Parking:** At Boy Scouts office off Jefferson Blvd, and at Towpath Trailhead and Eagle Marsh Barn off Engle Rd. The eastern gate near the Barn is often closed, but the public may walk in anyway. Take care not to get locked in when parking inside the open gate.

**Restrictions:** Dogs or other pets, hunting, fishing, biking, motorized vehicles (except to the Barn during special events), horseback riding, alcohol, drugs, weapons, camping, campfires, and all collecting are prohibited.

**Little River Wetlands Project**

**(260) 478-2515**

**[lrwp.org/eaglemarsh](http://lrwp.org/eaglemarsh)**



Cedar Waxwing by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** \$2 per vehicle at the Interpretive Center. Other lots free. No gate house. Interpretive Center fees: \$9 age 12 & up, \$7 age 5-11, under 5 is free.

**Accessibility:** The Interpretive Center deck is completely accessible for birding.

**Amenities:** Restrooms in the Interpretive Center during hours. Hotels and restaurants located within two miles in Clarksville and Jeffersonville. Ashland Park, located just upriver from the McAlpine Dam, is a popular winter waterfowl observation area.

**Best Times to Bird:** Morning and evening. July-October find shorebirds on the outer fossil beds. Winter waterfowl November-February. Bald Eagle nest on Shippingport Island visible from Clark home site January-April. Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagles visible sporadically year-round.

**eBird Hotspot:** [eBird.org/hotspot/L271518](https://eBird.org/hotspot/L271518)

**Hours:** Park: 7am-11pm. Interpretive Center: Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm, Sun 1-5pm. Summer hours: 9am-5pm.

**Parking:** Behind Interpretive Center and at the George Rogers Clark home site.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

Indiana DNR  
(812) 280-9970  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



201 West Riverside Dr., Clarksville, IN 47129  
Enter at Riverside Dr across from Sherwood Ave

**The Falls of the Ohio State Park** is one of the most historic birding sites in the US. From 1808-1810, John James Audubon spent time observing and sketching birds, allegedly resulting in the bankruptcy of his Louisville business. Alexander Wilson was also reported to have visited during the same time. Over 275 species have been documented in the park.

Rocky outcrops in the middle of the Ohio River serve as habitat for a wide variety of shorebirds and waterfowl. Terns, gulls, sandpipers, and related species may occur feeding on outer fossil beds, although their numbers have declined with the resident falcon nest at the Falls. Riparian woodlands provide good birding for warblers, woodpeckers, Indigo Buntings, Baltimore Orioles, and Cedar Waxwings.

Nesting birds at the Falls include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Cattle Egret, and Double-crested Cormorants on Shippingport Island, which is not accessible but viewable with a spotting scope. View Great Blue Heron on Goose Island and Peregrine Falcon on the Louisville & Indiana RR Bridge feeding and flying over the river. Nesting woodland birds may occur in the park.

Visit the Interpretive Center's observation room with a variety of feeders and a microphone which may be viewed without paying regular admission.

by Alan Goldstein

**Typical birding time: 1-2 Hours**



# Fort Harrison State Park

MARION COUNTY - C

6000 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216  
Enter park at N Post Rd and E 59th St intersection

**Fort Harrison State Park** is a 1700-acre property that, despite being in an urban area, offers excellent birding opportunities throughout its extensive woodlands and riparian corridor. Formerly Fort Benjamin Harrison military base, which operated from 1903 to 1995, the federal government gifted the property to the State of Indiana in 1996 as a part of the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990.

**Fall Creek Trail and Harrison Trace** provide the best birding. At the Fall Creek trailhead, birders will encounter migrant species in season, and breeding Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Cerulean, Prothonotary, and Yellow-throated Warblers in summer. Other nesting woodland species such as Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Pileated Woodpecker are seen further along the trail. Typical woodland species are present year-round.

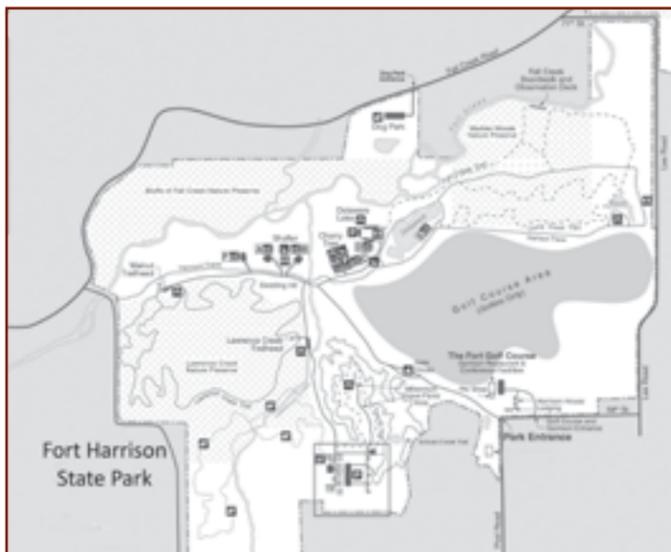
Harrison Trace is entirely paved, bookended by Walnut Plantation at the west and Duck Pond at the east. The flat ground trail through Walnut Plantation has nesting orioles, warblers, woodpeckers, and sparrows. Beyond Delaware Lake, the terrain becomes rolling. The loop around Duck Pond provides encounters with Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, wrens, woodpeckers, orioles, and many other species.

**Walnut Plantation** is often birded by itself and then birders drive to the eastern portion of the Trace. Lawrence Creek Trail requires a 4-mile trek on a heavily wooded, rugged trail, shared with mountain bikers. Birders may hear and see Ovenbirds, Kentucky and Hooded Warblers.

**Schoen Creek Trail**, another mountain biker trail, travels through grasslands and small wetlands and is home to breeding species such as Orchard Oriole, Yellow Warbler, American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebirds, and in some years, Yellow-breasted Chat.

by Don Gorney

**Typical birding time: 2-6 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** 3.2-mile ADA accessible; Harrison Trace is entirely paved but the eastern section traverses rolling terrain.

**Amenities:** ADA compliant bathrooms available throughout. Visitor Center, open year-round, has exhibits on the history of the military base and park. The Museum of 20th Century Warfare is open from March-November. 18-hole golf course is open to the public. Lodging available at the Fort Harrison State Park Inn. Dining and gift shop available at The Garrison. No camping available at or near the park.



Cerulean Warbler by Ryan Sanderson

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. May and September-October peak migration.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157178

**Hours:** Vary by season. Approximate dawn to dusk.

**Parking:** Available at multiple locations only in designated areas.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules available at: [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

Indiana DNR  
(317) 591-0904  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Fox Island County Park

ALLEN COUNTY - NE

7324 Yohne Rd, Fort Wayne, IN  
Exit I-69 west onto US 24 to Ellison Rd to Yohne Rd



**Fox Island County Park** is a 605-acre park located in southwest Allen County. Within the park is a 270-acre dedicated State Nature Preserve.

The park contains a glacial sand dune and the largest contiguous forest in the county, with seven miles of marked trails throughout diverse habitat including marsh, seasonal ponds, wooded sand dunes, wetland forest, old fields and restored prairie.

Birders can observe a variety of migrating and nesting bird species. Highlights here include Pileated Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow and Eastern Towhee. Stockbridge Audubon Society has spring and fall field trips here, as well as a Big Sit in October.

by Terri Gorney

**Typical birding time: 3-4 hours**



Mourning Warbler by Kevin Wyckoff

**Admission:** Gate fee \$2 per person. Free with Fox Island Alliance or Allen County Parks membership.

**Amenities:** Restrooms at nature center, Vera Dulin Wildlife Building and Bowman Lake. Gift shop in nature center. Picnic areas, nearby restaurants and lodging on Jefferson Blvd.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring migration, with 30+ species of wood-warbler, thrushes, vireos and other woodland species. Many nesting species as well, but dense mosquitoes makes summer birding challenging. Winter birding often most successful at the Vera Dulin Wildlife Observation Building feeders, staffed by volunteers who will open it on request.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L917081

**Hours:** Open 9am-7pm. Nature Center Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm.

**Parking:** At the Nature Center and the Vera Dulin Wildlife Building

**Restrictions:** Roads and some trails can go underwater in heavy rains. Mosquitoes can be bothersome in summer months.

Allen County Parks and Recreation  
(260) 449-3180  
[allencountyparks.org/parks/fox-island](http://allencountyparks.org/parks/fox-island)



Blackburnian Warbler by Jeff Timmons

# Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area

GREENE COUNTY - SW

13540 W CR 400 S, Linton, IN 47441  
 Visitor Center west of CR 59 on W CR 400 S

Established in 2005, **Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area** in Greene County consists of some 9000+ acres of forest, prairie and wetland habitat, divided into numerous units. The property has become an important breeding and migratory stopover site for a variety of birds, including herons, cranes, rails, shorebirds, waterfowl, raptors and songbirds.

Each spring and fall, significant numbers of Sandhill Cranes and American White Pelicans stage at Goose Pond on their way to and from their breeding grounds in the north. Additionally, the Goose Pond area has become a stopover site for Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population.

Due to the size of the property, the best way to bird it is by driving the county roads slowly while looking and listening, then stopping at individual units to scan or walk the levees. A useful property map occurs at [wildlife.in.gov/fishwild/3094.htm](http://wildlife.in.gov/fishwild/3094.htm)

Significant stops may include:

- Thousand Island Woods
- GP9
- GP10N
- GP11S
- GP5 Pond
- Main Pool East from CR1200W foot bridge
- Main Pool West from "double ditches" off Hwy 59 (where the large Goose Pond sign is located)
- Visitor Center (provides a commanding view of numerous units)
- Main Pool West from south end of CR1200W
- Beehunter Marsh units (located just northeast of Goose Pond, along



Mallard ducklings by Ryan Sanderson

**Admission:** Free, but guests are required to complete a day pass card and return it at the end of their visit.

**Accessibility:** Parking areas and Visitor Center are handicap-accessible; trails and levees in individual units are not.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms in Visitor Center, accessible even when building is closed. Camping nearby in Greene-Sullivan State Forest. Hotel accommodations nearby in Linton and Sullivan.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration periods. Summer breeding specialties, include: Bell's Vireo, Black-necked Stilt, Blue Grosbeak, Dickcissel, Henslow's Sparrow, Least Tern, and Northern Bobwhite. Winter into early spring is good for raptors such as Golden Eagle, Merlin, Rough-legged Hawk and Short-eared Owl.

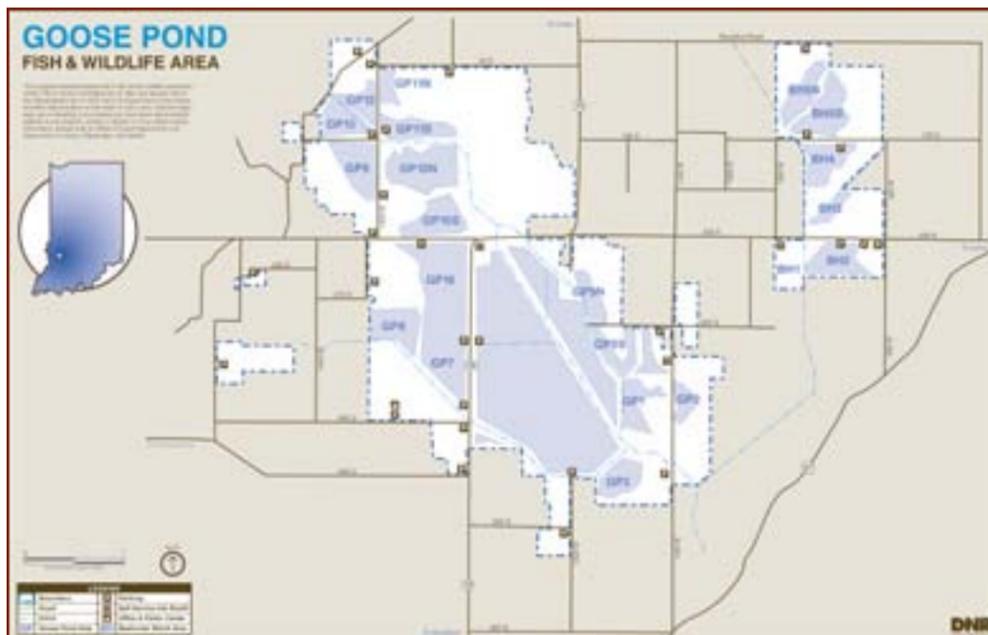
**eBird Hotspot:** [eBird.org/hotspot/L319816](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L319816)

**Hours:** Property open 24 hours, 7 days a week.  
 Visitor Center: Mon-Fri 8am-3pm, Sat 9am-3pm, Sun Noon-4pm.  
 Some seasonal hours apply.

**Parking:** Gravel parking areas at most units.

**Restrictions:** Fishing and hunting are permitted on the property; during hunting seasons, birders should take care to avoid hunting grounds.

**Indiana DNR,  
 Division of Fish & Wildlife  
 (812) 512-9185  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)**



# Grant Street Marsh

LAKE COUNTY - NW

3197 Grant St, Gary, IN 46408  
 Turn west onto Little Calumet River Trail at W 32nd Ave



Yellow-headed Blackbird by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Not ADA accessible, but as noted, the path is hard packed gravel.

**Amenities:** No restrooms or other facilities. Several truck/travel stops and restaurants on Grant between West 32nd Ave and US 80/94.

**Best Times to Bird:** Mid to late spring is best, as well as summer through early fall.

**eBird Hotspot:** [eBird.org/hotspot/L157857](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L157857)

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset

**Parking:** Turn west onto a dirt/gravel Rd at 32nd Ave. Parking at the base of the levee. It is also possible to access the extreme northeast end of the gravel path on the levee by turning west off Grant about 150 feet north of the 2nd light south of US 80/94 (this is the light for the businesses on either side). A short-paved road dead-ends into the path, and you can park there to bird that end if desired. Parking at Chase Street (1 mile west of Grant) is not recommended as the street is not used or maintained.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. Crowds are virtually never an issue.

**City of Gary Parks & Recreation Department  
 (219) 881-1311  
[garyin.us/parks/](http://garyin.us/parks/)**



Libby Keyes

**Grant Street Marsh** is comprised of 350+ acres located in Gary, Indiana. It includes open water for waterfowl, cattails and reeds for various nesters and shallow areas for shorebirds. Although it is an urban area, it functions as a "migrant trap," attracting warblers, flycatchers, sparrows and other species.

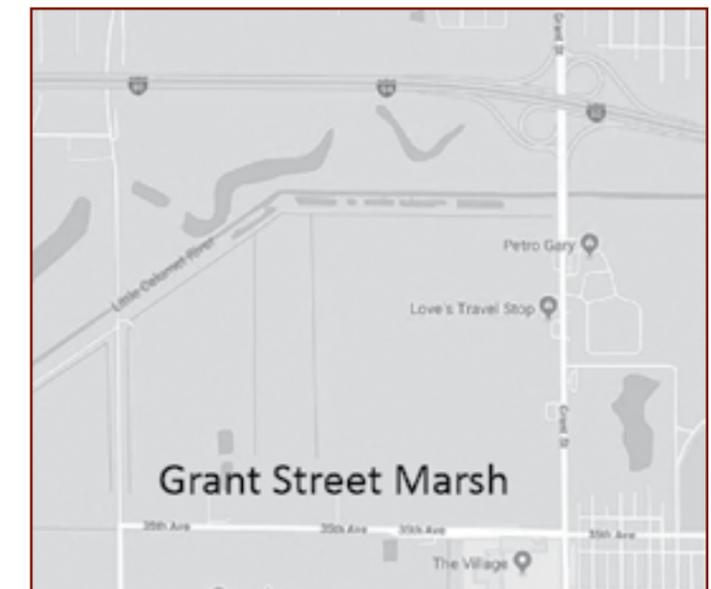
Over 200 species have been recorded at the marsh, including Eurasian Wigeon, Eared Grebe, Black-billed Cuckoo, King Rail, American Avocet, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, White-rumped Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Western Kingbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird which has nested in several seasons. Nesting Bald Eagles have been present in recent years.

The marsh is easy and convenient to access from the levee which allows unobstructed views from 8-10 feet above the surface of the water. The path on top of the levee is wide, level, firmly-packed fine gravel which runs approximately 7,000 feet around the south and east sides. A spotting scope is highly recommended.

Grant Street Marsh is centrally located among the prime birding areas in the NW corner of the state. Approximately 20 minutes from Miller Beach, as well as the Indiana Dunes State and National Parks, 30 minutes from Hammond Lakefront Park and Marina, and 35 minutes from Michigan City Harbor.

by *Randy Pals*

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**



# Hammond Lakefront Park & Marina

LAKE COUNTY - NW

# Indiana Dunes National Park

LAKE, LAPORTE & PORTER COUNTIES - NW

701 Casino Center Dr, Hammond, IN 46320  
Turn right at Hammond Port Authority, stop at gatehouse

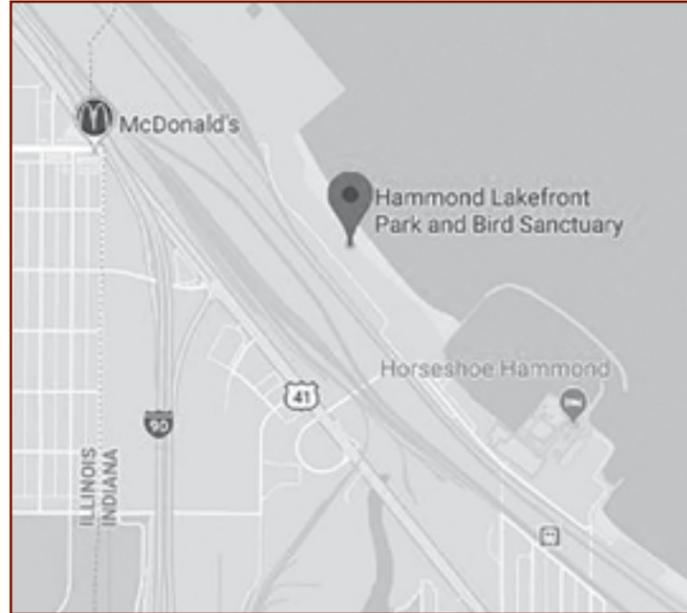
**The Hammond Lakefront Park** and Bird Sanctuary is almost certainly the best location in the Calumet region to observe migrating passerines. This 600-meter wooded strip of lakefront on Lake Michigan is a virtual oasis of vegetation amidst a vast industrial landscape.

Once well-known simply as "The Migrant Trap," it serves as an invaluable stopover site which attracts great numbers of migrant passerines in spring and fall. As a lakefront site, flanked to the east by the Hammond Marina, this site is also great for migrating and overwintering waterfowl.

Typically, it is best to begin by checking the feeders on the east side of the sanctuary, then scan the marina and Lake Michigan for waterfowl. Enter the sanctuary from the east edge and walk the interior trail westward until you reach the area where the bike trail intersects the footpath. Return eastward along the bike trail just outside of the sanctuary. At the west end, it can be productive to walk a short distance west along the bike trail, especially near the train tracks where the grasses provide cover for sparrows and other skulking species.

by Matt Igleski

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



**Admission:** Free, with possible seasonal parking fees.

**Accessibility:** Sanctuary trail is mulched and flat. Paved trails directly adjacent.

**Amenities:** Restrooms on site in the marina office building. Hotel/motel accommodations available in Hammond and other nearby lakefront cities.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157757

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season birding site, with May and September being peak for songbird migration. Waterfowl arrive in late October and many species winter on Lake Michigan.

