Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail

Southern Savanna Region

GREAT WISCONSIN BIRDING AND NATURE TRAIL

Sandhill Cranes.

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Wing your way through Wild Wisconsin

The *Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail* is your invitation to observe the fascinating and diverse world of wildlife that exists in every corner of Wisconsin.

With this edition, the Wisconsin DNR Endangered Resource Program completes its series of five highway-based viewing guides, each highlighting unique regional ecosystems of Wisconsin. Each edition links a set of waypoints, refuges and wild places that offer the best birding and wildlife watching opportunities in the state.

MIKE MCDOWELL

Henslow's Sparrow.

This fifth in a series of five guides – the Southern Savanna Birding and Nature Trail – covers thirteen Wisconsin counties in the south-central portion of the state. Published in 2008, it includes 78 waypoints from the 30,000-acre Horicon National Wildlife Refuge in the east to Yellowstone State Park in the west.

The first four guides in the series – the Lake Superior Northwoods edition released in 2004, the Mississippi/Chippewa Rivers edition from 2005, the Lake Michigan edition from 2006, and the Central Sands edition from 2007 – are all still available in limited numbers.

Waypoints from each edition in the series are marked with the program's distinctive Sandhill Crane logo. As you travel, watch for these signs – they are your invitation to the fascinating world of Wisconsin wildlife.

Waypoint marker.

State Natural Areas

Wisconsin's State Natural Areas (SNAs) protect outstanding examples of native biological communities such as prairies, pine barrens, bogs, and boreal forests. They also preserve significant geological and archaeological features and are often the last refuges in Wisconsin for rare species of birds, animals, plants, fungi, lichens, and a host of other organisms.

Code of Ethics

The Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail is your gateway to the natural world of Wisconsin. The Code of Ethics serves to guide you as you seek your favorite waypoint sites across the state.

- Treat birds and other animals with respect, never disturbing or collecting anything in their habitat.
- Trails, roads and paths found at the sites provide good access to the property. Avoid leaving them unless you are in a wilderness area.
- Wisconsin has strict trespass laws. Private property does not have to be posted or fenced in Wisconsin. Ask permission if you want to enter private land. Know where you are – pay attention to posted property boundary signs.
- Dogs must be leashed on all state lands during the bird-nesting season from April 15 through July 31.