**Hours:** Dawn until dusk.

**Parking:** Parking lot at site, parking fee may apply.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations.

**Hammond Parks and Recreation**  
(219) 659-7678  
hammondportauthority.com



Cape May Warbler by Jeff Timmons

**Admission:** Free, though special use parking fees exist for West Beach during the summer season.

**Accessibility:** The Great Marsh trail features a short-paved, wheelchair-accessible trail to an overlook of the marsh from the north parking lot.

**Amenities:** Ample restrooms throughout. Modern facilities at the nature center, as well as by the beach. Food, lodging, and gas three miles south in Chesterton.

**Best Times to Bird:** Truly a four-season park. Each season offers a different set of birds and locations within the park to find them.

**eBird Hotspot:**

Beverly Shores: eBird.org/hotspot/L356175  
Heron Rookery: eBird.org/hotspot/L152749  
Cowles Bog: eBird.org/hotspot/L152744  
West Beach: eBird.org/hotspot/L353993

**Hours:** 7am-11pm

**Parking:** Parking found throughout.

**Restrictions:** During busy summer periods the park can be crowded with hikers and campers, including summer weekend lines to get into the park.

**National Park Service**  
(219) 395-1882  
nps.gov/indu



Prothonotary Warbler by Shari McCollough

1215 IN-49, Porter, IN 46304

Access visitor center on IN-49 north of I-94 and I-80/90

**Indiana Dunes National Park** hugs 15 miles of the southern shore of Lake Michigan and has much to offer. Combined with the encased Indiana Dunes State Park, the "Indiana Dunes" is both the state's largest tourist attraction and its best birding destination. With 15,000 acres, the park contains 50 miles of trails through a diversity of habitats. Together with the state park and surrounding region, over 350 species have been found in the Indiana Dunes area.

The national park is more fragmented than other national parks and perhaps best identified by the many units that make up the park. For birding purposes, the best areas for birding include:

**Beverly Shores**, more formally known as the Great Marsh, is a long drive and associated hiking trail through extensive wetlands that sit behind the dunes. Many birders do a slow drive down Beverly Drive in search of birds or hike the Great Marsh Trail for wetland birds. The high dunes along this stretch are good for Whip-poor-wills in the summer. The beach lots at Lakeview and Dunbar provide good scanning points in the fall and winter for loons, scoters, and grebes. In winter, Beverly Drive can be a reliable spot to find Northern Shrikes.

The **Heron Rookery** is a great spring birding destination, but not for the herons that are now former breeding residents. This rich forestland hosts a great spring wildflower show and often sees the first migrating songbirds, from April (kinglets, Winter Wrens, waterthrushes) to May (warblers, thrushes and vireos). Two parking lots bookend this linear trail.

The **Cowles Bog** area is not only the site of early ecological work by Henry Cowles, but an outstanding forest and swamp habitat. The 2.5-mile perimeter trail produces high numbers of migrants in the spring and fall. Many rarities have been found here, including Kirtland's Warbler and Western Kingbird. For those wanting a longer walk, the trails continue to the beach through upland oak savanna habitats.

Some of the best intact dune and swale habitat occur at **West Beach**. As the park's primary beach area, summer crowds can be heavy, but spring, fall, and winter birding can be productive. The "pinery" area along the succession trail can host winter finches and Long-eared Owls. On the southern portion, Long Lake is worth a scan for waterfowl and shorebirds when the water levels are low. The little bluestem prairie areas can shelter fall sparrows, including Swamp, White-crowned, and LeConte's Sparrow.

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by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**  
Full day counts possible with combined lakewatch vigils.



# Indiana Dunes State Park

PORTER COUNTY - NW

1600 N 25 E, Chesterton, IN 46304  
SR 49 brings visitors directly north into the state park

Along the southern shore of Lake Michigan lies one of the greatest birding hotspots in the Midwest. The **Indiana Dunes State Park** fits within the boundaries of the larger Indiana Dunes National Park and consists of 2,100 acres of beautiful high dunes, extensive swamps, and rolling oak savanna woodlands. The state park also contains three miles of sand beach. Established in 1925, the scientific, recreational, and historical value of the park is well recognized. However, it may be the ornithological value that is of most importance here.

Indiana Dunes State Park is a marvel during migration, when spring birds pile up on the lakeshore, singularly providing the best visible migration in the state. Fall birds funnel down the lake, accommodating a great diversity and abundance of birds. Summer hosts a diverse set of northern, southern, and western edge-of-range species, including Prairie and Hooded Warblers nesting in the same park as Worm-eating Warblers and Summer Tanagers. Winter brings the excitement of winter finch possibilities and offshore waterfowl. In total, over 300 species have been found within the state park, making it an unparalleled birding hotspot in the state.

For birders wishing to hike, the Wilson Shelter and nature center are the best staging points for birding the forest and wetland areas. Trails 7, 8, and 10 are the most traveled. The Trail 8 boardwalk is renowned for nesting Prothonotary Warblers and the surrounding trails and picnic areas

host many migrating and breeding birds. The higher dunes, including the blowouts, host Prairie Warblers in the summer, but often require a tougher climb to access. The same trails host Barred Owls and Eastern Whip-poor-wills after dark.

In recent years the most notable bird watching opportunity exists from March-May at the Dunes Birding Tower, informally the "long-shore tower," near the park's West Lot. From here, birders observe massive visible migration on any early morning with south winds. The paid park bird counter regularly logs over a quarter-million birds yielding 200 species annually. Fall lake watches can also produce a variety of migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and occasional jaegers. The nature center is also worth a visit as the feeders often host the arrival of the first finches, and a slew of rarities over the year, including Harris' Sparrow and Hoary Redpoll.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**  
Full day counts possible with combined lakewatch vigils.



Northern Saw-whet Owl by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Paved trail connects the campground to the beach. Accessible parking near the Dunes Birding Tower via a service drive near the West Lot.

**Amenities:** Ample vault toilets throughout. Modern facilities at the year-round nature center and by the beach. Food, lodging, and gas are three miles south in Chesterton.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season park. Each season offers a different variety of birds and locations within the park.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L335435  
Indiana Dunes SP Longshore Tower: eBird.org/hotspot/L2091564

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am..

**Parking:** Ample parking found throughout.

**Restrictions:** During busy summer periods the park can be crowded with hikers and campers, including summer weekend lines to get into the park. Property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
(219) 926-1952  
(219) 926-1390 Nature Center  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)

# Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area

PULASKI, JASPER & STARKE COUNTIES - NW

5822 Fish and Wildlife Lane, Medaryville, IN 47957  
Easily accessed off State Rd 421  
Crane observation area ¼ mile west of office



Sandhill Crane by Shari McCollough

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Paved roads. Restrooms available. Crane observation platform is ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Seasonal restrooms and all-year vault toilets located near the main office and crane observation platform. The town of Medaryville, five miles south, has gas and food.

**Best Times to Bird:** March-April and October-November are peak times for cranes. Anytime in spring and fall can produce other migrant bird species.

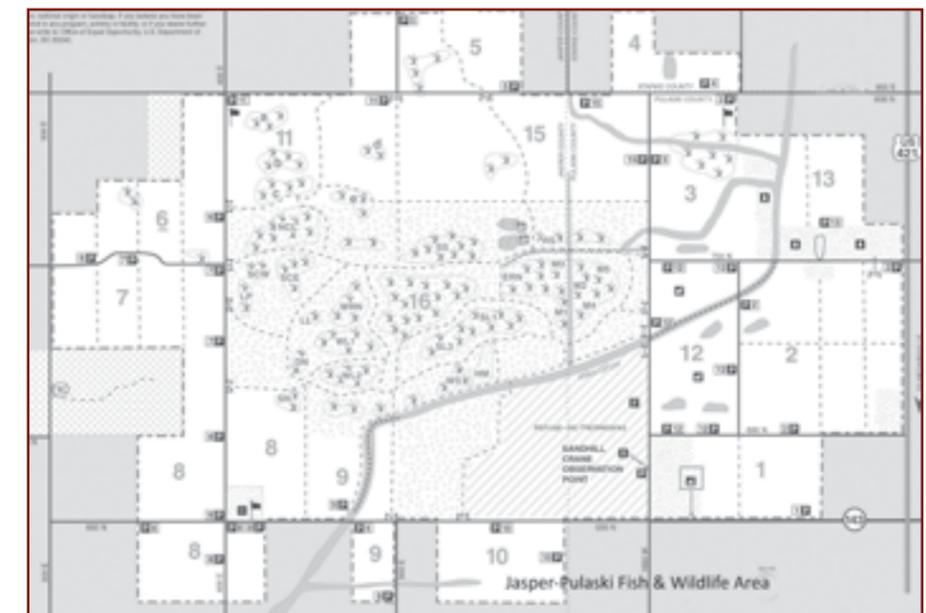
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L248276

**Hours:** Accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week

**Parking:** Many parking lots throughout

**Restrictions:** This is an active hunting area, so check on hunting dates and/or wear orange if visiting at dawn or dusk. Obey all posted rules and closed areas.

Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
(219) 843-4841  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)



**Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area**, like other state fish and wildlife areas, is well known for hunting and fishing opportunities. However, unlike other fish and wildlife areas, it has become a state birding mecca each fall as visitors from all over the Midwest travel to see the annual migration of Sandhill Cranes. The entire property encompasses over 8,000 acres of wetlands, upland forest, and leased crop rows.

While much of the property is suitable for other migrating and breeding birds, much of this is overshadowed by the massive crane gathering that occurs each spring and fall. Due to restoration work that began in the 1930s, coupled with feeding areas found in the surrounding agricultural heritage, Jasper-Pulaski's position within the eastern Sandhill Crane flyway has created the largest gathering of Sandhill Cranes east of the Mississippi River. Fall daily peak counts typically exceed 15,000 birds, with some highs reaching 30,000 birds. Outdoor Indiana once rated Jasper-Pulaski's crane gathering as one of the top 20 things every Hoosier should see.

Visitors wishing to see the cranes will visit the crane viewing tower, located ¼ mile west of the property office. The parking lot has a paved interpretive trail leading to the viewing platform. Optics are mounted on the platform, and weekends can find the site busy with spectators. Late October-November is the best period to view cranes early in the morning or at sunset. Spring gatherings occur with less predictability, due to weather conditions. Many spring cranes gather more directly along the floodplain of the Kankakee River to the north of Jasper-Pulaski.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**  
Allow 3-4 hours for a more extensive search.  
Crane watches typically last 1-2 hours at sunset or sunrise.

# Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area

PORTER & STARKE COUNTIES - NW

4320 W Toto Rd, North Judson, IN 46366  
Access from the north or south via SR 39 or SR 421

Located along SR 8 and SR 39 in Starke and LaPorte counties, the 4,200-acre **Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area** is an important oasis of the Kankakee Grand Marsh, a larger watershed that is an important migratory refuge for water birds in northern Indiana. Although the area is heavily hunted during the appropriate season, the best viewing is from one of the numerous roads.

The main birding areas are areas L-3 and L-4 in LaPorte County off CR W2100 S and in Kiwani Marsh (parking lot on the north side of Toto Rd. just west of the Headquarters in area S-4) and adjacent fields on the south (Starke Co.) side of Toto Rd. Raptors and a few songbirds use the river as a pathway and stopover.

With extra time for exploration, 10-mile Rd is a long, gravel loop that follows each of the two rivers, west of the FWA. Find Bald Eagles and typical eastern forest nesters along the river. The river floodplain forest is an important stopover area for species such as Rusty and Brewer's Blackbirds, as well as Prothonotary and Yellow-throated Warblers. Keep an eye out for rare Golden Eagles in early spring. The habitat ranges from seasonally flooded agricultural fields and basins to river floodplain forest. Both sides of the rivers produce impressive numbers of ducks, swan, geese, and shorebirds, particularly during late winter and spring migration. Waterfowl show up at Kiwani Marsh as soon a hole forms in the ice, with swans typically arriving earlier. This includes thawing flooded fields along Toto Rd on the south side of the river near the headquarters. Rarities have included Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Swainson's Hawk, Gyrfalcon, and Prairie Falcon. Marsh birds, rails, Marsh Wrens and snipe occur in the areas on the north side of 2100 S between LaPorte CR 500 and CR 600 W across from shorebird scrapes. A scope is useful when birding this site.

by John Kendall

**Typical birding time: 2-3 hours**  
**3-5 hours when checking nearby fields.**

Rusty Blackbird by Allee Forsberg



**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Trails are generally easy to moderate, but none are ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Restrooms outside the headquarters building during daylight hours. The nearest food and fuel are in LaCrosse, 8 miles west on SR 8.

**Best Times to Bird:** Late winter and early spring is best for waterfowl and early migrants. Suitable shorebird habitat during May. Fall birding is habitat dependent for shorebirds. Winter birding is also dependent on habitat, mainly open water and flooding.

**eBird Hotspot:** LaPorte Co: eBird.org/hotspot/L1451910  
Starke Co: eBird.org/hotspot/L2021762

**Parking:** Gravel parking areas located at most units throughout.

**Restrictions:** Fishing and hunting are permitted. Take care to avoid units where hunters may be present. Seasonal flooding can close certain roads. Do not attempt to cross flooded roads. Local roads may have temporary closures around the property when river levels are high.

Indiana DNR  
(574) 896-3522  
wildlife.in.gov

# Kankakee Sands

NEWTON COUNTY - NW

3294 N US 41, Morocco, IN 47963  
Bison viewing area one mile west on 400 W

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** One established trail exists at the main office. Other hiking takes place off trail.

**Amenities:** Portable restrooms at bison viewing area and main office. Nearby Fair Oaks Farm approximately ten miles away has modern facilities, café dining options, and lodging.

**Best Times to Bird:** Winter for wintering owls and Rough-legged Hawks. March-June for migrating and breeding prairie birds.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L724814

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk.

**Parking:** Multiple parking lots exist throughout.

**Restrictions:** Parking only in designated lots. Unit restrictions take place seasonally, depending on where the bison are feeding.

The Nature Conservancy  
(219) 285-2184  
nature.org/indiana



The Efroymson Restoration at **Kankakee Sands** in Newton County is a birder's and wildflower enthusiast's paradise. The 7,000+ acres are home to an amazing array of birds, wildflowers, plants, and animals that fill the prairie. The restored grasslands, wet prairies, and wetlands are a hub for both migrating and breeding prairie species that are generally hard to find throughout the state. This includes Bell's Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Western Meadowlark, Bobolink, Lark Sparrow, and state endangered Henslow's Sparrow.

Early morning visitors can hear Northern Bobwhite throughout the property from roadsides and various parking lots. Areas to the east of US 41 harbor the Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, and areas with recent burns are best to search for Lark Sparrow. Early morning visits near any wetland or wet ditch often produces American Bittern in the appropriate season. Recent restoration work in Unit J is providing excellent waterfowl habitat, and flooded fields on County Rd 225 N usually attract migrating shorebirds.

For animal lovers, the recently introduced bison steal the show, which works out well as Bell's Vireo and Blue Grosbeaks occur in this area as well. In the off-season, bison are easier to see in the north prairies. Short-eared Owls hunt the property at dusk from fall through spring.

Smith's Longspurs also migrate through this part of the state each April. Check eBird sightings for updates and specific locations. Visitors should be careful not to block local vehicular traffic.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**

LeConte's Sparrow by Ryan Sanderson



# Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife Area

LAPORTE COUNTY - NW

5344 S Hupp Rd, LaPorte, IN 46350  
Nearby crossroads US-6 and US-35 from LaPorte

**Kingsbury Fish & Wildlife Area** is a state-managed fishing and hunting area of 7,280 acres of grasslands, crop fields, thick brush, scattered stands of conifers and hardwoods, marsh areas and a 30-acre lake. The Kankakee River forms the south boundary and ditches drain into it.

With 243 species recorded, Kingsbury is the leading eBird hotspot in La Porte County as it is a stop-over site for migrating birds, with year-round habitat for birds of prey, and waterfowl. The major sites to visit are:

The main entrance East Hupp Rd ends at Tamarack Lake/Marsh, which allows boating access with suitable habitat for Sandhill Cranes, swans, and winter waterfowl. The secondary road towards the fish hatchery is optimum for passerines.

River Rd leads to the Great Marsh, with open water for ducks and water level-managed marshy areas for secretive marsh birds. Migrating shorebirds stop here, particularly in the spring. An Osprey platform is located at the edge. This road ends at the Kankakee River, and its side ditch has several Wood Duck boxes which may include nesting Eastern Screech-Owls. A scope is helpful for viewing the back areas of open water.

Nickel Road runs to the east along mixed grasslands and crop fields, an ideal area for flyby migrating hawks and resident Ospreys. The edge is comprised of mixed deciduous and conifer forest, where Barred Owl and pheasant sometimes occur.

by Kimberly Ehn

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**

**Allow 3-4 hours will allow for a more extensive search.**



Stilt Sandpiper by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Paved roads. Restrooms accessible. No accessible trails.

**Amenities:** Seasonal restrooms and year round port-a-potties located near the main office. The city of La Porte is 20 miles north with hotels, gas and restaurants.

**Best Times to Bird:** January-October, avoid early morning hours. Average visits include about a mile in driving distance.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L248276

**Hours:** Open 24/7. Office hours are 8am-2pm CST.

**Parking:** Numerous posted parking lots that allow access to the grounds by foot.

**Restrictions:** Active hunting area. Be aware of hunting dates. Wear orange if visiting at dawn or dusk. Obey all posted rules and closed areas.

Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
(219) 393-3612  
wildlife.in.gov



# Limberlost Swamp Conservation Area

ADAMS & JAY COUNTIES - NE



Short-eared Owl by Kevin Wyckoff

**Admission:** Free

**Amenities:** Restrooms in Limberlost Visitor Center. Nearby gas stations and local restaurants in Geneva, Berne, Bryant and Portland. 24-hour Casey's General Store in Geneva.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season birding site. Winter: Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers. March-April: waterfowl. May: shorebirds, Sandhill Cranes migrants. Nesting Bald eagles. Rare birds can occur in all seasons.

**eBird Hotspot:** Loblolly Marsh: eBird.org/hotspot/L1267726  
Limberlost Swamp: eBird.org/hotspot/S55169466

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk. Visitor Center Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm.

**Parking:** Parking lot at both locations.

**Restrictions:** Roads can flood in heavy rains.

Indiana DNR and  
Friends of the Limberlost  
260-368-7428  
limberlost.weebly.com



Loblolly: 8323 N Co Rd 250 W. Bryant, IN 47326  
Three miles west of Bryant on Hwy 18  
Limberlost: 507 W Co Rd 1200S, Geneva, IN 46740  
South of Limberlost State Historic Site, US 27 to CR 1200S

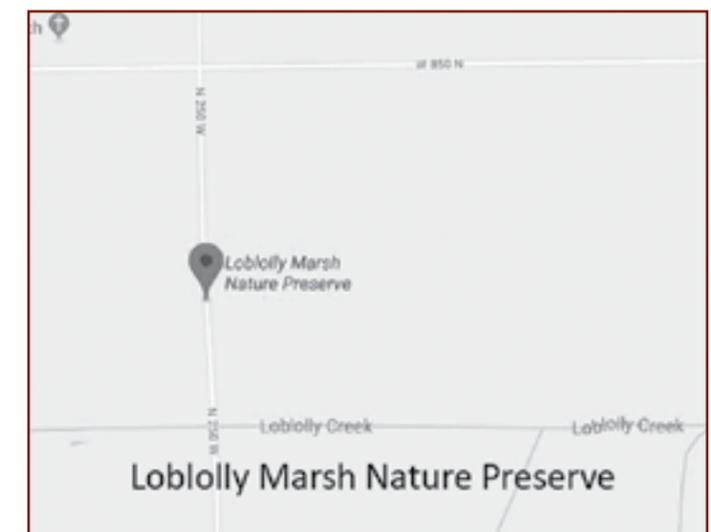
Both the **Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve** and the **Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve** are part of the former 13,000-acre Limberlost Swamp, that became famous through author and naturalist Gene Stratton-Porter, adjacent to the Limberlost State Historic Site. Today, two smaller preserves make up the Limberlost Territory Nature Preserves for a total of about 1800 acres. For a personalized visit, the rent-a-naturalist program at Limberlost State Historic Site is available for a small fee, by reservation only.