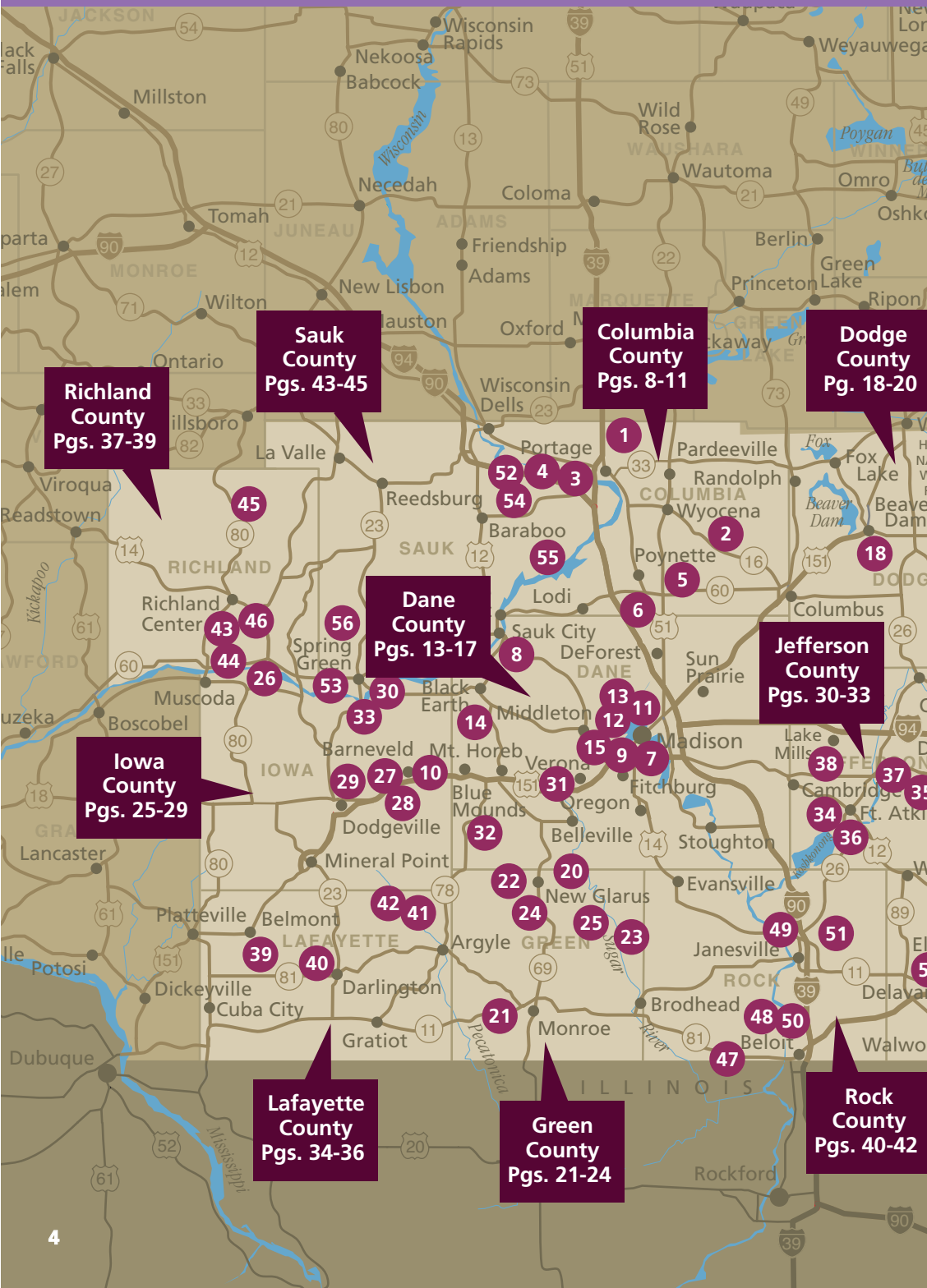
CAROL KNABE

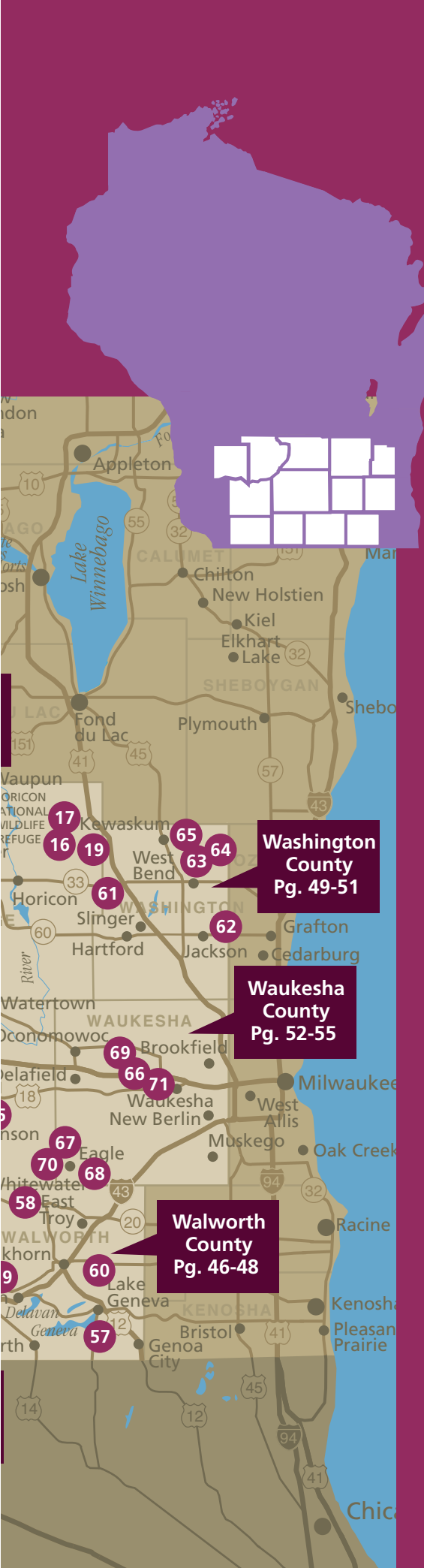
Karner Blue Butterfly.

- Lead by example. Leave the property litter-free and in good condition for the next traveler.
- Give nature a voice. Thank the property owner, manager or staff person for the opportunity to enjoy nature at their site.

Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail

Southern Savanna Region





Using the Guide

Information for this guide was gathered locally from Wisconsin DNR, naturalists, birders, and a range of wildlife enthusiasts. Each site was nominated locally and evaluated as part of the regional project.

Site information includes a contact phone number, driving directions, a small locator map, a description of the property, common and rare birds and wildlife, and a Web site if available. Except as noted, admission to these properties is free. Hours are included, even though most properties are open 24/7.

As you would expect, most of these waypoints are remote, wild locations. While every effort has been made to provide accurate driving instructions, we recommend that you bring a county map or gazetteer to help in finding these sites. Other prudent equipment would include a compass, flashlight, water, a granola bar or two, insect repellant, and a good pair of walking/hiking shoes.

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Columbia County

In the heart of south-central Wisconsin, Columbia County's most prominent terrain feature is the Wisconsin River, which forms a portion of its western border. The river scribes a long, sweeping curve through the county from Wisconsin Dells in the north to Lake Wisconsin in the south.

Wisconsin Dells is an epicenter of Wisconsin tourism. It sells fun – creates and packages fun in a million ways. If you like roller coasters, duck rides on the river, championship golf, waterparks (indoors and out), bungee jumping, world-class spas, or any other imaginable family amusement, you'll love the Dells. (www.wisdells.com, 800/223-3557)

Portage, the county seat, is one of the most historically significant places in the state. Here, the Wisconsin River nearly meets the Fox River flowing south from Green Bay. The **Portage Canal** linked the two rivers creating a water route from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. In the early 1800s, Fort Winnebago protected this vital transportation link. The **Surgeon's Quarters** of the original fort can still be toured (www.portagewi.com, 608/742-2949) as well as the **Historic Indian Agency House** (www.portagewi.com, 608/742-6362).

To the south, the **MacKenzie Environmental Center** near Poynette offers birding opportunities on their several miles of trails as well as an observation tower, an exhibit of live Wisconsin wildlife, museums and a picnic area (www.mackenziecenter.com, 608/635-8110). On the eastern end of the county, Columbus is renowned for its Louis Sullivan-designed bank, and the **Columbus Antique Mall**, one of the state's largest (www.columbusantiquemall.com, 920/623-1992).

1 French Creek State Wildlife Area

Phone: 608/266-2621
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Wild Turkey, Rough-legged Hawk & Bald Eagle
Rare species: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk & Great Egret
Gazetteer: Page 44, C/D-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Portage

This 4,000-acre property is located in Columbia and Marquette Counties. Prior to becoming a state land, the marsh was farmed for the production of a native sedge known as "wire-grass" harvested to manufacture grass rugs. Farmers also cut marsh hay to feed livestock and grazed cattle along French Creek. French Creek is dammed creating a large flowage used by migrating waterfowl, egrets, herons and shorebirds. The Marquette Trail, a unit of the Ice Age Trail, meanders past the property and extends north to John Muir Memorial County Park. This property is on a 5-year drawdown rotation plan to promote seed bearing plants; periodic drawdowns create extensive mud flats that attract a large variety of shorebirds.

Directions: Located 6 miles northeast of Portage on Cty F.

2 Grassy Lake State Wildlife Area & State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-2621
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Black Tern, Sora Rail & Wilson's Snipe
Rare Species: Red-necked & Eared Grebe
Gazetteer: Page 36, A-3
Parking: Parking lots
Food & lodging: Rio & Columbus

This 700-acre State Wildlife Area was established to provide hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife viewing opportunities for the public. Through the years, it has maintained its reputation as a reliable place to see Red-necked and Eared Grebes along with many other species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Several hundreds of acres of federal Waterfowl Production Area land is to the northwest and northeast and contains approximately 400 acres of wetland, 200 acres of upland grassy fields, and 100 acres of woods. This property is also part of the extensive Northern Empire Prairie Wetlands Important Bird Area.

Directions: Located three miles southeast of Rio on Hwy 16. Take Erdman or Fisher Roads off Hwy 16 for further access.

3 Leopold Wetland Management District

Phone: 608/742-7100
Web: www.fws.gov/midwest/Leopold
Signature Species: Ruddy Duck, Eastern Bluebird & Blue-winged Teal
Rare Species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Grasshopper Sparrow & Bobolink
Gazetteer: Page 43, D-6 & 7
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Portage, Baraboo & WI Dells

The district manages 10,756 acres of Waterfowl Production Areas in 16 southeastern counties encompassing some of the most important waterfowl areas in Wisconsin. Wetlands, grasslands and woodland communities also support a variety of songbirds, shorebirds, wading birds, and many species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects. The vast area has a wild character and is known as the Leopold Reserve-Pine Island Important Bird Area. Included in the management district are the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center, Pine Island State Wildlife Area and several private landowners. The area has the potential to provide you with an abundance of species for your checklist.

Directions: From Portage, take Hwy 33 south 0.5 mile to Cty U south about 2 miles until it becomes Cascade Mountain Road. Headquarters located at W10040 Cascade Mountain Road.

4 Pine Island State Wildlife Area

Phone: 608/266-2621
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Orchard Oriole, Barred Owl & American Woodcock
Rare Species: Henslow's & Grasshopper Sparrow & Eastern Meadowlark
Gazetteer: Page 43, D-7
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Portage & Baraboo

This 5,165-acre property lies in the floodplain of the Wisconsin and Baraboo Rivers. It includes several islands in the Wisconsin River and was named for one of those larger islands that had a significant stand of white pine. A levee was constructed on the south and north side of the Wisconsin River for flood control to protect the City of Portage and farmlands along the river. Today, the area includes marsh, shrub swamp, floodplain forest, savanna, restored prairie grasslands and barrens. The grasslands found here are home to many species grassland birds and the property is part of the Leopold-Pine Island Important Bird Area.

Directions: From Portage, take Hwy 33 south. Just across the river, turn west on Blackhawk/Levee Rd 0.5 mile. Levee Rd runs through the SWA for the next 6 miles.

5 MacKenzie Environmental Education Center

Phone: 608/635-8110 (Offices), 608/635-2742 (Education Center)
Web: dnr.wi.gov or wiwf.org
Signature Species: Pileated Woodpecker, Field Sparrow & Blue Jay
Rare Species: Whip-poor-will & Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Gazetteer: Page 36, A-2
Seasonality: Ground open daily dawn-dusk; center open May 1-Oct 15 daily 8am-4pm; Oct 16-Apr 30 Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Poynette & Portage

The MacKenzie Center is nestled in a valley with large areas of pine, spruce, mixed hardwoods and an arboretum with more than 200 species of trees and shrubs. The property also contains restored prairies, a small wildlife pond and open grasslands that attract birds and mammals to the area. The DNR operates a service center on site, and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation operates the environmental education center located there. School groups and the public enjoy the five nature trails that meander through the property, a wildlife exhibit that features native Wisconsin animals, museums and picnic areas.

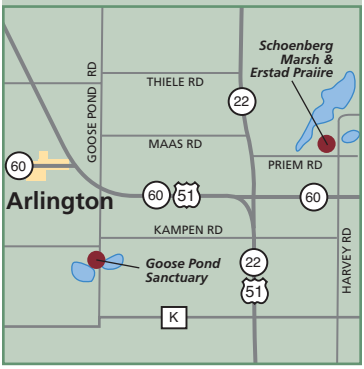
TOURISM PHOTO FILE
Fire tower.

Directions: Located 2 miles east of Poynette on Cty CS/Cty Q (W7303 Cty CS).

6

Madison Audubon Goose Pond Sanctuary, Erstad Prairie & Schoenberg Marsh Waterfowl Production Area

Phone: 608/255-2473
Web: madisonaudubon.org or fws.gov
Signature Species: Tiger salamander, Sedge Wren, Black Tern & Northern Harrier
Rare Species: Blanding's Turtle, Dickcissel & Black-billed Cuckoo
Gazetteer: Page 36, B-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Arlington / DeForest, Poynette / Portage



Historically known as the Empire Prairie, these sites are part of a 5,800-acre Northern Empire Prairie Wetlands Important Bird Area that draw species of birds attracted to the shallow wetlands, sedge meadows, oak savannas, remnant and restored prairies, and deep-water marshes. Large spring and fall migrations of waterfowl, including Tundra Swans, make these sites popular with bird watchers. Goose Pond is a State Natural Area with more than 250 species of birds recorded there. Viewing birds at these properties is best from the main roads and driveways by using your car as a blind, taking care not to flush birds by walking down to water.

Directions: Goose Pond Sanctuary is located 1.5 miles south of Arlington via Hwy 60/51 and Goose Pond Rd. Schoenberg Marsh and Erstad Prairie are located 3 miles east of Arlington via Hwy 60 east to Harvey Rd north. The property lies on both sides of Harvey Road.

MARK MARTIN

Goose Pond Sanctuary.

Dane County

With nearly 500,000 people, Dane County is one of Wisconsin's most populous areas, second only to Milwaukee County.

Surrounded by four lakes – Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa – Madison is both county seat and state capitol. The magnificent dome of the **Wisconsin State Capitol Building** dominates the central city and is always open to visitors (www.wisconsin.gov, 608/266-0382). On the Capitol Square the **Wisconsin Veterans Museum** exhibits the state's military history from the Civil War to Desert Storm (www.museum.dva.state.wi.us, 608/267-1799). Also on the Square, the Wisconsin Historical Museum, operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society, offers three floors of state heritage from prehistoric Indian culture to contemporary social issues (www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum, 608/264-6555).

On the other end of the city's fabled State Street is the University of Wisconsin. Here you can tour the **Chazen Museum of Art** (www.chazen.wisc.edu, 608/263-2246). Visitors to the city will also enjoy the 1,260-acre **UW Arboretum** (uwarboretum.org, 608/263-7888), the **Henry Vilas Zoo** (www.vilaszoo.org, 608/266-4733), the **Madison Museum of Contemporary Art** (www.mmoca.org, 608/257-0158), or the fabulous Thai Pavilion at the **Olbrich Botanical Gardens** (www.olbrich.org, 608/246-4550).

To the west, Mt. Horeb has much to offer including the world's largest collection of mustard (3,100 varieties) at the **Mt. Horeb Mustard Museum** (800/438-6878, www.mustardmuseum.com). Nearby, **Cave of the Mounds** offers fascinating subterranean tours daily (608/437-3038, www.caveofthemounds.com). **Little Norway** is a fanciful recreation of an 1856 Norwegian farmstead and Stavkirke, (608/437-8211, www.littlenorway.com).

RJ & LINDA MILLER

Sunrise over Lake Monona.