**Loblolly Marsh Nature Preserve** is the 250<sup>th</sup> state dedicated nature preserve, containing 463 acres. Including over three miles of trails, Veronica's Trail is an ADA accessible trail which is two-thirds of a mile (one third each way). The Loblolly Marsh includes marsh, woods, and prairie habitats.

**Limberlost Swamp Wetland Preserve** is 846 acres with 3.6 miles of trails, portions of which may be underwater in wet weather. The Deacon's Trail allows access back into the marsh. Limberlost Swamp may also be birded by car. Regular rare bird sightings occur.

by Terri Gorney

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



# Lincoln State Park

SPENCER COUNTY - SW

15476 N CR300 E, Lincoln City, IN 47552  
Entrance west of US-231 off IN-162

**Lincoln State Park** consists of nearly 2000 acres near the home site of Abraham Lincoln. Established in 1932, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) made improvements to the property, which is adjacent to the 200-acre Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

The park is primarily second growth, lowland and upland forest with several groves of pines planted by the CCC. The Sarah Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve on the south side of the property includes about 20 acres of xeric upland forest. Lake Lincoln is about 58 acres of eutrophic lake built in the 1930s with mule teams and CCC money. The Nature Preserve trail (Trail 3) houses the oldest trees.

Birders frequently use Trail 1 (Lake Lincoln Trail), Trail 3 (Sarah Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve Trail), and Trail 6 (Weber Lake Trail.) Weber Lake is a reclaimed strip pit that attracts water birds, including rails, various duck species, herons and egrets.

Warblers, vireos and thrushes pour through the park in early and mid-May on their spring migration. Many species have been documented over the years, with still more nesting here. The park boasts one of the first, if not the first, Mississippi Kite populations around. Regular kite sightings began in the early 1990s and the species is still going strong in this area. Bald Eagles occur in winter months and Osprey during migration. Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers reside in the park. Carolina Chickadees, various sparrows, finches and White-breasted Nuthatches are common at the bird viewing area in winter. Nighttime hikes yield Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls and the occasional Eastern Screech-Owl.

by Michael Crews

**Typical birding time: 1 hour-all day**



Kentucky Warbler by Jeff Timmons

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply: \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Trail one is the most accessible.

**Best times to bird:** Early May and mid-September for peak migration. Eagle watching is best in winter.

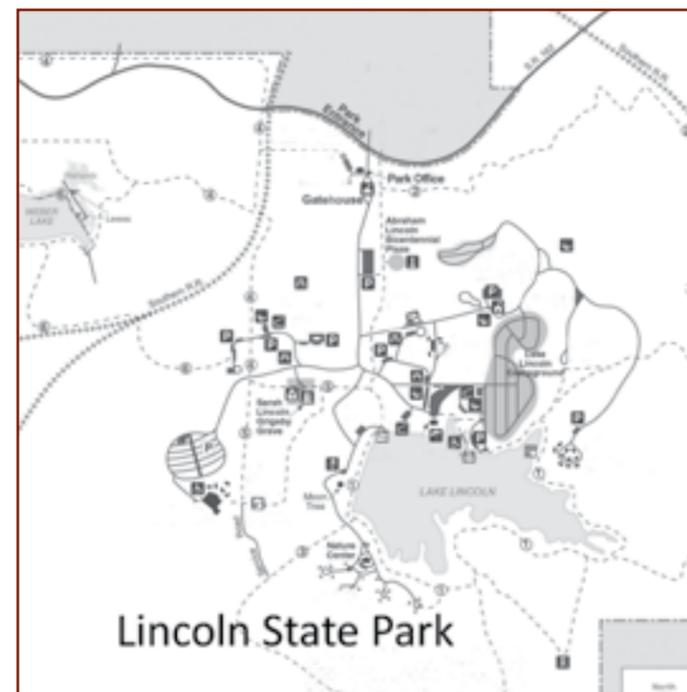
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L328746

**Hours:** 7am-11pm

**Parking:** Parking available throughout.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
**(812) 937-1979**  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



# Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary

FAYETTE COUNTY - C

3499 S Bird Sanctuary Rd, Connersville, IN. 47331  
Enter at S Bird Sanctuary Rd and W CR 350 S crossroad

**Admission:** Free. However, donations are encouraged as MGBS is supported entirely from donations.

**Accessibility:** All trails are rustic, uneven, and have various degrees of hills. Service road is partially graveled. ADA accessible restroom.

**Amenities:** Restroom available. Primitive camping free to Indiana Audubon Society members. Maps provided at parking-lot kiosk. Connersville and Rushville nearby have hotels, restaurants and shopping.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration. Frequent banding operations. Additional events are posted on the webpage. Picnic lunches suggested for birding during migration to make it a day outing.

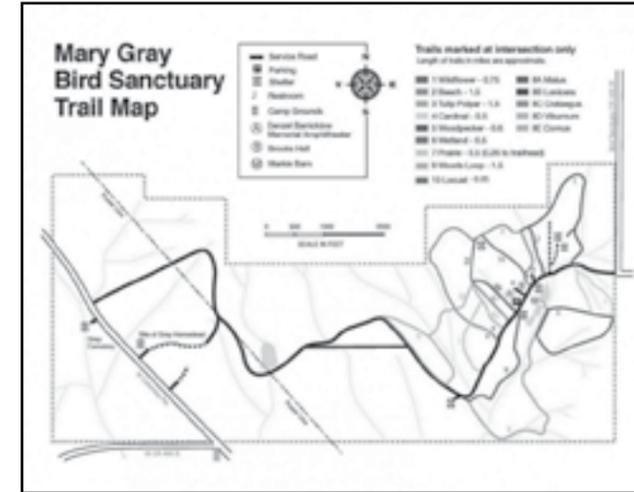
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L292422

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset. Many bird related events begin and end after the set hours.

**Parking:** Centralized parking area.

**Restrictions:** MGBS strives to maintain a natural area for native fauna and flora. Visitors are encouraged to use boot scrubbers and remain on trails. Harvesting of forest products is not allowed. Leashed pets are allowed.

**Indiana Audubon**  
**(765) 827-5109**  
[indianaudubon.org](http://indianaudubon.org)



**The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary (MGBS)** is a 700-acre property owned by the Indiana Audubon Society. Located on the edge of the glacial fill flatlands of east-central Indiana, MGBS provides foot-trails through mature forested habitat traversed with creeks. Maintained fields and ponds present onsite. The Indiana DNR recently designated the west end of MGBS as Mary Gray Nature Preserve.

MGBS provides important stopover points for migrating species as well as breeding grounds for summer residents. The Wetland Trail follows a large creek through forest to the seasonal wetland area and forest edges that provides excellent birding. Return to the parking area via the service road that continues through maintained open areas and an established prairie. Summer breeding birds include Wood Thrush, both cuckoo species, Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler and Scarlet Tanager.

MGBS is a renowned bird research observatory. Bird banding occurs year-round, with migration and summer breeding bird banding being the most notable. The public is welcome to watch on most Saturdays.

Fall Northern Saw-whet Owl banding takes place in late October-November, and an abundance of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds makes this place a prime hummingbird banding and viewing location. A Hummingbird Migration Celebration typically takes place on the second Saturday in August.

by Philip English

**Typical birding time: 2-3 hours**



Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Shari McCollough

# McCormick's Creek State Park

OWEN COUNTY - SW

250 McCormick's Creek Park Rd., Spencer, IN 47460  
 Located on Highway 46 just east of Spencer and 15 miles west of Bloomington.

Indiana's first State Park, **McCormick's Creek**, yields nearly 2,000 acres of scenic woodlands and diverse habitats: floodplain, wetland, creeks, rivers, rocky outcroppings, karst plains, and a mosaic of aged forest stands. Echo Canyon and its falls are the park's scenic centerpiece, showcasing kingfishers and waterthrushes along Trail 3.

The best birding trail starts at the year-round nature center. The feeders reliably host Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the spring and early summer. Take the paved Trail 8 into Wolf Cave Nature Preserve, then make a loop on Trail 5 past the cave, along the Litten Branch Creek back to Trail 8 and the nature center where the mesic forest is a hotspot for wood warblers, flycatchers, tanagers, and thrushes. Exciting finds include Worm-eating, Hooded, Magnolia, and Cerulean Warblers. The preserve's karst plain boasts a fine display of spring wildflowers around migration time. Trail 7 provides rugged beauty along the canyon's rim and down into the White River floodplain. In the winter, the outcroppings and tangled shrubs host Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and mixed flocks of winter residents. The patient birder is occasionally rewarded with a Bald Eagle along the river.

Owls are often spotted in the playfield behind Canyon Inn and the surrounding forest edges. Consider looking for them along Trails 2 and 4.

by Wyatt Williams

**Typical birding time:**

**Admission:** \$7/vehicle with Indiana license plate, \$9/vehicle out-of-state. Free admission with annual entrance permit and in many days through the winter.

**Amenities:** Canyon Inn serves food and has a serene birdwatching "porch" in their dining room. The park has a nature center with modern restrooms and a birdwatching area. Modern restrooms are also available at the Canyon Inn and park office; vault toilets are in the park as well. Scenic downtown has several dining options and other attractions like art galleries and coffee shops.



**Best Times to Bird:** The best times to bird McCormick's Creek are spring and fall migration, as well as discovering the summer breeding birds. Winter birders are rewarded with a quiet beauty and familiar, feathered friends, especially at the nature center and Canyon Inn feeders.

**eBird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L259755/media?yr=all&m=>

**Parking:** Ample parking is available at trailheads, the nature center, picnic areas, and at Canyon Inn.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules can be found at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

**Indiana DNR**  
 (812)829-2235 Office  
 (812)829-4344 Nature center  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



Blue-winged Teal by Ryan Sanderson

**Steuben County, Indiana is home to numerous nature preserves, over 100 natural lakes and beautiful Pokagon State Park. Bird watching opportunities abound. Visit [lakes101.org](http://lakes101.org)**



For the couple enjoying their morning coffee on a nearby park bench in front of Potawatomi Inn, the sight of these Sandhill Cranes is an unexpected delight. The pair—each standing more than three and a half feet tall—are actually regular visitors at Pokagon State Park. One of two known nesting pairs that arrive in March and head south in November, these birds enjoy poking around the lawn for their morning meal. As the Sandhill Cranes can tell you, Pokagon is home to many native birds and makes for a perfect stopping ground for those migrating through.



For those looking for a guided hike, the Pokagon State Park Interpretive Naturalists lead a weekly Sunday morning bird walk. Learn to identify birds, meet fellow nature-lovers, and enjoy the sights and sounds of the outdoors. Approximately 90-minutes, the hike is perfect for birdwatchers of all experience levels. Regular attendees also get a chance to watch the park change through the seasons and see different bird species depending on the time of year.



Along Trail 3, visitors can walk a wetland boardwalk to look for yellow warblers, redheaded woodpeckers, or the clucking call of a Virginia Rail. Continue on the trail and hike to the highest peak in the park, Hell's Point where a viewing platform allows hikers to see the tree tops of the hardwood forest.

On Trail 7, walk along Bluebird Hill where an Eastern bluebird is likely to be nesting in one of the many birdhouses. Take a break on the bench overlooking the wetland where it is not uncommon to see geese, ducks, and a busy beaver swimming through the water.



Another popular place for birdwatching is at the Woodland Window inside the Pokagon State Park Nature Center. Visitors can observe birds and other wildlife through a 20-foot long window overlooking numerous bird feeding stations. The sounds of the birds are even brought indoors with the use of a microphone placed outside.



Just a few minutes from Pokagon State Park is Trine State Recreation Area—a quiet and tranquil property along Gentian Lake. Here, birders can have the joy of seeing an osprey catching fish or hear the screech of a red tail hawk soaring over a meadow full of wildflowers.



# Michigan City Harbor

LAPORTE COUNTY - NW

115 N Lake Shore Dr., Michigan City, IN 46360  
Use Franklin St bridge, Trail Creek to Washington Park

**Michigan City Harbor** is a major birding hotspot in Indiana. According to *Birds of the Indiana Dunes* by Kenneth J. Brock, at least 40% of the rare and accidental species on the state checklist have occurred here. Two of the most recent and rare sightings include Wandering Tattler and Lesser Sand Plover. Other significant sightings in the past forty years include King Eider, Northern Gannet, Magnificent Frigatebird, Slaty-backed Gull, Mew Gull, California Gull, Royal Tern, Arctic Tern, Long-billed Murrelet, Pine Grosbeak, and Kirtland's Warbler. Over the years, 33 species of waterfowl, 36 species of shorebirds, 29 species of warblers, 16 gull species, seven tern species, five grebe species, and three loon species have lighted near this remarkable site. A total of 295 species have been reported.

Michigan City Harbor includes the harbor, yacht basin, beaches, jetty, NIPSCO property immediately west of the harbor and other parts of Washington Park. It is recommended that birders park in the lot due north of the entrance and

use the concrete walkway that adjoins the beach. Scan the beach for gulls, shorebirds, and other birds lingering here. Scan the lake for birds resting in the water.

The jetty, the harbor, the outer breakwater and the NIPSCO property across the channel yield gulls, terns, waterfowl, and shorebirds. In late November, Purple Sandpipers have been found among the rocks that adjoin the jetty. During good weather, a walk from the jetty to the light house provides a vantage point to scope the outer break wall.

Snowy Owls may perch on posts in the yacht basin in November and December as other species rest on the docks. In migration, it is possible to find a wide array of warblers, sparrows and other passerines in the grassy and wooded areas. Kirtland's Warbler, Clay-colored and Harris Sparrows, as well as other passerines have been found here during migration.

by Lynea Hinchman

**Typical birding time: 1-5 hours**



Snowy Owl by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Parking fees apply daily during summer months. Current daily fee \$8 per vehicle. Season passes available.

**Accessibility:** The main walkway to and from the jetty is accessible.

**Amenities:** Public restrooms at the NW corner of the parking lot. Restaurants and lodging available throughout Michigan City.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Spring and fall migration peak. Summer and winter birds are plentiful. Early morning when beaches are free of people, though best times according to season and migration: midday in July may yield shorebirds, gulls and terns on the outer break wall while beaches are crowded.

**eBird Hotspot:** Michigan City Harbor: eBird.org/hotspot/L157759  
Washington Park: eBird.org/hotspot/L130995

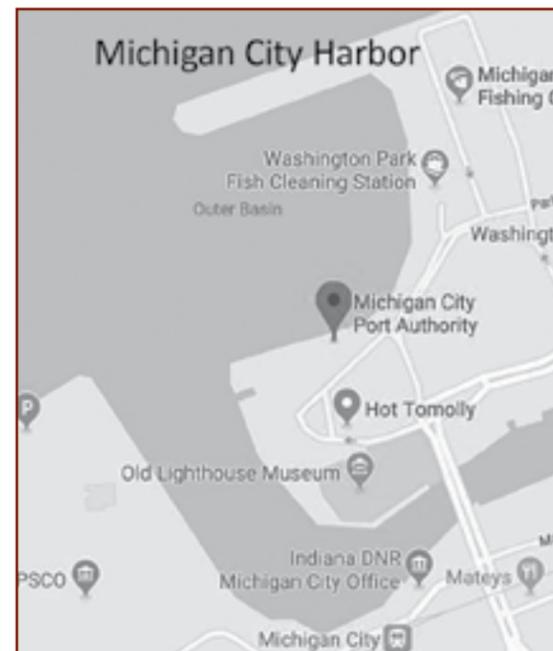
**Hours:** Predawn-10pm

**Parking:** Main parking lot north of entrance gate for best access to harbor and beach. Additional parking available throughout.

**Restrictions:** Parking lots fill during busy summer weekends. Overflow parking often available. Dogs not permitted in the park. During severe weather, jetty and beaches may close.

**City of Michigan City**  
(219) 873-1506

[michigancityparks.com/index.php/washington-park-and-beach](http://michigancityparks.com/index.php/washington-park-and-beach)



Parasitic Jaeger by Shari McCollough

**Admission:** Between Memorial and Labor Day: \$7 fee for Indiana residents, \$10 out-of-state. Early arrival will bypass fees at both sites, but visitors must leave or pay the fee after the attendant arrives, which varies depending on the day.

**Accessibility:** Lake Street Beach is more primitive than Marquette Park. Although the parking lot is paved, visitors must walk across sand to view the shoreline. Marquette Park has a paved walking path and concession stand.

**Amenities:** Summer concession stand, vending areas, and restroom facilities at Marquette Beach, closed in fall. Portable restrooms at Lake Street Beach year-round. Food and fuel south in nearby Miller.

**Best Times to Bird:** Typically July-November.

**eBird Hotspot:** Marquette Park: eBird.org/hotspot/L984779  
Lake Street Beach: eBird.org/hotspot/L271446

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk, daily.

**Parking:** Parking lots throughout, although Lake Street Beach becomes busy in summer, during shorebird peak in July-August. Arrive early to avoid parking issues.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all posted rules and regulations for each site. Due to sedentary birding and fall weather conditions along Lake Michigan, lots of warm clothing layers recommended.

**City of Gary, Indiana**

(219) 938-7362 Marquette Park  
(219) 555-8855 Lake Street Beach  
[marquetteparkgary.org](http://marquetteparkgary.org)



Piping Plover by Ryan Sanderson

# Miller Beach

PORTER COUNTY - NW

Marquette Park: 1 N Grand Blvd, Gary, IN 46403  
Lake Street Beach: 860 N Lake St, Gary, IN 46403

**Miller Beach** consists of two distinct birding sites on the southern shores of Lake Michigan. **Lake Street Beach** is most commonly birded July-August as birders scan the beach and water for migrating shorebirds, gulls, and terns. This site typically requires sedentary birding on the beach just north of the parking lot. Birders often bring chairs to use as they wait for migrating birds to fly by and land on the beach. Walk the beach 1 mile west to the USX Steel break wall searching for shorebirds on the beach, where birds often rest on the breakwall. However, this does require climbing onto the large concrete slabs. Primitive and sandy trails exist to the south of the beach producing passerines during spring and fall migrations.