7 Aldo Leopold Nature Center

Phone: 608/221-0404
Web: naturenet.com/alnc/index.html
Signature species: Scarlet Tanager, Red-breasted Nuthatch & Chipping Sparrow
Rare Species: Great Egret & Tennessee Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 36, D-2
Seasonality: Trails open daily dawn-dusk; nature center open Mon-Fri 9am- 4pm
Parking: Parking Lot
Nearest food & lodging: Monona & Madison

The Aldo Leopold Nature Center teaches us to appreciate the natural landscape. The Monona campus is located in an urban setting. Though it is a popular place for school visits, there are also many events and activities geared to the general public. Through hands-on, guided experiences, you and your family can discover the wonders of nature. Educational signage along the Leopold Interpretive Trail illuminates and connects a variety of native habitats. A large wildlife pond can be viewed from the trail as well as from floating deck platforms that put you out over the water.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Tennessee Warbler

Directions: The center's address is 300 Femrite Drive, Monona, 53716. Exit Hwy 12/18 at Monona Dr, then north to Femrite Dr, then east to the property.

8 Black Hawk Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

Phone: 608/257-3266
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Eastern Bluebird, Cooper's Hawk & Willow Flycatcher
Rare species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo & Western Kingbird
Gazetteer: Page 35, 6-C
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Mazomanie & Sauk City

This 815-acre unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway consists of upland hardwood forest, prairies and savanna. The Battle of Wisconsin Heights was fought on the northern edge of the property during the Black Hawk War of 1832. The property's partially restored oak savanna and trail through the battlefield are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's the only property of its kind in the Midwest. Indian Mounds on site date from about 800 AD. The adjoining units of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway units run westward 92 miles to the Mississippi River. They offer numerous public boat landings, free canoe camping, numerous State Natural Areas and more than 40,000 acres of public land open to multiple recreational opportunities.

Directions: Located 3 miles south of Sauk City on Hwy 78.

9 Capital Springs Recreation Area & Nine Springs E-Way

Phone: 608/224-3604
Web: countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks
Signature species: Wilson's Phalarope, White-eyed vireo & Eastern Kingbird
Rare species: Forster's Tern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron & Acadian Flycatcher
Gazetteer: Page 36, D-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Madison & Monona

Lake Farm Park is part of the Capital Springs Recreation Area, as well as the Nine Springs E-Way that, in turn, includes the Capital City State Bike Trail. The 328-acre park includes a wildlife pond, observation tower, Lake Waubesa shoreline, grasslands and marshes. The Lussier Family Heritage Center is home to the parks' naturalists and the Dane County Historical Society. The center's large decks offer commanding views of Lake Waubesa wetlands. The Nine Springs E-Way is a green hiking/biking corridor that extends seven miles from Dunn's Marsh east to Lake Farm Park. Its large wetlands, sedge meadows and native forests are ideal habitats for a variety of wildlife.

Directions: Lake Farm Park's address is 3113 Lake Farm Road; the Lussier Family Heritage Center is next door. The Nine Springs E-Way entrance is located at 1947 Moorland Road.

10 Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark

Phone: 608/437-3038
Web: caveofthemounds.com
Signature species: Northern Flicker, Eastern Screech Owl & Turkey Vulture
Rare species: Scarlet Tanager, Red-headed Woodpecker & Brown Creeper
Gazetteer: Page 35, D-5
Parking: Parking lots
Fee: A fee is charged for tour
Nearest food & lodging: Blue Mounds & Barneveld

The National Park Service has designated this cave as a National Natural Landmark. It is considered by the Chicago Academy of Sciences as "the significant cave of the upper Midwest." The cave houses spectacular crystallized rock formations and shimmering pools of water. The main cavern began forming more than a million years ago as acidic water dissolved the limestone bedrock. The rushing water of an underground stream formed the lower portion of the cave. Workers quarrying limestone on the property accidentally blasted into the cave in 1939. The constant 50-degree temperature underground makes it possible to tour the cave year around.

Directions: Located at 2975 Cave of the Mounds Road. Travel 5 miles west of Mount Horeb on Hwy 18/151 to Cave of the Mounds Road.

11 Governor Nelson State Park

Phone: 608/831-3005
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Wild Turkey, Eastern Meadowlark & Eastern Towhee
Rare species: Bobolink, Mourning Warbler & Yellow-breasted Chat
Gazetteer: Page 36, C-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Madison & Waunakee

This 422-acre day-use park is located on the northwest side of Lake Mendota and borders the southwest unit of the Cherokee Marsh State Wildlife Area.It offers a 500-foot sand beach, boat launch, prairie restorations and 8 miles of hiking trails. Along the trails are two accessible viewing platforms with information panels that interpret the history of the landscape. A 358-foot-long panther effigy mound and several conical mounds are located near the trail in the southern section of the park. The park's woodlands and oak savannas draw Chipping Sparrows, Palm Warblers and Sedge Wrens. The park is named for Gaylord Nelson, a United States senator, Wisconsin governor, and founder of Earth Day.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Yellow-breasted Chat

Directions: From Middleton, exit Hwy 12 at Cty M, then east 4.7 miles to the park entrance at 5140 Cty M, Waunakee WI 53597.

12 Lakeshore Nature Preserve

Phone: 608/265-9275
Web: www.lakeshorepreserve.wisc.edu
Signature species: Virginia and Sora Rail, Marsh Wren & Sandhill Crane
Rare: Worm-eating & Connecticut Warbler, Red-necked Grebe and Lark Sparrow
Gazetteer: Page 36, D-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Madison

This 300-acre urban natural area is owned by the University of Wisconsin. It is bordered on the south and east by the campus and to the north by Lake Mendota. The preserve's three miles of shoreline includes Picnic Point, Frautschi Point, Raymer's Cove and Eagle Heights Woods and Community Gardens. More than 258 bird species have been observed on the property including all 34 wood warblers seen in the state. In 2007 the property was named a Wisconsin Important Bird Area. Diverse habitats hold many species of sparrows, woodland songbirds and water birds. Unusual sightings include all three Scoters and Western Grebes. Check the web site for excellent property maps.

Directions: Located north of UW Hospital via University Bay Dr or Lake Mendota Dr. Access the preserve from any of five parking areas.

13 Pheasant Branch Conservency

Phone: 608/242-4576
Web: pheasantbranch.org
Signature species: Clay-colored Sparrow, Barred Owl & Common Yellowthroat
Rare species: Snowy Owl & Bell's Vireo
Gazetteer: Page 36, D-1
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Middleton & Madison

This 160-acre diverse property is comprised of open water, marsh, springs, restored prairies, meadows, lowland forest and wooded hills. The property is managed by Dane County Parks, the City of Middleton and the DNR. 10,000-year-old Native American effigy mounds grace the property. Visitors to this urban green space enjoy a diversity of birds, mammals and amphibians. From Sandhill Cranes and Barred Owls to chorus frogs and deer, a trip to this property will not disappoint the nature enthusiast. The Friends of Pheasant Branch sponsor educational events and tours throughout the year.

Directions: Located in northern Middleton about 2 miles west of Governor Nelson State Park. Parking lots and trailheads on the west side are located off Pheasant Branch Road, .6 mile and 1.2 miles north of Century Avenue.

14 Pleasant Valley Conservancy State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: savannaoak.org
Signature species: Red-headed Woodpecker, American Woodcock, Yellow-billed Cuckoo & Eastern Kingbird
Rare habitat: Oak Savanna, cold-water creek & spring-fed wetlands
Gazetteer: Page 35, C-5
Seasonality: Open daily, dawn to dusk.
Parking: Parking areas
Nearest food & lodging: Black Earth, Cross Plains & Mazomanie

This property sits on a long narrow ridge that runs almost due east/west with steep hillsides facing both north and south, each supporting its own suite of species. The site contains oak woodland, oak savanna, dry and wet prairie, sedge meadow, shrub-carr, open marsh and spring complex. Prairie remnants are thriving following intensive management that began in 1995. The oak savannas contain numerous large, open-grown bur and white oaks with many more than 150 years old. The woodlands contain a good mix of showy spring wildflowers. Both the woodlands and savannas support birds including Blue-gray Gnatcher, Scarlet Tanager, and Yellow-throated Vireo.

Directions: From Black Earth, travel south 3.7 miles on Cty F to Pleasant Valley Rd, then east 0.75 mile to the entrance of the preserve. Park along the road. Please stay on the hiking trail that loops through the site.

15 University of Wisconsin Arboretum

Phone: 608/263-7888
Web: uwarboretum.org
Signature species: Barred Owl, Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Snipe & American Woodcock
Rare Species: Yellow-throated Warbler, Kentucky Warbler & Red Crossbill
Gazetteer: Page 36, D-1
Seasonality: Trails open daily 7am-10pm; visitor center Mon-Fri 9:30am-4pm, Sat & Sun 12:30-4pm
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Madison

Start your adventure at the visitor center where you can check current birding activity with staff and pick up maps. The arboretum's 1,260 acres borders the southern half of Lake Wingra. It attracts waterfowl during migrations and is considered to be the best place to bird watch in Madison. Warblers and thrushes use the lush hardwood forests. The Curtis and Greene Prairies are great places to look for grassland birds. The property includes many distinct ecological communities, horticultural collections, effigy mounds, historic artifacts and more than 20 miles of hiking trails. Free walks with naturalists are offered each Sunday and on some evenings as well.

Directions: The arboretum's address is 1207 Seminole Hwy. While there are many perimeter parking lots with access, vehicle access is limited: from the east at the intersection of McCaffrey Dr, N. Wingra Dr and S. Mills St; from the west at the intersection of McCaffrey Dr and Seminole Hwy, just north of Hwy 12.

TOURISM PHOTO FILE

University of Wisconsin Arboretum.

Dodge County

Any birder worth their binoculars knows that Dodge County is the home of the **Horicon National Wildlife Refuge** – the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the country. It is one of the continent's best bird watching destinations attracting 270 avian species each year.

The marsh's 32,000 acres are managed in two sections: the northern 21,000 acres by the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** (www.fws.gov/midwest/horicon, 920/387-2658), and the southern 11,000 acres by the **Wisconsin DNR** (dnr.wi.gov), 920/387-7860). Both operate visitor centers with wildlife programs, observation towers, and interpretive exhibits.

On the south end of the marsh in Horicon, **Horicon Marsh Boat Tours/Blue Heron Landing** offers further access to this magnificent wildlife area via guided tours aboard a 28-foot pontoon boat (www.horiconmarsh.com, 800/814-4474). On the north end, **Marsh Haven Nature Center** just outside of Waupun offers interpretive displays, exhibits, an observation tower, and hiking/biking trails (marshhaven.com, 920/324-5818).

Fifteen miles south of Waupun in Beaver Dam, the **Dodge County Historical Museum** exhibits include tributes to local veterans, famous residents (Fred MacMurray), even a 1902 Rambler automobile (www2.powercom.net/~dchs/Index.htm, 920/887-1266).

Nearby, **Nancy's Notions Retail Store** sells sewing notions featured on PBS's famous "Sewing with Nancy" program (www.nancysnotions.com, 800/725-0361).

16 Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area & International Education Center

Phone: 920/387-7860
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Black-crown Night Heron, Purple Martin & Osprey
Rare Species: Horned & Eared Grebe, Vesper Sparrow & Red-shouldered Hawk
Gazetteer: Page 38, A-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Horicon, Waupun & Mayville

Horicon Marsh is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the country. The vast wetland is renowned for its migrant flocks of Canada geese, but is also used by nearly 300 different species of birds. The Horicon Marsh Parkway is a 50-mile auto tour route that follows state and county roadways around the marsh, passing through or near many local communities. There are also roads, hiking and biking trails throughout the property, and a canoe trail accessing the waters of the marsh. The Horicon Marsh International Education Center focuses on wetland and wildlife topics that explain the natural relationships that exist at the 32,000-acre property. Horicon National Wildlife Refuge is located north of the state property, (see next listing).