During late summer through fall, birders typically head east to **Marquette Park** to scan for migrating waterfowl, gulls, and other specialty species like jaegers. For jaegers, the concession stand at Marquette Park is the go-to spot in Indiana. From Ken Brock's, *Birds of the Indiana Dunes*, "the beach parking area virtually marks the southernmost extent of Lake Michigan. Thus, migrating birds following both the eastern and western shorelines southward are ultimately funneled to this site. As a result, the fall season, August through November, provides the most interesting birds. The birding is usually best on days with a brisk northerly wind, which seems to stimulate the movement of birds along the lakefront. Over the years more jaegers occur at Miller Beach than at any other place in Indiana (and probably the highest number at any site in the entire Midwest)."

by Matt Kalwasinski

**Typical birding time: 0.5-4 hours**



# Mississinewa Lake

MIAMI COUNTY - NE

4673 S 625 E, Peru, IN 46970  
Access the Miami SRA via SR 124 or SR 19

**Mississinewa Lake** is a flood-control reservoir in north-central Indiana. The 3,210-acre lake is surrounded by 14,386 acres of forests, prairies, and farmland which provide great habitat for birders. Mississinewa Lake is made up of several state recreation areas including Miami SRA, Red Bridge SRA, Frances Slocum SRA, and Pearson Mill SRA.

The open water provides a stopover site for American White Pelicans, various gulls, and several waterfowl species. Forests surrounding the lake provide excellent habitat for warblers, thrushes, and orioles. During winter months, the area surrounding the lake is frequented by Bald Eagles downstream from the dam on private land, visible from a public road. This remains one of the largest Bald Eagle roosts in the Midwest.

Start birding Mississinewa Lake by traveling over the dam. Check the tailwaters for eagles and gulls. Hike the Lost Sister Trail in the Frances Slocum SRA for a moderate hike through forests and along the shoreline to view thrushes, orioles, woodpeckers, and warblers in the spring and fall. Miami SRA offers a fishing pond with excellent habitat for waterfowl including nesting Wood Ducks, Belted Kingfishers and Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Check the beach area in the off-season for wintering eagles and shorebirds. In spring, Blue Heron Trail provides great views of waterfowl on the lake. Keep watch for American Woodcock along the trail. Red Bridge SRA yields a bird's eye view of the lake. Use a scope to look for waterfowl on the open waters and for pelicans passing through during migration.

The upper reaches of the lake east of the SR 13 bridge is a good place to watch for herons and egrets at lake access points. Most of the area can be birded by car, but hikes into the forest are worthwhile as well.

by April Raver

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Paved parking lots around the lake.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets at SRAs. Campground in Miami SRA offers 400+ camp sites and cabins. Four boat ramps and a marina around the lake. Hotels in nearby cities of Peru and Marion.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Off season and winter months when the lake isn't overrun with boats and people. Winter for Bald Eagles that move south to find open water.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L472683

**Hours:** Open 24 hours. Miami SRA 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** Paved parking lots throughout.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. Pay attention to hunting zones during hunting season. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Leased by Indiana DNR  
(765) 473-6528  
[in.gov/dnr](http://in.gov/dnr)



**Admission:** Fairfax SRA and Paynetown SRA charge gate fees generally from April-November. Stillwater Marsh, Friendship Rd, Cutright SRA and Northfork WRA free of charge.

**Accessibility:** Fairfax SRA has a paved path to the peninsula. Most sites have limited ADA accessibility.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms at Fairfax and Paynetown SRAs during season. Vault toilets at all locations except for Northfork. Activity center at Paynetown SRA with a full-time interpretive naturalist. Camping available at Paynetown SRA. Lodging at Fairfax Inn and Marina. Bloomington and Nashville have gas, food and lodging.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall, walk the levees at Stillwater Marsh, open April 16-October 1. Summers become busy in the SRAs.

**eBird Hotspot:** Four hotspots available, including:  
Fairfax SRA: eBird.org/hotspot/L315008,  
Stillwater Marsh: eBird.org/hotspot/L210916,  
Paynetown SRA: eBird.org/hotspot/L294929,  
Cutright SRA: eBird.org/hotspot/L294931

**Hours:** Many sites accessible 24 hours. SRAs open 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** General ample parking throughout.

**Restrictions:** Stillwater Marsh and Northfork WRA closed to access between October 1-April 15 as waterfowl resting areas. The observation deck at Stillwater accessible year-round. Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

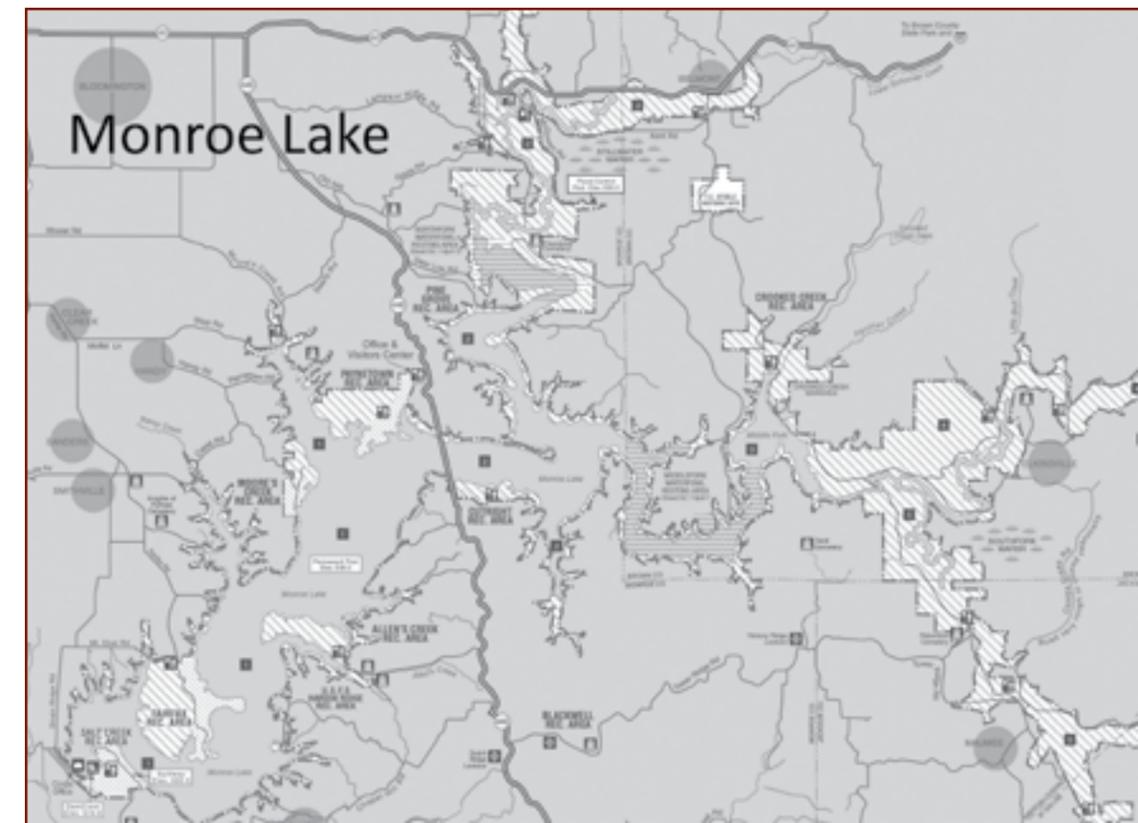
**Monroe Lake Property Office:**  
4850 S SR 446,  
Bloomington, IN 47401

**Fairfax SRA:** 8955-9013 S Fairfax Rd, Bloomington

**Stillwater Marsh:** 8475-8631 E Kent Rd, Bloomington

**Paynetown SRA:** 4850 S SR 446, Bloomington

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Leased by the Indiana DNR  
(812) 837-9546  
[in.gov/dnr](http://in.gov/dnr)



# Monroe Lake

MONROE & BROWN COUNTY - SW

4850 S SR 446, Bloomington, IN 47401  
From SRs out of Bloomington or SR 46 from Nashville

Nestled in the rolling hills of south-central Indiana, **Monroe Lake** and its **State Recreation Areas** (SRAs) encompass 23,925 acres of diverse habitat, including the 10,750 acre lake. Monroe Lake's SRAs provide the best birding access to the over 250 species of birds submitted to eBird. Fairfax SRA (251 species) and Paynetown SRA (216 species) offer the best birding access opportunities in the area year-round. Stillwater Marsh (245 species), Friendship Rd (202 species), Cutright SRA (196 species) and the Northfork Waterfowl Resting Area (200 species) south of Stillwater Marsh are great locations as well.

Spring and fall are the best times for birding Monroe Lake for both migrants and resident species. When the water levels are low, Fairfax Beach and Northfork offer the best opportunities for shorebirds. Stillwater Marsh, Friendship Rd. and Cutright are all good locations for warblers, thrushes, vireos and other passerines.

During winter, Stillwater Marsh is great for waterfowl from the overlook. Additionally, Fairfax SRA's Marina and Paynetown SRA's Marina host waterfowl, loons, geese, and easily the best locations for winter gulling. During summer months, Northfork WRA and Stillwater Marsh are good spots to find post breeding egrets and herons. Monroe Lake holds importance as the site of Indiana's Bald Eagle re-introduction in 1985 and continues to be an excellent site to see eagles in all seasons, but particularly in the winter months.

by Scott Evans

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**

# Mounds State Park

MADISON COUNTY - C

4306 Mounds Rd, Anderson, IN, 46017  
Enter on Mounds Rd off of E CR 100 S

**Mounds State Park** is Indiana's second smallest state park with only 290 acres. However, it is home to a wide variety of habitats that make it a great stopover site for many birds. The White River banks, gentle streams, and biodiverse fen provide rich feeding grounds for waterfowl like geese, ducks, Belted Kingfishers, and flycatchers. Bald Eagles fish in the park as well.

Trail 5 winds around the perimeter of the park. Pine Siskins, Chipping and Song Sparrows sing near the historic Bronnenberg home. Woodpecker varieties, including Pileated and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, drum and call around the Great Mound. As Trail 5 curves toward the river, the century-old forest stand provides downed logs and branches where wrens, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Eastern Towhees occur. Dusk may include owls calling in the woods near the park campground.

Mounds State Park's Visitor Center features a wildlife viewing room with comfortable seating in front of floor to ceiling glass windows through which to observe a variety of typical feeder birds throughout the year. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visit frequently during the summer.

by Kelley Morgan

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Trail 5 from the visitor center to the Great Mound is gravel and easily traversed. Motorized chair available by reservation to use on this path. Visitor center is ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms in visitor center. Vault toilets throughout. Less than 5 miles from Anderson's busiest retail and dining areas on Scatterfield Rd.

**Best Times to Bird:** Sunrise-10:30am. Located in the middle of two major migration flyways. Peak seasons April-May and September-October.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L292420

**Hours:** 7am-11pm

**Parking:** Available at trailheads, nature center, and picnic areas.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
(765) 642-6627 Office  
(765) 649-8128 Nature Center  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Kevin Wyckoff

# Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge

JACKSON & JENNINGS COUNTIES - SE

12985 E US Hwy 50, Seymour, IN 47274  
Entrance 3 miles east of US-31 on Hwy 50  
GPS apps usually lead to a now closed West entrance

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Chestnut Ridge Trail is paved, quarter-mile long, and accessible to wheelchairs.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms at Visitor Center. Pit toilet at the Persimmon Pond Fishing Area. Visitor Center has water fountains, a large exhibit area, and a Nature Bookstore. Town of Seymour has numerous motels and restaurants. Public campgrounds in Brownstown and Vernon.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round, with peak migrant songbird and water birds occurring in April-May. Waterfowl usually appear in November and many birds overwinter if the refuge wetlands don't freeze.

**eBird Hotspot:**  
eBird.org/hotspot/L163702

**Hours:** One hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset.

**Parking:** Park in parking lots or along road edges.

**Restrictions:** Certain rules apply to National Wildlife Refuges so check brochures/website for details. Hiking trails and the Visitor Center are in non-hunting areas. Pets must be kept on leash. A "closed" area in the southwestern portion of the Refuge is closed to all public entry except during special events, watch for "Area Closed" signs. Other small closed areas are located around certain buildings. Use of electronic calls to lure birds is prohibited by federal regulation. Flood closings are always posted on the refuge website and Facebook page.

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(812) 522-4352  
[fws.gov/refuge](http://fws.gov/refuge)



Virginia Rail by Ryan Sanderson

Established in 1966, **Muscatatuck** is Indiana's oldest National Wildlife Refuge, encompassing 7,724 acres of land in Jackson and Jennings Counties. The refuge contains a wide variety of habitat on gently rolling terrain. Approximately 60% of the refuge is covered with forest, most of which is bottomland forest. Scrublands cover 20% of the area, seasonal or permanent wetlands cover 60%, and 10% is grassland. There are two large lakes, Richart and Stanfield, two creeks, Mutton and Storm, many marshes and ponds, and a vegetated swamp known as Moss Lake.

Muscatatuck is a natural pocket of wetland that floods frequently but most roads are passable throughout the year. A 4-mile Auto Tour loop starts and ends near the Visitor Center. Five hiking trails occur throughout the refuge, the longest being about 1 mile in length. Chestnut Ridge Interpretive Trail from the Visitor Center is a quarter-mile long paved trail that is wheelchair accessible. The Visitor Center contains a bird viewing room to watch feeder birds. Recent bird observations are noted on a list at the Visitor Center.

Muscatatuck is designated as a continentally important bird area. The refuge is managed to provide habitat for migratory birds as an important stopover site during spring and fall migration. In warm months, the mature forest and shrublands of the refuge provide opportunities to find species such as Kentucky Warbler, Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Orchard Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Prairie Warbler. Cerulean Warblers also nest in upland mature forests. Old fields provide habitat for Blue Grosbeaks and numerous sparrows. Wet fields and shrublands provide nesting sites for a large population of American Woodcock.

The Endicott grassland provides habitat for nesting Dickcissels, Sedge Wrens, Grasshopper Sparrows, Yellow-breasted Chats, and sometimes Henslow Sparrows. Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers, and sometimes Northern Parula occur along wooded wetland edges. Find Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, and Wood Ducks in the marshes. During migration, ducks and occasional Trumpeter Swans occur in the wetlands. In spring, Sora and Virginia Rails return. Refuge wetlands host wintering ducks, geese, grebes, and Tundra Swans. While open fields attract Northern Harriers and other raptors.

Bald Eagles are present year-round, along with Red-shouldered Hawks, American Kestrels, and Barred Owls. Songbirds like White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, Winter Wren, and occasional Red-breasted Nuthatch are present. A growing population of Sandhill Cranes winter in the refuge area with peak numbers usually occurring in December-January. Occasional Whooping Cranes join them.

by Donna Stanley

**Typical birding time: 3-4 hours**



# O'Bannon Woods State Park

CRAWFORD COUNTY - SE

7234 Old Forest Rd SW, Corydon, IN 47112  
Access from SR 62 to IN-462, continue to gate



Pileated Woodpecker by Kevin Wyckoff

**O' Bannon Woods State Park** is the youngest State Park in Indiana, consisting of 2,294 acres of hills, rivers, and forests carved from the 24,000-acre Harrison-Crawford State Forest in extreme South-Central Indiana. The Blue River serves as a western boundary to the park, which empties into the Ohio River, providing ample waterfowl viewing opportunity. Several small ponds and wetlands occur on the property and many woodpeckers call this area home.

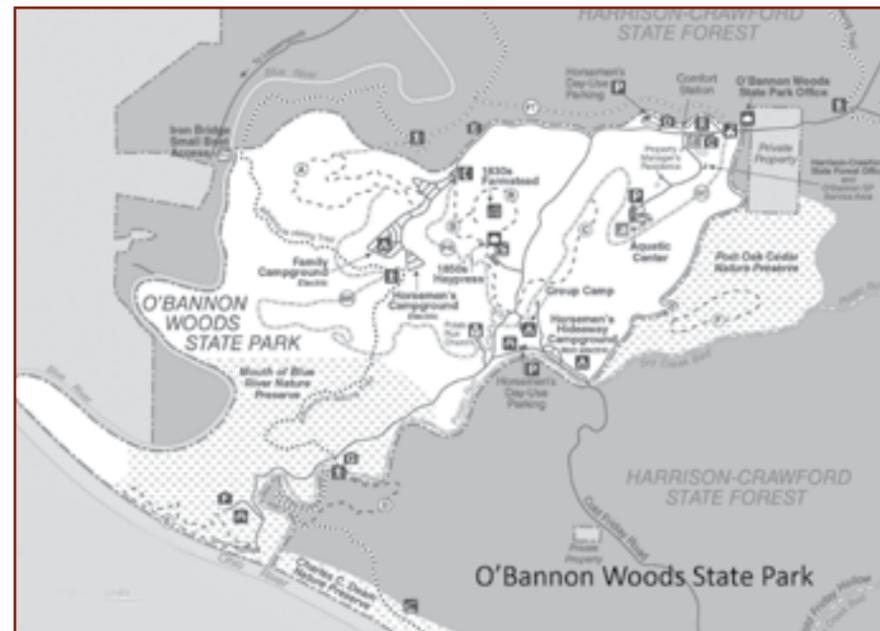
The year-round nature center has two large bird viewing windows where you can view and listen to the birds in comfort.

An ADA accessible trail loops a mile around the visitor center featuring benches and a wildlife blind. Various warblers and thrushes nest in this area. Park volunteers installed and monitor Prothonotary Warbler nest boxes along the Blue River, which host several breeding pairs annually.

Cold Friday Rd. can be birded by vehicle. Trail E overlooks the Ohio River.

by *Christine Fisher*

**Typical birding time: 1-4 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 for in-state vehicles, and \$9 for out of state. There are no gate fees for certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** ADA trail around the nature center. Most facilities meet ADA requirements.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets throughout. Modern restrooms at the park office and nature center. Nearby food and lodging in Corydon or Leavenworth. Camping available in the park. A group camp is available to rent for overnight group trips.

**Best Times to Bird:** Late April and September are peak for songbird migration. Summer birding can be productive, with best viewing in early morning.

**eBird Hotspot:** [ebird.org/hotspot/L757563](http://ebird.org/hotspot/L757563)

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders welcome before 7am. Nature center open year-round but hours may vary.

**Parking:** Ample parking at the nature center, Ohio River Picnic Area and several trail access points.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Park**  
**(812) 738-8232**  
**Nature Center (812) 738-8234**  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)

# Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge

PIKE & GIBSON COUNTIES - SW



Northern Bobwhite by Shari McCollough

510 1/2 West Morton St, Oakland City, IN 47660  
Between Wheeling and Pikeville, along the Patoka River

**Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge** is a 10,000-acre Import Bird Area in the counties of Pike and Gibson. Though classified as a bottomland forest habitat, the diversity of habitats make it special to birders. Within the refuge, find seasonally flooded agricultural fields, 850 acres of grasslands, 950 acres of swamps and marshes, forested sloughs and oxbows, and reforestation planting at different levels of succession. Due to its diversity, the refuge holds something for year-round birding.

Bottomland forests offer valuable habitat to nesting birds such as Prothonotary Warblers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers. The grasslands are home to nesting Henslow's Sparrows, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels, Northern Bobwhite and Bell's Vireos. Flooded fields host numerous shorebird and waterfowl species, depending on season and water level.

Winter into April sees significant waterfowl numbers at hotspots like Oatsville and Monty's Station if floodwaters are present. If those hotspots remain flooded and shallow through the first week of June, expect nearly any species of shorebird to occur. If water is present into summer, then large congregations of waders like Great Egrets and Great Blue Herons feed, along with reliable yearly sightings of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons, and uncommon sightings of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons.