Directions: Located off Hwy 28 between Horicon and Mayville

17 Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

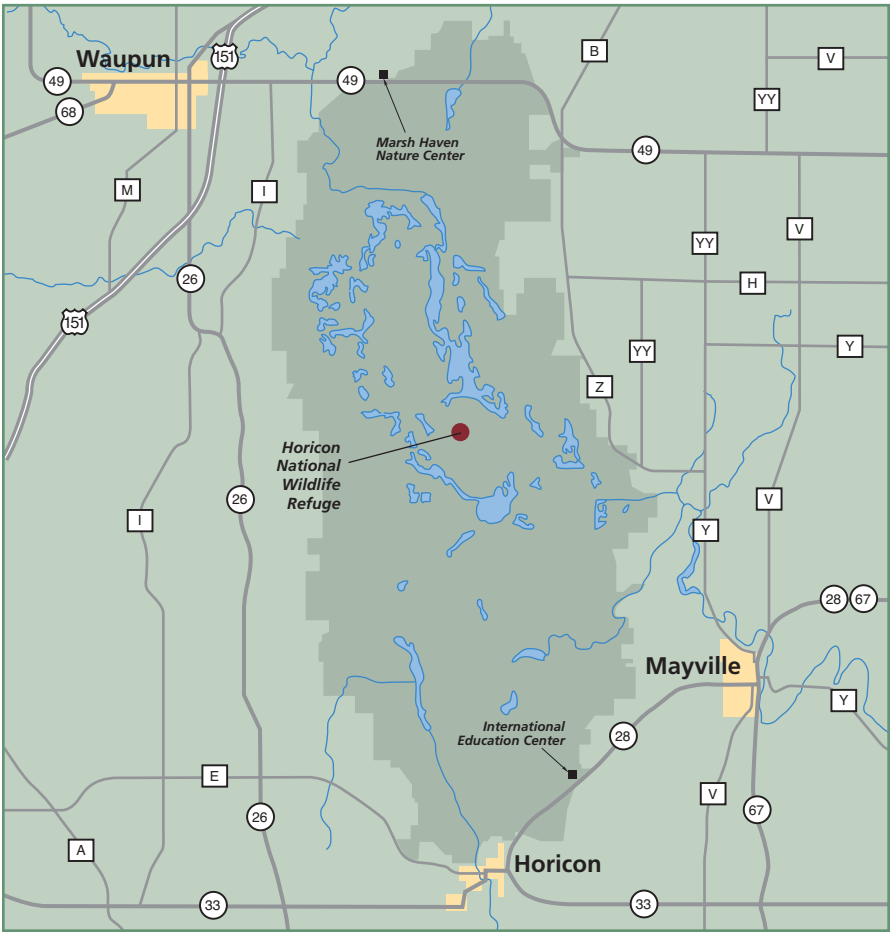
Phone: 920/387-2658
Web: www.fws.gov/midwest/Horicon
Signature Species: Canada Geese, Forster's Tern & Common Moorhen
Rare Species: Bonaparte's Gull, American Avocet & Whooping Crane
Gazetteer: Page 45, D-7
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Mayville, Waupun & Horicon

The US Fish & Wildlife Service manages the northern two-thirds of Horicon Marsh, totaling 21,000 acres. The property provides critical habitat for endangered species and thousands of migrating and nesting birds, especially waterfowl. Visitors can hike a unit of the Ice Age Scientific Reserve. They can also enjoy biking, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. The property includes a visitor center as well as a popular auto tour route, the TernPike. Visit Main Dike, Ledge and Rockvale Roads for excellent wildlife viewing. The Bud Cook Hiking Trail is popular with its observation platform and large spotting scope. Registered groups can enjoy environmental education programming that includes bus tours of the property.

MIKE MCDOWELL

Forster's Tern

Directions: Marsh Haven Nature Center just east of Waupun on Hwy 49 is one of few access points on the west side of the marsh. On the east side, Main Dike, Ledge and Old Marsh Roads offer access. The marsh's federal visitor center is located at W4279 Headquarters Road, about 6 miles northwest of Mayville.



18 Shaw Marsh State Wildlife Area

Phone: 920/387-7860
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Waterfowl, Wild Turkey & Common Yellowthroat
Rare species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Field Sparrow & Bobolink
Gazetteer: Page 37, A-6
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Beaver Dam

This 900-acre site is a mix of wetlands with scattered upland prairie. The marsh is a shallow wetland basin formed by the retreating Wisconsin Glacier. Shaw Brook runs from north to south. It joins the Beaver Dam River in the heart of the property. The marsh is part of the Crawfish-Rock River system. It provides good habitat for wildlife including deer and turkeys. Fox and coyotes can be seen at dusk as they move along the marsh edge in search of food. The property is managed with prescribed burns to maintain the prairies in the uplands. The hiking trails that meander through the property are used by cross country skiers in the winter.

Directions: From Beaver Dam, travel east 1 mile on Hwy 33, then south 2 miles on S Crystal Lake Road, then west on Parker Road. Access parking lots are found on Parker, Shaw Hill, Blackbird and S Crystal Lake Roads.

19 Theresa Marsh State Wildlife Area – Northern Unit

Phone: 920/387-7860
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: American Wigeon, Northern Pintail & Canada Goose
Rare species: Great Egret, Wilson's Phalarope & Northern Saw-whet Owl
Gazetteer: Page 46, D-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Mayville

This property is located in Dodge County (Northern Unit), and Washington County (Southern Unit). Combined, the two units offer 5,990 acres of grasslands, marsh, woodland, and cropland. Solomon Juneau first dammed the Rock River here to power grain and saw mills; the resulting flowage created ideal wildlife habitat. At the turn of the century, the dam was removed to facilitate agricultural ventures that ultimately failed. The DNR began purchasing land here in 1948. They constructed an earthen dam that created the 1,500-acre flowage, additional marshes and waterfowl refuges that exist today. It's a great place to hike, canoe, kayak and view wildlife – especially birds.

Directions: From Lomira, travel south 4 miles on Hwy 41 to Hwy 28 west. Access the marsh via Mohawk Rd on the east side, or Pole Rd on the west.

Green County

Green County says "Willkommen" in so many ways. Amid the county's rolling hills, Swiss emigrants from the Canton of Glarus first settled in 1845. Of course, they named their community New Glarus. Today, New Glarus bills itself as America's "Little Switzerland." The Swiss heritage here manifests itself in the architecture, the music, the folk art, the beer and the cheese – above all, the cheese.

For a craft-brewing bonanza, tour the **New Glarus Brewing Co.** and sample their "Spotted Cow," (www.newglarus-brewing.com, 608/527-5850). Downtown, the **Swiss Historical Village Museum** displays the area's pioneer life and Swiss heritage in fourteen historic buildings (www.swisshistoricalvillage.org, 608/527-2317). Just south of town, **New Glarus Woods State Park** offers 32 family campsites (www.wiparks.net, 608/527-2335) as well as direct access to the **Sugar River State Trail**, a 24-mile railbed biking trail running south to Brodhead (www.wiparks.net, 608/527-2334).

In southern Green County, Monroe is famous for its charming downtown that spreads out around its courthouse square. It is equally famous for its cheese factories that welcome visitors with samples and retail sales. The history of "Green County Gold" is on display at the **Historic Cheesemaking Center** in the restored Monroe Depot (www.greencounty.org, 608/325-4636). You can also tour the **Minhas Craft Brewery**, the oldest continually operated brewery in the Midwest, producing the award-winning lagers and ales of the Berghoff label (www.minhasbrewery.com, 608/325-3191).