By fall, seasonally flooded areas usually dry up. However, waders still occur on permanent wetlands such as Dillin Bottoms, Snakey Point and Bucks Marsh, which often requires walking into off-trail areas and scanning the marsh since water levels are usually too shallow to boat. Accounting for all the public properties that surround this wildlife refuge, birders have over 25,000 acres of opportunity.

by *Jeremy Ross*

**Typical birding time: 2-6 hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Eleven miles of mowed trails maintained by volunteers, with changing seasonal conditions. Boyd and Maxey, near Snakey Point in Oakland City, have the best accessible trails for visitors. Other areas are accessible by county roads.

**Amenities:** New pit toilet at the Boyd Trail parking lot. Oakland City and Petersburg nearby have restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores. Campgrounds and a hotel in Oakland City.

**Best times to bird:** Year-round. Spring migration is peak. Make sure to consider the water level of the Patoka River, as it often floods during the winter and early spring.

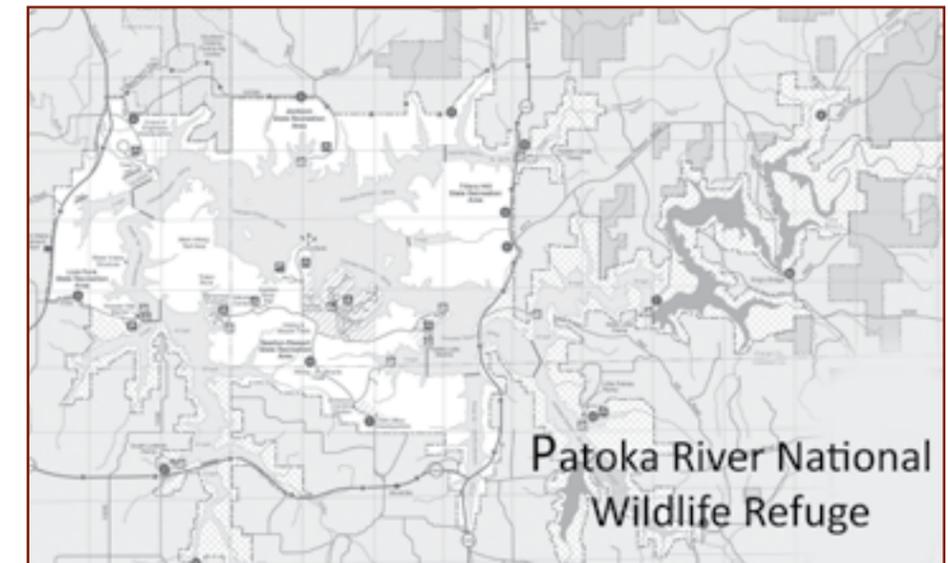
**eBird Hotspot:** [eBird.org/hotspot/L387713](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L387713)

**Hours:** Year-round, sunrise to sunset. Nocturnal birding from the road.

**Parking:** Available throughout. Take caution stopping on busy roads.

**Restrictions:** Open to hunting. Hunters and other users may be present.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**(812) 749-3199**  
[fws.gov/refuge](http://fws.gov/refuge)



# Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area

LAGRANGE & STEUBEN COUNTIES - NE

# Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area

BENTON COUNTY - C

8310 East 300 North Mongo, IN 46771  
SR 120 runs east and west just north of the property

Established in 1956, **Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area** holds 11,794 acres of land, 529 acres of lakes and impoundments, and 17 miles of free-flowing river. Pigeon River occupies space in both La-Grange and Steuben Counties. The habitats within Pigeon River are very diverse, with many mature woodlands, open fields, lakes, fens, marshes, and agricultural crop plots.

Migratory waterfowl is best viewed near Deep Lake (parking lot L-2), Mongo Reservoir (parking lot G-1), Nasby Dam (parking lot E-3), Pigeon River 390 Bridge (parking lot C-3), and the Ontario Millpond (parking lot A-2).

Along with numerous migrants, Pigeon River FWA has had a minimum of 36 woodland warbler species over the years during migration. Birding is best from the roads. Several hotspots have consistent year-round productivity.

For optimum migrant species and local breeders visit 200 North between 900 East and 1100 East, 300 North, between 400 East and the town of Mongo, Indiana, 450 North between 225 East and 350 East, and Parking Lot B-6.

Massassuaga Marsh (South of parking lot D12 to parking lot D11) is a special area. During the summer months, nesting Common Gallinule, Least Bittern, Marsh Wren, Virginia Rail, and Sora can be heard, but seldom seen. Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, and Eastern Screech-Owl may be heard at this site year-round. During winter months, Pigeon River FWA is a quality location for winter finches, sparrows, and waterfowl.

Pigeon River FWA is a location open to hunting, trapping, and fishing during the appropriate hunting seasons. The seasons do include hunting both in the fall and spring months of the year. Please check the Indiana Hunting Schedule for more information.

by Sam Plew

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**



Pied-billed Grebe by Ryan Sanderson

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** No paved trails. Many birders walk along the quiet roads, however, there are no bike lanes and very little berm.

**Amenities:** Pit toilets available at park headquarters and Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station. One gas pump and snacks available at the convenience station in Mongo, Indiana.

**Best Times to Bird:** Productive year-round, with greatest bird diversity during spring and fall migration.

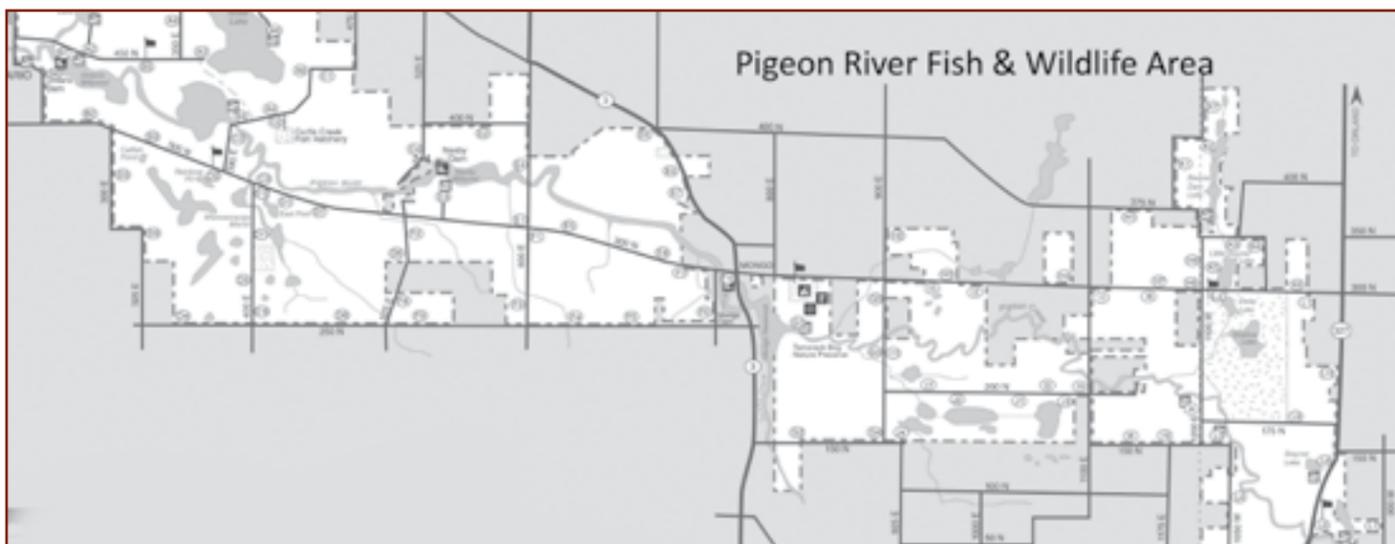
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L552854

**Hours:** Open 24 hours a day. The FWA's headquarters do not have a regular visiting schedule.

**Parking:** Only in designated parking lots available throughout.

**Restrictions:** Be aware of hunting seasons, this is an active hunting location. Please obey all rules and regulations. Maps and rules are always available at the headquarters.

**Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
(260) 367-2164  
wildlife.in.gov



Merlin by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** No paved trails. Foot traffic limited to mowed trails. In years of the correct water level, some shorebirding can be done from the county road or from the Unit 3 parking lot.

**Amenities:** No facilities or restrooms. Nearest town is Fowler IN. The property is about a 30-40-minute drive from West Lafayette.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round, shorebird peak in spring and fall.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157760

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset. Closed during selected fall days of waterfowl and pheasant hunting seasons. Check with managers at Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area for closure dates.

**Parking:** Mowed areas marked with wooden signs.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. Property users should not venture afield November 1 through December 31 as the property is hunted. Viewing opportunities are only allowed along the county roads or from parking lots between these dates.

**Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
(219) 285-2704  
wildlife.in.gov



2249 N 850 E, Fowler, IN 47944  
Access from CR 200 N, which bisects the property

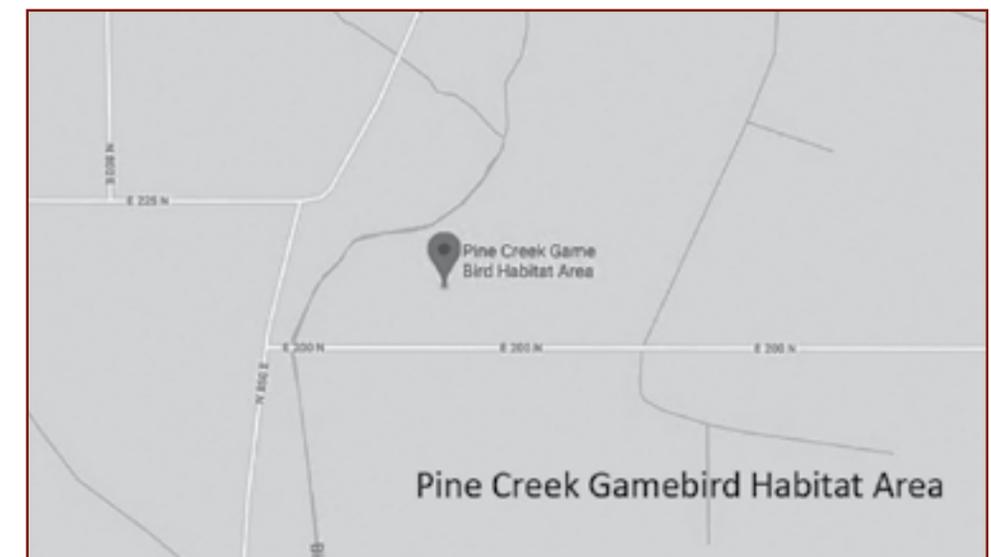
**Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area** is a 700-acre gamebird habitat in eastern Benton County. Originally purchased by the state for pheasant hunting, it has proven to be an excellent birding area year-round. Its primary feature is about 150 acres of restored wetlands that attracts water birds in spring and fall, especially migrant shorebirds when water levels are appropriate.

Large portions of the property uplands support breeding populations of grassland birds, and migrant and wintering hawks occur from late fall through the winter. Over 250 species of birds have been reported from the site, including rarities such as Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits, Red Knot, White-faced Ibis, American Bittern and several species of rails. Spring migrants such as warblers and flycatchers can occur in large numbers in May, feeding in the few patches of trees on the property.

Presence of the most desired bird groups such as migrant shorebirds and rare herons is dependent on water levels. The property has no permanent source of water, since all ponds and wetland basins are fed by snow melt and rainfall. Therefore, seasonal water levels vary dramatically. In years of low precipitation, wetland basins may have low water levels in spring, appropriate for shorebirds but not ducks, and then dry out completely in the summer to deter fall shorebirds. In years of high precipitation, water levels may be too high for shorebirds in the spring but excellent in the fall. In such a variable system, anything may show up.

by *Barney Dunning*

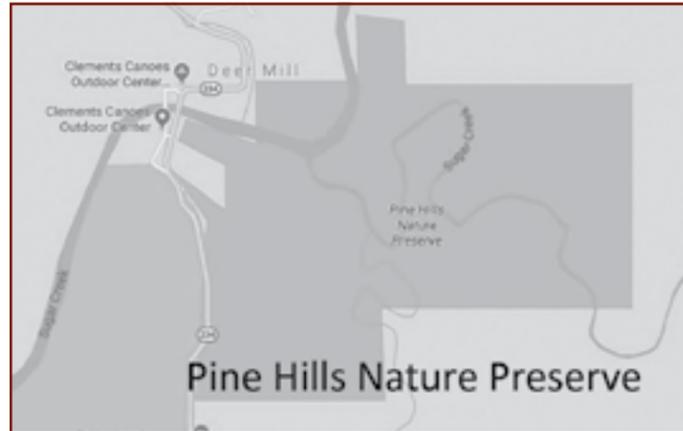
**Typical birding time: 2-3 hours**



# Pine Hills Nature Preserve

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - C

7751 S 890 W, Waveland, IN 47989  
SR 47 from Crawfordsville to SR 234, west to Shades SP



**Pine Hills Nature Preserve** is a special gem in west central Indiana. This 470-acre tract is the state's first dedicated nature preserve, given to the State of Indiana by The Nature Conservancy in 1961 and dedicated in 1969.

The deep canyons, honeycomb rocks, and streams harbor an assortment of deep woods nesting birds and provide beautiful hikes for anyone traversing this rugged terrain. While Indiana does not have mountains, one may feel we do after walking the long stairs up and down to the canyon bottom. Non-intrusive trails zig zag through rocky streams, and follow rocky ridgelines, so birders will want to prepare for varied hiking conditions and watch their footing throughout the hike. But those that venture will not be disappointed.

The trails are best during spring and fall migration, when an assortment of neo-tropical migrants occur moving through the dense surrounding forest. High ridges, such as the Devil's Backbone, can offer near eye level views of treetop species, such as Northern Parula and Scarlet Tanager. Historically, the pines and eastern hemlock have harbored summering Blackburnian Warblers; only one of two dependable locations in the state. The other being the Indiana Dunes. Additionally, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Ovenbirds, and Worm-eating Warblers can reliably occur during the summer months.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Due to the nature of the geology and terrain, Pine Hills is not ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Shades State Park has restrooms throughout. Modern facilities near the campground. Food, lodging, and gas can all be found 15 minutes away in Crawfordsville.

**Best Times to Bird:** Best during songbird migration, but early summer birding can yield many deep woods forest breeding birds.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L2977303

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am.

**Parking:** A special access trail exists for the Pine Hills Nature Preserve.

**Restrictions:** During busy summer periods the trails can be crowded with hikers. Portions of this trail are steep, and cross hazardous areas. These areas are marked, and caution should be used, especially if children are present.

**Indiana DNR, Division of Nature Preserves**  
(765) 435-2810  
wildlife.in.gov

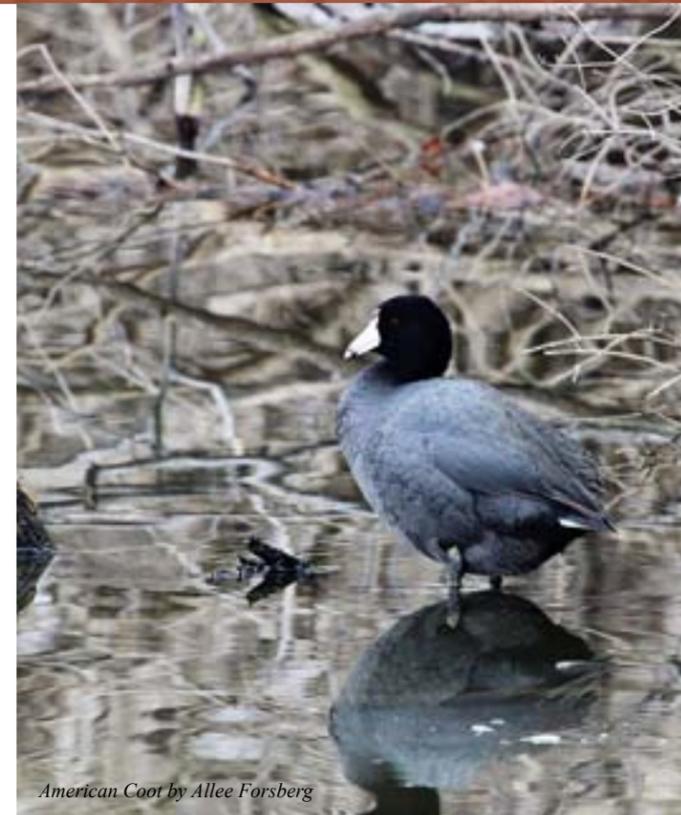


Ovenbird by Kevin Wyckoff

# Pisgah Marsh Fish & Wildlife Area

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY - NE

CR 350 N, Pierceton, IN 46562  
Follow all signage due to very limited access



American Coot by Allee Forsberg

**Pisgah Marsh Area** and its half-mile boardwalk in Kosciusko County consists of four protected areas to preserve resources for various plant and animal species. Pisgah Areas 1, 2 and 3 totals 445 acres of of grassland, wetland, upland forest and lake habitat. Access Pisgah Areas 1 and 3 from SR 5 just north of CR 850 N, which covers 128 acres and the 6.67-acre Pisgah Lake.

Waterfowl begin arriving as soon as ice-out occurs. Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkey commonly nest, observed in all seasons. Most ducks in Pisgah Unit 1 are dabblers, viewed from the boardwalk or a short trail extending west of the entrance road end. However, large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks, a few Lesser Scaup, herons and grebes stage during both migrations in the large northwestern pond (350 N) entrance road (to Durham Lake Unit). Pisgah is best known for difficult to find marsh species in NE Indiana, such as Common Gallinule, Sora, Green Heron, Virginia Rail, American Coot, and Black-billed Cuckoo which occasionally call from across the boardwalk.

Fall birding can be like spring, although some species are harder to find and not vocal. The grasslands can be birded, but it is recommended to contact Tri-County FWA to navigate the changing Dove and Duck seasons. US 30 serves as a rough dividing line between Carolina and Black-capped Chickadee. Plant life at Pisgah is more boreal, with several Tamarack trees that host feeding redpolls south of the Boardwalk. Both Purple Finch and Pine Siskin have been recorded. Rarities have included Cackling Goose, Trumpeter Swan, Long-eared Owl and Common Redpoll.

by John Kendall

**Typical birding time: 0.5-2 hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Parking areas are accessible, but trails are not.

**Amenities:** Portable restrooms available. Food and fuel in Larwill, 7 miles south, and North Webster, 5 miles NW.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring is by far the best season, with fall being worth a visit as well.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L473587

**Hours:** Open 24 hours.

**Parking:** Gravel parking areas at most units throughout.

**Restrictions:** Fishing and hunting are permitted on the property; during hunting seasons, birders should take care to avoid units where hunters may be present.

**Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
(574) 834-4461  
wildlife.in.gov



# Pokagon State Park

STEBEN COUNTY - NE

450 Lane 100 Lake James, Angola, IN 46703  
West of I-69, south of Toll Rd, use IN-727 to enter park

**Pokagon State Park** contains more than 1,200 acres of rolling wooded hills, wetlands, and open meadows representative of the northern lakes region of Indiana. Lake James and Snow Lake frame the park, offering migratory bird viewing during appropriate seasons. Other natural lakes of varying degrees dot the nearby landscape of this region, such as Lake Lonidaw on Trail 3.

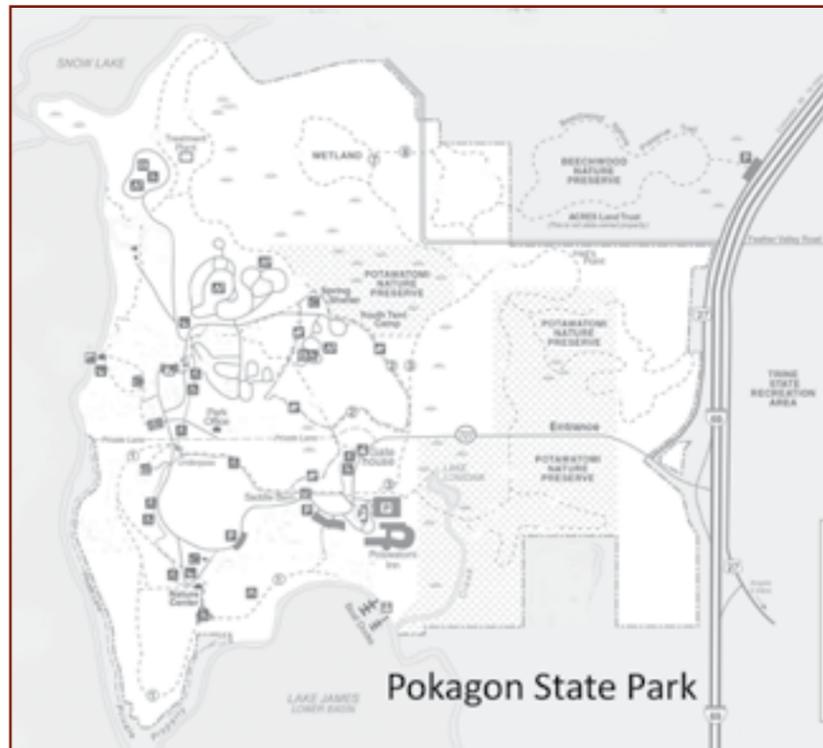
Trails 3, 6, and 7 offer the best birding in the park, through the Potawatomi Nature Preserve and its unique tamarack and yellow birch swamps. Rolling oak woodlands cover much of the rest of the park. The nature center's feeders regularly attract Red-headed Woodpeckers year-round. Watch for winter finches during invasion years.

The park's diverse habitats bring an assortment of both migratory and nesting bird species. Most expect neotropical migrants in migration, and other woodland songbirds are regular migrants or nesting species. Nesting Cerulean Warblers, Veeries, and Pine Warblers occur.

Often notable for visiting birders is the nesting Sandhill Cranes found in the park and surrounding county. Many of these same wetlands host breeding Sora, Virginia Rail, and Common Gallinule. Osprey is another species, whose breeding population is growing in this area, regularly observed in the park. Look for nesting Hooded Mergansers on Trail 7 in the "blue-bird hills" area of the park.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-5 hours**



Common Gallinule by Allee Forsberg

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Paved accessible trail through the woodlands from the nature center. All facilities are ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Restrooms throughout. Modern facilities at the nature center and Potawatomi Inn. Dining available in the inn. Nearby lodging and camping in Angola and Fremont.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L294052

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season birding site. May and September peak for songbird migration. Waterfowl begin arriving in late October and will winter if the lakes remain clear of ice.

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am.

**Parking:** Parking throughout.

**Restrictions:** During busy summer periods the park can be crowded with hikers and campers. Summer boaters usually keep waterfowl off the lakes from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Indiana DNR  
(260) 833-2012  
stateparks.in.gov



# Potato Creek State Park

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - NW

25601 State Rd 4, North Liberty IN 46554  
From US 31, head west on State Rd 4 to park entrance



Located in north-central Indiana, **Potato Creek State Park's** main feature is the lake, which hosts waterfowl in significant numbers, especially in the winter and spring. Several pocket wetlands in the park also host waterfowl, as well as herons, rails, and shorebirds. Varying forest habitats include restored grassland and savannah, old fields, riparian woodland, and mature forest. Warblers are plentiful in the spring and fall, with Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Cerulean, and Hooded being the most notable. Raptors are commonly observed nesting within the property, most notably Osprey and Bald Eagles.

The park is divided into two sections that fork left and right from the main entrance. Birding the road to the cemetery lot is typically good, especially near the bridge over Potato Creek. The east end of the lake along Trail 4 has arguably the best trail in the park for birding. Several cut-through trails, labelled CT on park maps, allow shortcuts to customize hiking length, typically 2-3 hours.

West of the main entrance are several lake viewpoints: west boat launch, west lot most notably, as well as views the southwestern wetlands that host herons and waterfowl. Park at the Friends Trail for views of the wetlands. Trail 1 near the Nature Center in mature forests yields a variety of warblers, vireos, and thrushes. It joins Trail 2, which often has less traffic during busy seasons. Allow 2 hours to bird Trail 1 and an additional 2 hours for Trail 2.

Visit the Nature Center for bird windowfeeder watching or taking a quick break. Trail 3 on the south side of the park near the entrance is a quick 30-minute birding trail which can be particularly good for Cerulean Warblers and other songbirds. Most trails are flat and dry, but some can be wet and muddy in the spring. The Friends Trail especially can be flooded, so be sure to bring good footwear.

by Lindsay Grossmann

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** The bike trail (but NOT the mountain bike trail) is paved and ADA accessible. All piers are except at Whispering Winds are accessible.

**Amenities:** Modern restrooms throughout, particularly picnic areas and in the nature center. Nature Center has souvenirs and exhibits. North Liberty to the west and Lakeville to the east on State Rd. 4 have several diners and a gas station. South Bend, to the Northeast on US 31, has numerous restaurants and hotels. Camping and cabins available on site.

**Best Times to Bird:** Winter and spring for waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds. Since the majority of lake viewpoints face west, lake is best viewed in morning, ideally before the fisherman arrive.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L219710

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am.

**Parking:** Located throughout. Nature Center Lot, West Lot, picnic areas and cemetery lots are larger and allow easy access to most trails.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. Of special note, the mountain bike trail should be hiked in the opposite direction of the arrows indicated on the state park map.

Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
(574) 656-8186  
stateparks.in.gov



Blue-winged Warbler by Allee Forsberg

# Prophetstown State Park

TIPPECANOE COUNTY - NW

5545 Swisher Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Off I-65 take exit 178, follow signs to park entrance

**Prophetstown State Park** in Lafayette, Indiana is situated between the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers and boasts beautiful prairie habitat with ponds, creeks, wooded areas, and a 1920s farm. Drive slowly along the park entrance to watch the fence line and listen for various sparrows including Henslow's and Lark Sparrow. The village trails provide views of Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, orioles, Henslow's Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and many early successional nesters.

Keep an eye open and listen for Ring-necked Pheasants in the morning. Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels steal the show in the summer months, as they pose atop tall prairie grasses alongside American Goldfinches.

Trail 1 between Meadow View and Prairie View Picnic area is a prime location to find Blue Grosbeaks. Sedge Wrens occur on the property as you drive along the road through the park. The fishing pond hosts waterfowl and swan species, as well as Belted Kingfishers. With the nearby rivers, Bald Eagles quickly soar across prairies. During May and September migration warblers, vireos, and Bobolinks occur on any of the hiking trails through wooded areas. Winter brings Northern Shrikes, and specialty owl species.

Bird from the comfort of a vehicle during any season as the road travels the length of the park through many habitats. Hiking trails are all easy to moderate and biking trails are also available.

by *Theresa Wilson*

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



*Blue Grosbeak by Kevin Wyckoff*

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Paved bike trail throughout. Many trails are mown grass or gravel.

**Amenities:** Year-round vault toilet. Modern restroom during peak months. Visitor's center on site with gift shop and a few exhibits. 1920s farmstead with restrooms available, aquatic center, and full-electric campground on site. Lafayette and Purdue University host many nearby restaurants, lodging, and gas stations

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L484263

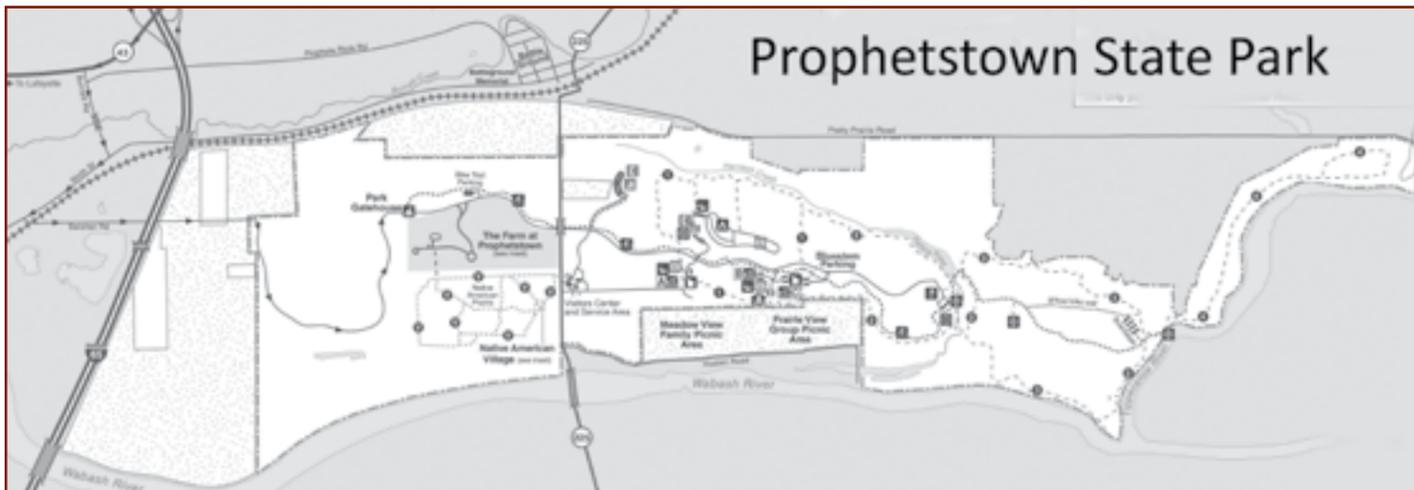
**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am.

**Parking:** Parking throughout.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary

of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm)

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
**(765) 567-4919**  
**[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)**



# Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve

HAMILTON COUNTY - C

10410 Hague Rd, Fishers, IN 46038  
West of I-69, between E 106th St and E 96th St



*Wood Thrush by Ryan Sanderson*

**Ritchey Woods Nature Preserve** is comprised of 127 acres of forest, prairie, and wetland that provides shelter for migrant and breeding songbirds within one of the fastest growing communities in Indiana. The restored prairie is an excellent place to witness displaying American Woodcocks during March and early April, and provides cover for an abundance of sparrows during migration.

In March, the blackbird trail near the parking lot leads to a small cattail wetland, where Sora and Virginia Rails can be heard and occasionally seen. From early March through early April, this is one of the more reliable places in central Indiana to see Rusty Blackbirds, which gather in trees around the wetland near dusk, usually mixed in with the more abundant Red-winged Blackbirds.

Where the forest meets the prairie, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orchard Oriole, and Willow Flycatcher often occur during the spring and summer months. The beech hollow and hickory trails are home to breeding Yellow-throated Vireo, Ovenbird, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Wood Thrush from April through August, while the swamp trail and boardwalk are excellent for a variety of migrants. In late May, the swamp trail consistently holds an Alder Flycatcher or two.

The park is usually quiet in the winter, but five species of woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Winter Wren, and the occasional Sharp-shinned Hawk may break the silence.

by *Nick Kiehl*

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



**Admission:** Free. Gate remains open unless the parking lot or trails are being repaired.

**Accessibility:** Small boardwalk. All trails are dirt or gravel. The terrain is level, except the Beech Hollow loop. In spring, dirt trails are sometimes very muddy or even under water after heavy rains.

**Amenities:** Heated restrooms with running water. A small building adjacent to the parking lot has information about the park, including maps. The nearby cities of Fishers and Castleton offer many options for lodging.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration. April and October produces a variety of sparrows, including Lincoln's, Swamp, White-crowned, and Fox. May and September are peak for migrating warblers, when up to 30 species occur in the park.

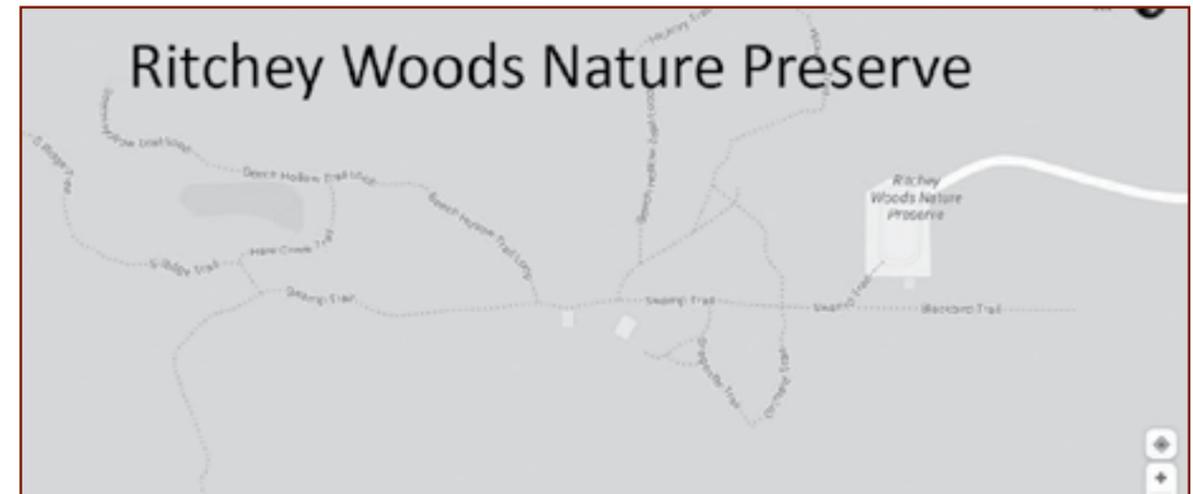
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L902846

**Hours:** Sunrise-sunset.

**Parking:** Large gravel parking lot. Weekends sometimes crowded.

**Restrictions:** Remain on the trails at all times. Pets must be on a leash. Bicycles are prohibited in the park.

**City of Fishers**  
**(317) 595-3111**  
**[fishers.in.us/](http://fishers.in.us/facilities/Facility/Details/Ritchey-Woods-Nature-Preserve-21)**  
**Facilities/Facility/**  
**Details/Ritchey-**  
**Woods-Nature-**  
**Preserve-21**



# Salamonie Lake

HUNTINGTON & WABASH COUNTIES - NE

# Scales Lake County Park

WARRICK COUNTY - SW

9214 W Lost Bridge West, Andrews, IN 46702  
Access Lost Bridge SRA from IN-124 to S CR 900 W

**Salamonie Lake** is a flood-control reservoir in north-central Indiana. The 2,665-acre lake is surrounded by 12,554 acres of forests, prairies, and farmland including 40 ponds, marshes, and wetlands that create excellent habitat for birding. Indiana DNR manages several State Recreation Areas (SRAs) on the lake including Lost Bridge West SRA, Lost Bridge East SRA, Dora-New Holland SRA, Mount Etna SRA, and Mount Hope SRA which provide the easiest access for trails or lake viewing.

Ponds, marshes and wetlands exist in designated resource management units, where hunting occurs in season, but access is open for birding as well in most locations. The tailwaters below Salamonie Dam and Salamonie State Forest provide excellent wintering grounds for Bald Eagles and the occasional Golden Eagle. Waterfowl take advantage of open waters in winter, and the lake is a stopover site for American White Pelicans in the spring. Hike one of the many trails throughout the property to see and hear warblers, thrushes, orioles, and songbirds.

Begin your visit to Salamonie Lake by stopping by the Interpretive Center located at Lost Bridge West SRA. Visit the raptor center to view rehabilitated non-releasable hawks and owls housed at the center as federally permitted educational ambassadors. The interpretive center offers a bird viewing room. Red-headed Woodpeckers are often a special treat at the viewing feeders.

During fall migration, warblers and vireos visit the feeders. Drive down to the beach area in Lost Bridge West SRA for views of the lake. Visit the Marsh Trail to view resting waterfowl on several ponds and marshes. Lost Bridge East SRA yields distant views of a Bald Eagle's nest across the water.

While most of the Salamonie Lake is free to visit, Lost Bridge West SRA has an entrance fee at times during the main recreation season, generally from March-November. Pay attention to hunting zones during hunting season. One can easily spend an entire day birding the whole lake property, but most of the area can be birded by car in a few hours.

By April Raver

**Typical birding time:**  
2-4 hours

American White Pelican by Kevin Wyckoff



**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Paved parking lots near the lake.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets throughout SRAs. Modern restrooms at the property office and interpretive center in Lost Bridge West SRA. Campgrounds at West Lost Bridge SRA and Salamonie State Forest. Hotels nearby in Wabash, Huntington and Marion.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L1498499

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Best off season when the lake isn't busy with campers and boaters. Spring and fall migration are especially worthwhile.

**Hours:** Open 24 hours. Lost Bridge West SRA open 7am-1pm.

**Parking:** Paved parking lots throughout the property.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm)

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
(260) 468-2125  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)



800 W Tennyson Rd, Boonville, IN 47601  
South entrance off Parklane Dr, north of Boonville

**Scales Lake County Park** is a small but productive county park located in far southwestern Indiana. The park has a 60-acre lake, small pits, and mature woods with some pine stands. Most birding can be done from the two-mile paved road through the park, the campground, and the pavilion area, or from walking trails. Most of the acreage is dominated by mature hardwoods with some pine stands. The lake is large enough to attract migrating waterfowl.

For several years, the park has hosted a specialty species; Mississippi Kites arrive in early May to nest at the campground or pavilion area and depart by the first of September. All expected woodpeckers are present, with frequent Pileated Woodpecker sightings. Songbird migration activity is strong, and several warbler species nest here, as do tanagers, orioles, and vireos. The lake hosts various waterfowl at times, and the occasional Bald Eagle or Osprey. Listen for the frequent cries of Red-shouldered Hawks, as they are sometimes seen interacting in flight.

During migration and winter, birders may find Common Loon, Pied-billed and Horned Grebes among the waterfowl species. Great Blue Herons reside here, while Green Herons are summer visitors. Summer birds include vireos, flycatchers, warblers, and thrushes. Irruption years can produce Red-breasted Nuthatches in the pine stands.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**

**Admission:** General admission is \$2 per vehicle, and \$0.50 for walk ins.

**Accessibility:** No paved trails. Many birders walk along the quiet roads and lake overlooks.

**Amenities:** Restrooms, drinking water, and vending machines on site. Closest nearby facilities in Boonville. More extensive offerings in Evansville, approximately 30 minutes southwest.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Spring and fall migration are best.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L712111

**Parking:** Main lots located within.

**Hours:** 7am to dusk in summer. 8am to dusk in winter.

**Restrictions:** Be aware of hunting seasons, this is an active hunting location. No access before 1pm during spring turkey hunting season. Please obey all rules and regulations. Maps and rules are always available at the headquarters.

**Warrick County Parks**  
(812) 897-6200  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



Mississippi Kite by Shari McCollough

# Somerville Mines

GIBSON COUNTY - SW

525 south/200 E, Somerville, IN 47683

The **Somerville Mining Complex** is a private surface mining operation located in far southwestern Indiana. While the land is private, a network of public country roads intersects the area. Some of these roads offer an elevated position to view the surrounding areas west and east. Access from Highway 57, head east through Somerville on county Rd 525 S. This road will be your northern most point of interest, with most primary searching conducted along roads running north to south. 1100 E and 1200 E loop around as far south as CR 900 S.

Most birding takes place from late fall through early spring when waterfowl, raptors, and owls make use of the surrounding habitat. The mines are renown for wintering raptors, and afternoon generates excellent viewing for predators such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, and Merlin. Birders frequently observe larger raptors such as Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks. Past rarities include both Prairie Falcon and Ferruginous Hawk.