20 Brooklyn State Wildlife Area

Phone: 608/743-4800
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Yellow-breasted Chat, Long-eared Owl, & Great Crested Flycatcher
Rare species: Bobwhite Quail, Upland Sandpiper & Western Meadowlark
Gazetteer: Page 28, B-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: New Glarus & Belleville

Located in both Green and Dane Counties, this 3,540-acre property includes 5 miles of the Ice Age Trail. With more than 160 species observed here, it is heavily used by birders. The parking lot located just south of the Dane County line on Cty D is near grassland, savanna and woods. Here a "Wetlands Overlook" offers Northern Harrier, Wild Turkey, Bobwhite Quail and the Yellow-breasted Chat. The parking area just south on Cty DD has a trail that meets the Ice Age Trail and is an excellent area to view many species of warbler. Traveling north on the trail takes you to "Crane Overlook" with a wonderful overview of the property. Travel south on this trail into riparian woodlots along Story Creek for cuckoos, flycatchers, thrushes and more warblers.

Directions: From Belleville, travel east 2 miles on Cty D to parking lots.

21 Browntown-Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area & Browntown Oak Forest SNA

Phone: 608/966-3777
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Sandhill Cranes, Northern Shoveler & Willow Flycatcher
Rare species: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, and Bell's Vireos
Gazetteer: Page 27, D-5
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Browntown, Cadiz Springs & Monroe

Green County is characterized by rolling hills and spring-fed valley streams. At this state recreation area, the impoundment of a spring has formed two small lakes that are the focal point of most activities. In the early spring and fall, good numbers of waterfowl move through the area and use the two lakes. There are 10 miles of hiking trails that become cross-country ski trails in the winter. The Zander Lake Trail circles the lake and has interpretive stops along the way. Beckman Lake has a sandy beach for swimming. Both lakes provide canoeing, kayaking and sailing opportunities. Fishing is good with both cold and warm water species present. Only electric motors are permitted on the lakes.

Directions: Located 6 miles west of Monroe via Hwy 11, then south .5 mile on Cadiz Springs Road.

22 Marbleseed Prairie Unit of York Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Upland Sandpiper, Dickcissel, Henslow's & Grasshopper Sparrow & Bobolink
Rare species: Bell's vireo & Yellow-breasted Chat
Gazetteer: Page 27, B-5
Parking: Roadside
Nearest food & lodging: New Glarus

This 40-acre parcel of formerly grazed, unplowed prairie is part of the York Prairie State Natural Area. Despite its grazing history, the site has many unique prairie plants including a large population of its namesake marbleseed plant. The topography and diverse vegetation at this site as well as its location in a large landscape creates conditions suitable for a striking variety of grassland and shrub-grassland birds. You can find Field and Clay-colored Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, Willow Flycatchers and Bell's Vireos here along with Upland Sandpipers that frequently soar and whistle overhead in the spring and summer.

Directions: From New Glarus, travel west 7.5 miles on Hwy 39, then north .25 mile on York Valley Road to a small pull-off and sign on the east side of the road. Walk southeast into the natural area.

23 Muralt Bluff Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow & Western Meadowlark
Rare species: Upland Sandpiper & Henslow's Sparrow
Gazetteer: Page 28, C-1
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Albany

This 62-acre prairie blankets a long, sweeping ridge in an area of older glacial drift midway between the glaciated lands to the east and the Driftless Area to the west. Grasses of this dry-mesic prairie include side-oats gramma, Indiangrass, plains muhly and prairie drop-seed. In the spring, outstanding displays of pasque-flower, shooting star, prairie smoke and bird's-foot violet can be seen. All summer long, the goldenrods and blazing stars attract butterflies that are abundant. Grassland birds are becoming more common as prescribed fire and brush removal creates a larger, open landscape. The state-threatened Bell's Vireo nests here as well as Eastern Bluebird, American Woodcock, Field Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark.

Directions: From Albany, go south and west 2 miles on Hwy 59, then north and west 1.8 miles on Cty F, then south .1 mile on an access lane to a parking area.

24 New Glarus Woods State Park

Phone: 608/527-2335
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Hermit Thrush, Indigo Bunting & Scarlet Tanager
Rare species: Warbling, White-eyed & Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Gazetteer: Page 27, B-6
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: New Glarus

New Glarus Woods is a 411-acre state park with direct access to the Sugar River State Trail. The property lies on the edge of Wisconsin's driftless area and contains dense woodlands, native wildflowers and deep ravines. Open areas that have been restored to prairie attract Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels. This property has a rich mix of bird life, especially warblers in spring and fall. Some of the hiking trails are interpreted and there are nature programs and organized hikes offered by staff and volunteers. Mammals common here are coyotes, gray fox, deer and badger. Cty NN is part of the famous "Old Lead Road" which connected Mineral Point to Milwaukee.

Directions: From New Glarus, travel 2 miles south on Hwy 69, then .1 mile west on Cty NN.