Short-eared Owls are perhaps the biggest draw, which appear in winter and remain through early April. These owls are numerous along multiple county roads, and it should come as no surprise that Northern Harriers are also abundant here. Begin searching approximately two hours before sunset for owls and harriers, where photographers and birders share the roadsides to enjoy the show. Owls stay past dark to listen for Barred and Great Horned Owls, as both turn up near the perimeter.

Before leaving the area, check for waterfowl in the multiple ponds. By spring, meadowlarks, sparrows, and other grassland birds appear on most checklists.

by *Heath Harlan*

**Typical birding time: 1-3 hours**



**Admission:** Free but visitors must remain on public roads.

**Accessibility:** All roadside. No ADA facilities.

**Amenities:** Oakland City and Princeton, 15 miles away, has food, fuel, and lodging. Camping 10 miles to the southeast.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L2451417

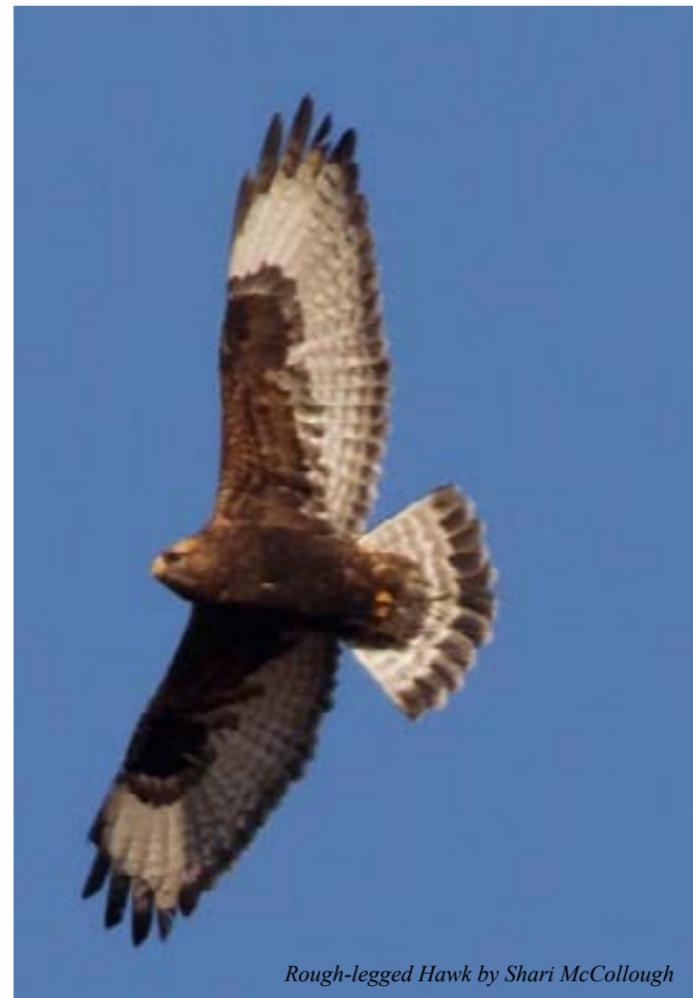
**Best Times to Bird:** Winter. Some late fall and early spring activity.

**Parking:** No public parking.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. Use care parking along roadsides. Watch out for local traffic when pulling off road for better views. All road areas accessible by vehicles. No trails available. Respect all private property.

**Peabody Energy, Private Property**  
**(812) 795-0040**

**peabodyenergy.com/Operations/U-S-Mining/Illinois-Basin-Mining/Somerville-Central-Mine**



*Rough-legged Hawk by Shari McCollough*

# Spicer Lake Nature Preserve

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - NW

50840 County Line Rd, New Carlisle, Indiana 46552  
Take County Line Rd 3.4 miles north of US 20



*Eastern Wood-Pewee by Allee Forsberg*

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Paved trail to the boardwalk leading to Spicer Lake. Other trails are soft surface.

**Amenities:** Restrooms available at visitor center. Gazebo with picnic tables near the parking lot. Restaurants in New Carlisle within 5 miles of the park. Nearby major hotels in South Bend and LaPorte.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season site. Spring and fall best for migrants.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L1557803

**Hours:** Vary seasonally. Gates open by 8am weekdays, by 11am weekends and holidays. Check website or park gate for seasonal closing times. Closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and holidays in January and February.

**Parking:** Paved lot.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and restrictions. Pets must be leashed.

**St. Joseph County Parks**  
**(574) 277-4828**  
**sjcparks.org/591/Spicer-Lake**



Located in the extreme northwest corner of St. Joseph County, along the state line, **Spicer Lake Nature Preserve** offers diverse habitats to find birds year-round. This 320-acre county park is an IDNR state dedicated nature preserve consisting of old fields, young and mature forests, wetlands, and two small 'kettle-hole' lakes, Spicer and Lancaster Lakes. Though much of the park is swampland and accessible only to wildlife, there are over 6 miles of hiking trails, and a quarter-mile boardwalk lead to Spicer Lake.

Access the boardwalk using a trail behind the visitor center to see a variety of bird species, including warblers during migration and woodpeckers throughout the year. Rusty Blackbirds can occasionally occur in fall. Both Spicer and Lancaster Lakes have observation platforms for viewing wildlife, though Lancaster Lake offers a better opportunity to see fish-eating birds such as Belted Kingfishers and Pied-billed Grebes. The woodlands host traditional nesting neotropical birds such as Eastern Wood-Pewees, Wood Thrushes, and Scarlet Tanagers.

The Old Field Trail offers a space to observe sparrows and other non-interior forest species. From the Old Field Trail, take the Lancaster Lake Trail to enter a mature forest, to find a different sampling of birds on the way to the lake.

by *Dustin Brewer*

**Typical birding time: 2-3 hours**



# Spring Mill State Park

LAWRENCE COUNTY - SW

3333 St Rd 60 E, Mitchell, Indiana 47446  
Take SR 60 about 5 miles from State Rd 37

Established in 1927, **Spring Mill State Park** offers birders a chance to view a wide variety of bird species on a 1,358 acre parcel of virgin timber surrounded by large blocks of regenerated native forest and planted pines, where southern Indiana woodland birds occur. Broad-winged Hawks and Barred Owls call the woods home. In spring and summer, colorful migratory songbirds pass through the park, including the Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Northern Parula, and Eastern Wood-Pewee.

Yellow-Throated Warblers occur in perennial streams bordered by American sycamores. The larger cave entrances in this karst dominated topography offer nest sites to Eastern Phoebe and Northern Rough-Winged Swallow.

All of Indiana's woodpeckers are common at Spring Mill and additional cavity nesters

use over 20 bluebird nesting boxes throughout the park. Talk to the naturalist for more information on bird nesting box locations throughout the park.

A man-made 26-acre lake provides scenic views and opportunities for waterfowl viewing, with occasional sightings of Pied-billed Grebes, Bald Eagles, Common Loons, Great Blue Herons, and Great Egrets. While hiking along Hamer Creek, one of the lake tributaries, look for nesting Louisiana Waterthrushes.

Just below Spring Mill Inn, off trails 1 and 5, birders can observe a large evening roost of Black and Turkey Vultures during winter months. The Lakeview Activity Center has feeders that attract Carolina Chickadees, Northern Cardinals, American Goldfinches, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Blue Jays, White-breasted Nuthatches, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Tufted Titmice.

by Sheree Belt

**Typical birding time: 1-5 hours**

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** The Lakeview Activity Center is accessible. All modern facilities are ADA accessibility. Trail 6, by Gus Grissom Memorial, is a paved quarter-mile walk with karst, woodland views.

**Amenities:** Restrooms throughout, some seasonal. Modern facilities at Lakeview Activity Center, Spring Mill Inn, Donaldson Shelter parking lot, and Pioneer Village. Dining and overnight options available at the Inn. Electric and primitive sites in the campground. Other facilities available in nearby Mitchell, 3 miles away.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season site. Most birders visit in spring.

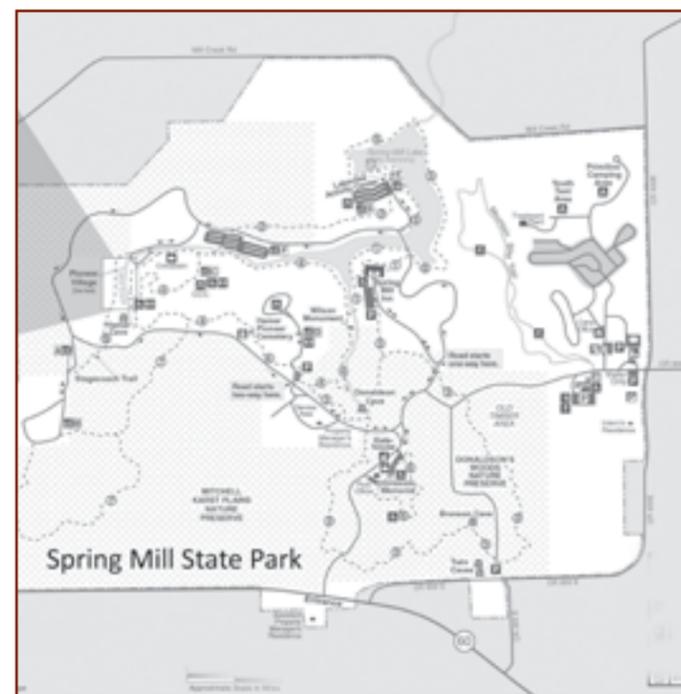
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L157772

**Hours:** 7am-11pm. Birders usually welcome before 7am. Lakeview Activity Center open 7 days, 10am-5pm April-October. Sat-Wed, 9am-4pm November-March.

**Parking:** Parking throughout.

**Restrictions:** During busy summer periods the park can be crowded with hikers and campers.

Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
(812) 849-3534  
stateparks.in.gov



# St Patrick's County Park

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - NW

50651 Laurel Rd, South Bend, IN 46637  
Access by Auten Rd, five miles north of Toll Rd

**St Patrick's County Park** consists of 398 acres of diverse habitat creating rich edges between large lawns, river front, ponds, creeks and wetlands, orchards, pine stands, woodland and meadows. Look for spring migrants along the ponds and woodland edges, and winter waterfowl in the river. In the Manion Cabin area, search for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Baltimore Orioles occurring in the sycamores and along meadow edges in spring and summer. Find an active Osprey nesting platform below the Manion Cabin.

Find occasional Blue-winged Teal in the small pond behind the Brown Barn, and check the wetland in the flood plain just south for a variety of year-round woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, occasional herons, and Red-shouldered Hawks. The Notre Dame Linked Experimental Ecosystem Facility (ND-LEEF) embedded in the park, east of the main entrance road, produces a mix of scrub habitat species including Brown Thrashers, sparrows and flycatchers during the breeding season. Observe nesting Bald Eagles from the pavilion in ND-LEEF. Check the orchard area for Eastern Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, kinglets, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, and sparrows.

by Allee Forsberg

**Typical birding time: 1-2.5 hours**



Red-headed Woodpecker by Shari McCollough

**Admission:** Vehicle entrance fees apply on peak winter weekends/holidays and April-October weekends/holidays.

**Accessibility:** Short paved path along the immediate river front with river overlook. All other trails are soft surface, including some natural staircases and foot bridges.

**Amenities:** Year-round restrooms in the White Barn. Trail maps available at the park office or gatehouse. On-site weekend cabin rental available. Fri-Sun during summer and early fall, canoe/kayak rentals available at the park for exploring the St. Joseph River (includes shuttle service). Park boundary on the Michigan state line, adjacent to Madeline Bertrand County Park with direct hiking access between the two parks. Five miles from the University of Notre Dame, restaurants and hotels.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season site. Spring best for migrants, and winter for waterfowl and resident birds.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L1211080

**Hours:** Vary seasonally. Gates open 8am weekdays, 10am weekends and holidays. Check website or park gate for seasonal closing times. Closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Parking:** Parking throughout. Some lots are closed in winter.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all park rules and regulations. Pets must be leashed. No hiking or pets on groomed ski trails when snow is present. Limited winter hiking trails are available.

St. Joseph County Parks  
(574) 277-4828  
sjcparks.org/592/St-Patricks

Red-breasted Nuthatch by Shari McCollough



# Stone Head Nature Preserve

BROWN COUNTY - SE

# Summit Lake State Park

HENRY COUNTY - C

4643-5013 W Bellsville Pike, Nashville, IN 47448  
Take SR 46 east past Brown County SP, south on SR 135

**Stone Head Nature Preserve** encompasses 122 acres just southeast of Brown County State Park, owned and maintained by the Stone Head Nature Conservancy for the public to enjoy.

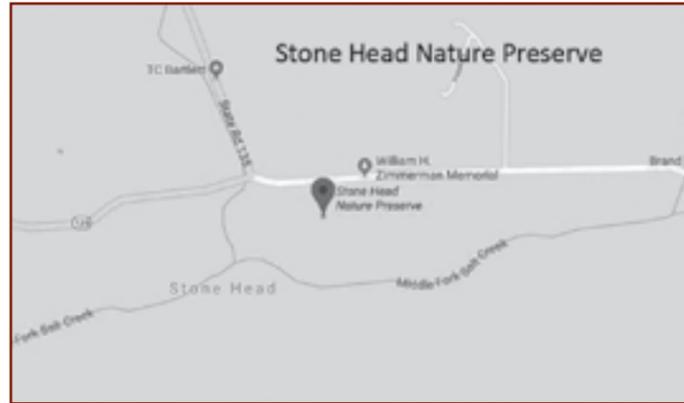
The preserve is most notable for two main features. The first being the "Zimmerman Wetlands," which host many common wetland bird species, which prove difficult to find in the more typical rolling forest habitat of this part of the state. The preserve also hosts beautiful steep bluff, deep woods, elevated above the middle fork of Salt Creek.

To access the south portions of the property, birders must cross the creek. There is no bridge, so visitors must either wade through the water, take off boots and socks, or bring muck boots. Some use plastic bags to keep feet dry and simply leave them on the banks for the return crossing. Creek crossers will find great forest nesting habitat for many traditional southern nesters, such as Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

The fall is worth a visit, as the early successional habitat surrounding the wetlands hosts a good diversity and abundance of sparrows. October is the best time to check for late fall migrant songbirds.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



**Admission:** General admission is \$2 per vehicle, and \$.50 for walk ins.

**Accessibility:** Mowed, flat trails near the parking lot, but no other accessibility is available.

**Amenities:** Limited amenities on site. Nearby Nashville has gas, food, and lodging approximately 10 minutes away.

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk, daily.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall. Nesting birds in June and July.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L5800313

**Parking:** Most visitors park at the main lot, by the Stone Head vacation rental (private residence).

**Restrictions:** Be aware of hunting seasons, this is an active hunting location. No access before 1pm during spring turkey hunting season. Please obey all rules and regulations. Maps and rules are always available at the headquarters.

**Stone Head Nature Conservancy**  
(812) 340-5077  
stoneheadconservancy.org/stoneheadnaturepreserve



Chestnut-sided Warbler by Ryan Sanderson



Black Scoter by Allee Forsberg

5993 N Messick Rd, New Castle, IN 47362  
Gatehouse one mile north of SR 36 on Messick Rd

**Summit Lake State Park's** consists of 2,680 acres of scattered forest, scrub and prairie, and an 800-acre lake. Many birders navigate by car to different vantage points around the lake and observe birds from the roadside, or explore four trails ranging from 0.75 to 2 miles.

Checking the lake for ducks and geese during migration and winter is a primary draw for birders. Many years yield numerous diving waterfowl, which may include uncommon species such as scoters and Long-tailed Duck. A spotting scope is a must for viewing distant birds. Stop at the north boat launch, beach area, Sunset Shelter, and the small boat launch for different views of the lake. Migration may turn up gulls, terns and possibly pelicans. A pair of nesting Bald Eagles might patrol the lake for fish or waterfowl at any time of year.

In summer, roadside scans or trail hikes may produce Yellow Warblers, Willow Flycatchers, Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroats, and Eastern Bluebirds. In winter, expect many sparrows scattered throughout the park.

Check the Nature Area in the northeast corner of the park at 500 E and 750 N for ducks, Belted Kingfisher, hawks, and possibly shorebirds, if the water levels are low enough. In particular, the Nature Area appeals to migrating dabbling ducks such as Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Gadwall. It is also reliable for Hooded Mergansers.

by Don Gorney

**Typical birding time: 1-4 hours**

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Facilities are ADA accessible and Trail 3 at the beach area is a 0.9 mile accessible trail comprised of gravel. Most birding can be done from the car.

**Amenities:** Restrooms at the north boat launch, Beach House, near the naturalist's office, and Sunset Shelter (vault toilet) in addition to the campground. Paddleboats, canoes, and rowboats rentals are available in season. Lodging and other facilities occur in Muncie, 25 minutes away.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round. Action mostly on the water. Waterfowl migration February-early April, and October through freeze-up.

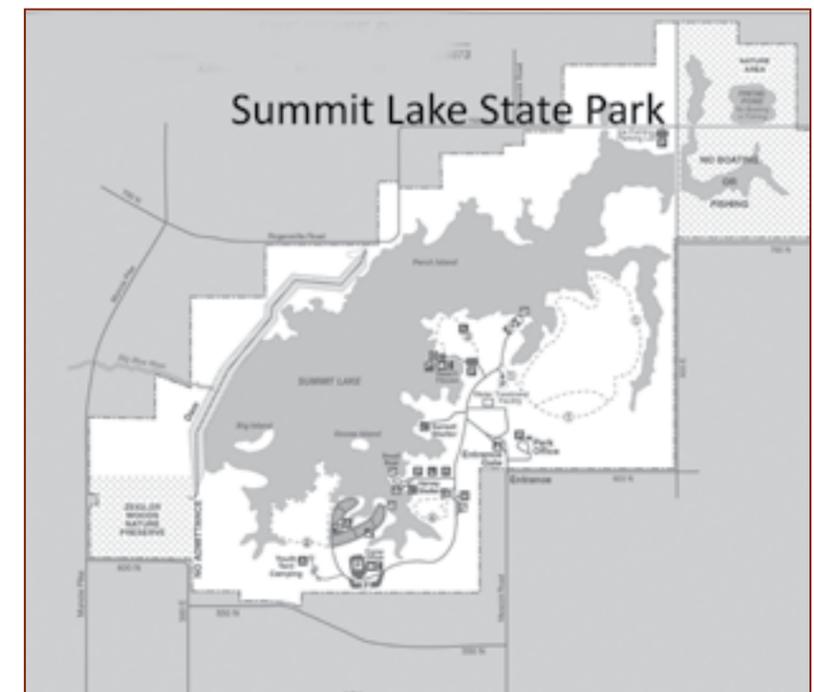
**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L212401

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset.

**Parking:** Several lots in the park. Park only in designated areas.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm

**Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks**  
(765) 766-5873  
stateparks.in.gov



# Tippecanoe River State Park

PULASKI COUNTY - NW

# Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY - NE

200 N US Highway 35, Winamac, IN 46996  
3 miles north of Winamac on Hwy 35

With well over 90% of northwest Indiana consisting of urban areas and farmland, **Tippecanoe River State Park** serves as an oasis for birds and other wildlife. A diversity of ecological communities attracts a variety of species.

Much of the property is wooded, including dry sandhills and river bottoms. In the northwest section of the property, Sand Hill Nature Preserve protects a small oak savanna. Eastern Whip-poor-wills can sometimes be heard in the summer near the rental cabins and around the Tepicon Recreation Building. Observation decks located in the River Picnic Area are good locations to scan for waterfowl, herons and other wetland species. The park also has a small, shallow lake, another good spot to find water-related birds.

The Tippecanoe River borders the property for seven miles on the east side; a canoe or kayak trip in the right conditions provides

a unique birding experience, including waterfowl, herons, and nesting passerines. The summer-only nature center in the River Picnic Area features a feeder station, and is a good place to get a map and other information.

by Vern Gillum

**Typical birding time: 1-4 hours**



Downy Woodpecker by Ryan Sanderson

**Admission:** Indiana State Park entrance fees apply. \$7 in-state vehicles, \$9 out-of-state vehicles. No gate fees on certain off-season days.

**Accessibility:** Accessible restrooms in some areas. The River Picnic Area has a flat walkway with access to an overlook of the river.

**Amenities:** Vault toilets throughout. Modern restrooms in property office: open 7 days in summer, 5 days in winter. Winamac 3 miles south has restaurants and gas stations. Overnight lodging in Knox, 10 miles north. Overnight accommodations on site, with rent-a-camp, camper cabins, electric and primitive campground sites.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring migration in the waterfowl area yields the greatest variety. Spring and fall for neotropical migrants.

**eBird Hotspot:** f

**Hours:** 7am-11pm daily.

**Parking:** Available on east side of the waterfowl area/lake, in the River Picnic Area, near the park's firetower, at the Tepicon Recreation Building and in several other locations at the property.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules occur at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm)

Indiana DNR, Division of State Parks  
(574) 946-3213  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



8432 N 850 E, Syracuse, IN 46567  
Use SR 13, N-S between Syracuse and North Webster

Established in 1951, **Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area** provides quality hunting, birding, and fishing opportunities while maintaining 3,546 acres of land, with 650 acres of lakes and impoundments. This area is composed of flat to rolling upland fields and gradual to steep slopes of oak-hickory woodlands, falling off to depressions of wetlands. Tri-County includes 10 natural lakes with water depths of 75 feet.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** No paved trails. Many birders walk along the quiet roads and lake overlooks.

**Amenities:** Restrooms at the park headquarters. Facilities in Syracuse, 5 miles north.

**Best Times to Bird:** Year-round site. Spring and fall migrations.

**eBird Hotspot:** [eBird.org/hotspot/L385801](http://eBird.org/hotspot/L385801)

**Hours:** 24 hours a day. No regular headquarters hours.

**Parking:** Available throughout. Park in designated lots.

**Restrictions:** Be aware of hunting seasons, this is an active hunting location. No access before 1pm during spring turkey hunting season. Please obey all rules and regulations. Maps and rules are always available at the headquarters.

Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife  
(574) 834-4461  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)



Ring-necked Pheasant by Allee Forsberg

# Turkey Run State Park

PARKE COUNTY - C

8121 E Park Rd, Marshall, IN 47859  
Take Highway 47, one mile East for Highway 41

**Turkey Run State Park** is Indiana's second State Park, comprised of over 2,300 acres of various habitat, including upper woodland, floodplain forest, small streams, river, canyon, and mature forest. Waterthrushes, swallows, and Rock Pigeons populate the canyons, the main feature of the park.

In the spring, take the birding trail loop around Sugar Creek. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks consistently visit the Nature Center feeders, making this a perfect place to start a birding trip. Hike down the 70 steps to take Trail 1 along Sugar Creek. Migrating warblers, kinglets, thrushes, and tanagers occur within the floodplain and upper woodlands. Cross the Narrows Covered Bridge to see swallows that nest underneath. Great Blue Herons and Belted Kingfishers occur here in the morning before canoes and kayaks hit the water. Trail 4 leads through floodplain and more woodlands. Look for waterthrushes and other warblers where the trail crosses two small streams. Plan about two hours for this hike.

In winter, year-round residents are easier to see. Hike along Trail 3, left from the suspension bridge, to look for woodpeckers, Winter Wrens, and kinglets. Keep your eye on Sugar Creek as Bald Eagles use this as a major flyway. They also enjoy watching for fish along the creek, especially at the overlook near the Ice Box. Sunset Point behind the Inn on Trail 6 is also a great Bald Eagle lookout. Plan about an hour for this hike.

Throughout the summer, Turkey Vultures roost near the Turkey Run Inn, gatehouse, and tennis courts. They can often be seen warming up in the sunlight at daybreak. Listen for Barred and Screech Owls in the campground, near the Inn and on Trail 4.

By Aaron Douglass

Typical birding time:



Winter Wren by Shari McCollough

**Admission:** \$7/vehicle with Indiana license plate, \$9/vehicle out-of-state. Free admission with annual entrance permit.

**Accessibility:** Trail 6 leading to Sunset Point is paved. Facilities are ADA accessible. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

**Amenities:** Turkey Run Inn serves food to all visitors. The park has a nature center with modern restrooms and a birdwatching area. Modern restrooms are also available at the Turkey Run Inn and park office, and vault toilets are located in the park as well. Rockville and Marshall are the two closest towns. Marshall has only one restaurant and a historic memorial arch. Rockville has gas stations, restaurants including great coffee and donuts locations

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and Fall are the most species rich for birding. Start early if you are coming on weekend, or better yet come on a weekday. Winter birding can be extremely rewarding with beautiful views, few visitors and a fire going in the Turkey Run Inn to warm up by after hiking.

**eBird Hotspot:** <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L764833>

**Hours:** Regular park hours are 7am-11pm.

**Parking:** Ample parking is available the Turkey Run Inn and the nature center.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. A summary of property rules can be found at [stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm](http://stateparks.IN.gov/6468.htm).



Indiana DNR  
(765) 597-2635 Office  
(765) 597-2654 Nature Center  
[stateparks.in.gov](http://stateparks.in.gov)



INDIANA AUDUBON  
SOCIETY, INC. FOUNDED 1898

## MEMBERSHIP

The Indiana Audubon Society is the oldest conservation organization continuously operating in Indiana. We are not a chapter of the National Audubon Society, but an independent statewide organization. By joining, you will be supporting our mission to stimulate interest in birds and their protection; to serve the needs of youth, civic, church, schools and other groups by providing information concerning birds; and to educate the public concerning the necessity for and preserving Indiana's natural heritage, its unique flora and fauna.



Andy Belt

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Cardinal Newsletter (Electronic only)  
and more!

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Discounts to the Dunes Birding Festival  
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#### Membership Benefits

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Birds of North America Access (worth \$42/year)  
Discounted Trips and Early Registration  
Discounts to the Dunes Birding Festival  
Special Access to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary  
Cardinal Newsletter emailed to membership  
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15% discount in IAS online store and more!

Members also can receive a printed copy (at no extra cost) of the Indiana Audubon Quarterly (IAQ) and/or the Cardinal Newsletter.

Mail checks to Membership Chair

<https://indianaaudubon.org/membership/>

Prices and/or benefits subject to change

# Wesselman Woods Nature Preserve

VANDERBURGH COUNTY - SW

# Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area

NEWTON COUNTY - NW

551 N Boeke Rd, Evansville, IN 47711

Inside Wesselman Park keep right, sharp left at the forest, entrance on the right 1/4 mile down

**Wesselman Woods** is a 200-acre old growth bottomland forest on Evansville's east side that represents pristine pre-European habitat. It also contains remnants of the Wabash-Erie canal. Diverse hardwoods abound, including maples, hickories, elms, and oaks. The forest is home to some of Indiana's largest trees, with a canopy 100+ feet tall. Wesselman's also features an extensive understory of paw-paws, spicebush, and hackberry.

Over 5 miles of trails provide visitors with ample access to diverse habitats of the forest, including old growth, a seasonal pond, secondary growth forest, and a small reservoir. The biggest draw to the property is the old growth forest, which offers excellent bird diversity, especially during migration.

The nature center in the woods also has an easily-viewed feeder station. Wesselman Woods is an excellent "island" migrant trap in spring and fall, hosting a variety of thrushes, warblers, tanagers, vireos, and flycatchers. Barred and Great horned Owls are breeding residents,

and Wood Ducks nest at the seasonal pond. During the summer months, tanagers and vireos commonly nest high in the canopy. All the usual species of woodpeckers occur in the woods, as well as several species of flycatchers during the spring and summer.

Several rarities have turned up at Wesselman Woods over time. A Varied Thrush was present for several weeks at the feeder station in winter 2012-2013. Red Crossbills were found in March 2013. Other interesting finds are Black-throated Blue, Cape May, and Connecticut Warblers during migration.

by Neil Bogen

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



**Admission:** \$5 per person

**Accessibility:** Some wheelchair and stroller trails accessible.

**Amenities:** Restroom and indoor bird feeding area in nature center.

**Best Times to Bird:** April and May for spring migrants. Summer for the usual forest breeding species.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L2754836

**Hours:** Hours vary depending on season.

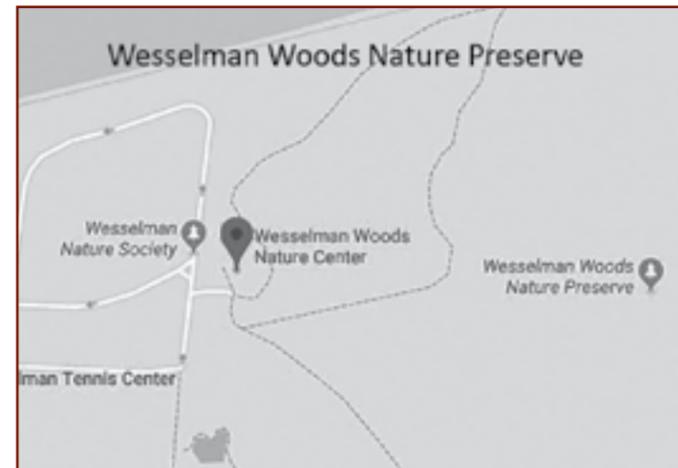
**Restrictions:** The trails are only accessible when the nature center is open. This limits early and late birding, but you can bird the edge of the woods from the park roads. During the warmer months insects can be a bother so bring bug spray.

**City of Evansville**

**Managed by Wesselman Nature Society**

**(812) 479-0771**

**wesselmanwoods.com**



Black-and-white Warbler by Jeff Timmons



Grasshopper Sparrow by Ryan Sanderson



**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Parking areas and Visitor Center are handicap accessible; trails are not.

**Amenities:** Limited services in Morocco, 6 miles southeast. Food, lodging, and gas services at Fair Oaks Farms 10 miles east.

**Best Times to Bird:** Four-season site. First thaw through June is peak. Winter yields roosting owls if you know where to search.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L168438

**Hours:** 24 hours, 7 days.

**Parking:** Parking throughout.

**Restrictions:** Fishing and hunting are permitted on the property; during hunting seasons, birders should take care to avoid units where hunters may be present. Some Roads on the east end of the property are gated seasonally, but parking lots allow for foot traffic.

**Indiana DNR, Division of Fish and Wildlife**

**(219) 285-2704**

**wildlife.in.gov**

1803 S 700 W, Morocco, IN 47963

Entrance on CR 700 W / State Line Rd

**Willow Slough** began with the purchase of 7,800 acres of land in 1949, and has grown to 9,956 acres. J.C. Murphey Lake was completed in 1951. Today, despite the history of heavy agriculture and run-off in this area, Willow Slough hosts a great diversity of birds compared with similar properties, with 250+ species documented.

A mosaic of habitats makes this property a year-round birding destination. Amenities are limited: lodging, provisions, and gas should be arranged ahead of time. County roads pass through many of the park's habitats, allowing for drive-and-stop birding for many highlight species.

The centerpiece, J.C. Murphey Lake, is an oasis in the region, often attracting 1000s of migrating waterfowl, especially diving birds. It is a prime hotspot to see migrating American White Pelicans, and other water-related birds such as Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Sandhill Cranes. The park office is a good place to scan the lake. By mid-spring, a large Purple Martin colony returns for easy observation.

The northern areas of the lake support high quality wetlands; Common Gallinule, Virginia Rail, Least Bittern, and Marsh Wren all nest here. Farther north along the county Roads, open grassland and oak savanna are home to nesting Blue Grosbeaks, Bell's Vireos, and Lark Sparrows; Parking Lot H can often be a good spot to search. The southern loop road hosts other down-state breeding birds among the oak forests, such as Summer Tanager and Kentucky Warbler. The park is a local stronghold for Eastern Whip-poor-wills as well; a rarity anywhere else in the region.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 2-6 hours**

**Though walking tours can easily take an entire day**



# Wing Haven Nature Preserve

STEBEN COUNTY - NE

# Yellowwood State Forest

BROWN COUNTY - SE

180 W 400 N, Angola, IN 46703  
From SR 127 turn east on CR 400 N ½ mile

A chain of small, scenic lakes, marshes, hardwood forests and rolling meadows make up the **Wing Haven Preserve**, owned by ACRES Land Trust. Of the three spring-fed lakes at the preserve, two are appropriately named Gentian and Little Gentian for the vibrant Blue Fringed Gentian, which blooms along their shores. This property was a gift from Ben and Helen Swensen, whose 19th-century log structures survive to this day. Today, Wing Haven protects 250+ acres in Steuben County.

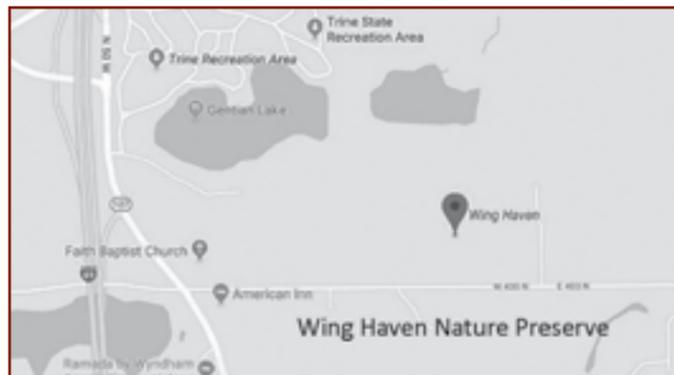
Beautiful upland forests and early successional areas attract many migrants and breeding birds, while glacially-carved kettle-hole lakes and surrounding wetlands host some of the most unique species of interest to visiting birders. In secluded areas around the lakes, Sandhill Cranes nest annually; the site was the first to host the species when the cranes re-established themselves as a breeding bird in the early 1980s. Least Bittern and Marsh Wrens occur hidden among the cattails and reeds surrounding the chain lakes.

In spring, a profusion of wildflowers carpet deep ravines near hundred-year-old log buildings—one still used for ACRES events and another as the caretaker's residence. Behind the log cabin studio lies a beautiful ravine with several bridges that cross the seasonal stream below.

Wing Haven serves as an important piece in a complex network of natural lands in NE Indiana. The property borders the DNR's Trine State Recreation Area and Marsh Lake Wetlands State Fish and Wildlife Area, and is in close proximity to Pokagon State Park, McClue Nature Preserve, and Cedar Swamp Wetland Conservation Area.

by Brad Bumgardner

**Typical birding time: 1-2 hours**



Scarlet Tanager by Ryan Sanderson

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** Trails are generally easy to moderate, but none are ADA accessible.

**Amenities:** Lodging, food, and other amenities in Angola, two miles south. Camping at nearby Pokagon State Park. Cabins available at Trine State Recreation Area.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration. Early summer breeding wetland birds make it worth a visit.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L473587

**Hours:** Dawn to dusk

**Parking:** Two lots available in the preserve.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations. One of the two parking lots is often closed in the winter months, but visitors may still park in the lot down the main entrance road.

**ACRES Land Trust**  
(260) 637-2273

[acreslandtrust.org/preserve/wing-haven/](http://acreslandtrust.org/preserve/wing-haven/)

**Admission:** Free

**Accessibility:** No paved trails.

**Amenities:** Camping, fishing, boating available on site.

**Best Times to Bird:** Spring and fall migration. Summer breeding species can make the state forest worth a visit.

**eBird Hotspot:** eBird.org/hotspot/L341012

**Hours:** 24 hours, 7 days.

**Parking:** Several parking areas around Yellowwood Lake, small lots along Yellowwood Lake Rd.

**Restrictions:** Please obey all rules and regulations.

**Indiana DNR**  
(812) 988-794  
[wildlife.in.gov](http://wildlife.in.gov)



772 South Yellowwood Lake Rd, Nashville, IN 47448  
Yellowwood Lake lies northwest of IN-45

**Yellowwood State Forest** features habitats including mixed hardwoods, stands of various conifers, and both riparian and lake habitats. Topography is typical of the hills and ravines of south-central Indiana. Birding can be productive at any time of the year, but is best during spring and fall migration.

Mid-April to early May is a prime time to visit Yellowwood State Forest. Locally breeding wood-warblers are a main attraction, with specialties including Hooded, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Prothonotary, and Kentucky, with small numbers of Black-throated Green also in the area. It is possible to find 16-17 nesting species of warblers on a hike in Yellowwood SF, with 10-12 others possible during migration. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers nest here, as well as both Baltimore and Orchard Orioles (especially around Yellowwood Lake).

Fall migration brings the chance for warblers, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers; Golden Eagles may be detected late in the season. One or two Golden Eagles frequently winter in the area and, in the pine stands especially, kinglets occur, along with Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Brown Creeper.

Numerous trails into the Yellowwood State Forest. Notably a 4.5-mile loop trail around Yellowwood Lake, the 4.7-mile Scarce O' Fat Loop trail. Bird directly from Yellowwood Lake Rd. north of the lake and Dubois Ridge Rd., which are gravel and have limited traffic.

by Jim and Susan Hengeveld

**Typical birding time: 2-4 hours**



Worm-eating Warbler by Jeff Timmons



Indiana  
Dunes  
*Beaches & Beyond*

# BIRDING



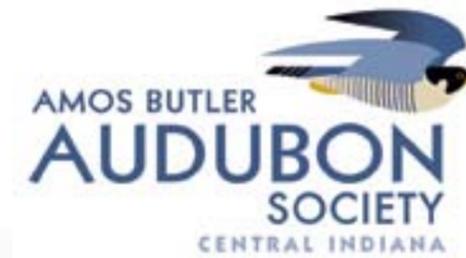
## INDIANA DUNES BIRDING

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*Our Mission: To Promote the Enjoyment and Stewardship  
of the Birds of Central Indiana*

A chapter of the National Audubon Society  
serving Indianapolis and the surrounding counties



*Photo courtesy Amy Hodson*

For more than 30 years the Amos Butler Audubon Society Birdathon has funded grants supporting research projects, habitat preservation and restoration, and community education about the importance of birds.

To learn more about the Birdathon, additional activities sponsored by Amos Butler Audubon Society, or become a member, visit our website at:

[www.amosbutleraudubon.org](http://www.amosbutleraudubon.org)



# INDIANA AUDUBON

SOCIETY, INC. FOUNDED 1898



**The purpose and objective** of the Indiana Audubon Society is to engage in educational, scientific, investigative, literary, historical, philanthropic and charitable pursuits; to protect and conserve our natural resources including water, air, soil, plants and wildlife especially birds; and to stimulate, in Indiana, public appreciation of the values of such natural resources and the need for their conservation.



Members of the Indiana Audubon Society receive discounts on birding festivals and other events while they support the environment, especially birding habitat. For more information go to: [www.IndianaAudubon.org](http://www.IndianaAudubon.org)