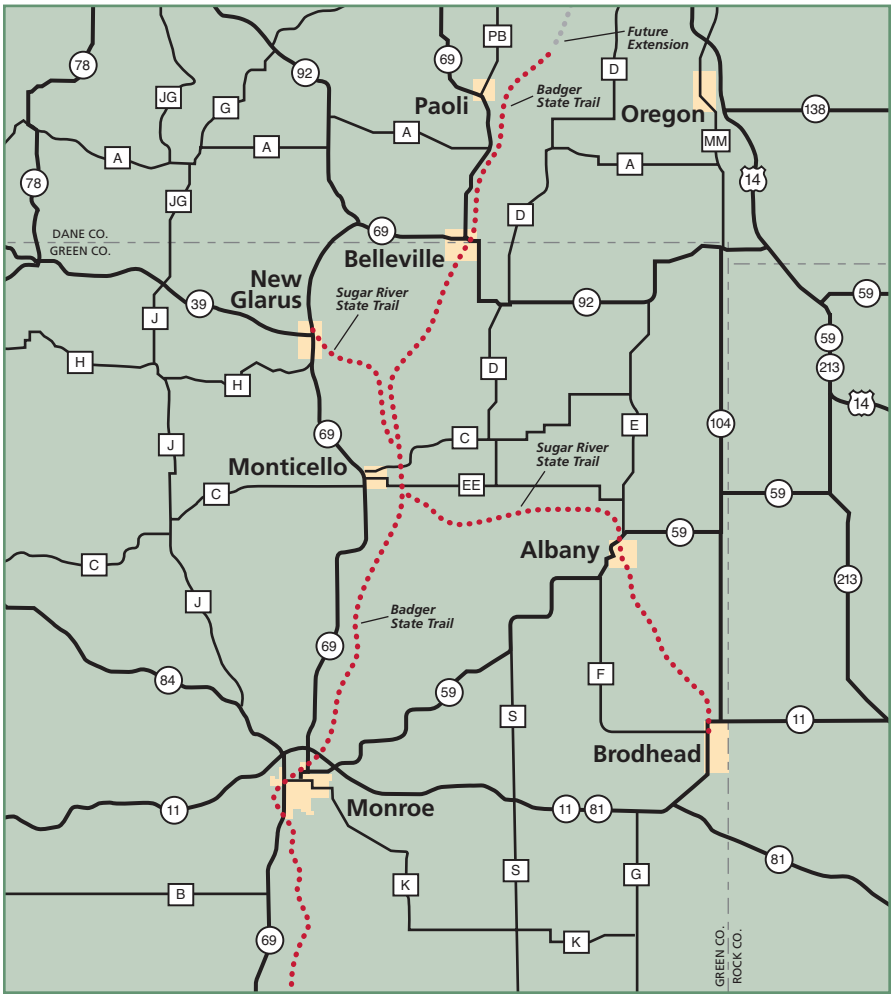
25 Sugar River & Badger State Trail

Phone: 608/527-2334 (Sugar River) 608/527-2335 (Badger)
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole, Eastern Meadowlark
Rare species: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Sedge Wren, Western Meadowlark & Bobwhite Quail
Gazetteer: Page 27, B-6
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food: Belleville, New Glarus, Monticello, Albany, Brodhead & Monroe
Fees: Trail pass required

Both of these trails are former railbeds surfaced for biking and hiking. The Sugar River State Trail runs 23 miles across Green County connecting New Glarus, Monticello, Albany and Brodhead. It is a part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. A replica covered bridge graces the trail north of Brodhead. It crosses several prairie remnants and the Sugar River. More than 100 species of birds have been recorded along this 265-acre corridor. The Badger State Trail is a 40-mile trail extending from Madison to the Illinois State Line. This well-connected trail links users to the Capital City, Military Ridge and Sugar River State Trails. Highlight of the Badger include the 1,200-foot-long Stewart Tunnel, rock outcrops and historic bridges.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Indigo Bunting

Directions: Access these trails in the towns of Brodhead, Albany, Monticello, New Glarus and Bellville.



Iowa County

South of Spring Green, Hwy 23 crosses the Wisconsin River into Iowa County to three of the state's most popular attractions. **Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Visitor Center** is the start of tours to the famed architect's Wisconsin home (877/588-7900, www.taliesinpreservation.org). Just to the east on Golf Course Road, **American Players Theatre** performs a summer season of Shakespeare and other classics in an outdoor amphitheater (608/588-2361, www.playinthewoods.org). A few miles further south on Hwy 23 is the **House on the Rock**, Wisconsin's most popular single attraction – an eclectic collection of fantasy and imagination (800/947-2799, www.thehouseontherock.com).

Dodgeville, the county seat, preserves its history with its elegant, but unpretentious county courthouse. Built in 1859, it is the oldest courthouse still in use in the state. Three miles north of the city, **Governor Dodge State Park** is the state's second largest with 5,000 acres of fun, a pair of man-made lakes, and 270 family campsites (608/935-2315, www.wiparks.net).

To the south, miners from Cornwall, England were among the first to settle Mineral Point. Some of their homes are preserved at **Pendarvis**, a Wisconsin Historical Society site that offers tours led by costumed interpreters, (866/944-7483, www.pendarvishistoricsite.org). More local history is displayed at the **Orchard Lawn Museum**, a Civil War-era Italianate mansion (608/987-2884, www.mineralpoint.com).

26 Avoca Prairie & Savanna State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Eastern Kingbird, Sedge Wren, & Grasshopper Sparrow
Rare species: Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl & Blanding's turtle
Gazetteer: Page 34, C-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Avoca, Muscoda or Spring Green

This 1,885-acre property lies within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway on an extensive outwash sand terrace along the Wisconsin River. The prairie and savanna contains the largest natural tall grass prairie east of the Mississippi River. Frequent flooding has shaped the landscape into low sandy ridges and linear wetlands. The property boasts a plant list of more than 200 species. Its oak openings contain large, open-grown black and bur oaks looking much as they did during the original land survey of 1833. This large, native prairie is a great place to look for grassland species like the Upland Sandpiper and Bobolink.

Directions: From Avoca, go east 1.5 miles on Hwy 133, then north on Hay Lane across Marsh Creek 0.8 miles to a mowed parking area. If the Marsh Creek crossing is impassable due to high water, vehicles must park in the lot south of the creek. The site is also accessible by canoe from the Wisconsin River.

27 Barneveld Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 608/251-8140
Web: nature.org/wisconsin or dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Western Meadowlark, Upland Sandpiper & Bobolink
Rare species: Grasshopper & Vesper Sparrow & Hill's thistle
Gazetteer: Page 27, A-4
Parking: Parking along road
Nearest food & lodging: Barneveld

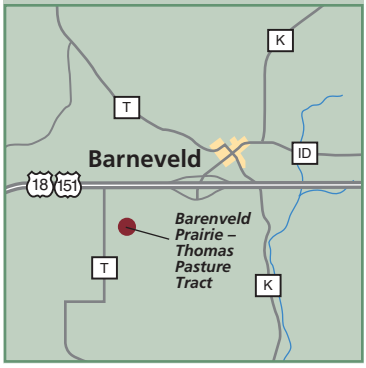
This property encompasses two tracts totaling 971acres. It is a remnant of a habitat known as tallgrass prairie that covered most of southern Wisconsin prior to settlement. Grassland birds that are rare in other parts of the state are common here; the call of the bobolink and upland sandpipers take one back to earlier days. Colorful butterflies bob and weave across the sea of blooming wildflowers and the winds toss the grasses like a sea of waves.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Western Meadowlark

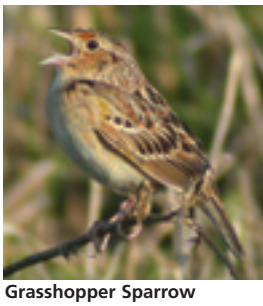
Directions: For the 79-acre Thomas Pasture Tract, see the next listing. To reach the Muehllehner addition from Barneveld, travel south on Cty K 1.5 miles to Langberry Road, then west .5 mile to the junction of Lee and Langberry and a small parking area.

28 Barneveld Prairie – Thomas Pasture Tract

Phone: 608/251-8140
Web: nature.org/wisconsin
Signature species: Grasshopper, Field, Savannah & Henslow's Sparrow
Rare species: Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Upland Sandpiper & Regal Fritillary butterfly
Gazetteer: Page 35, D-4
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Barneveld or Dodgeville



The Thomas Pasture is one of two units of The Nature Conservancy's Barneveld Prairie Preserve. It is a remnant of the once extensive tallgrass prairies found in southern Wisconsin before European settlement. This former pasture on unplowed sod has few trails. It includes prairies on steep slopes and ridgetops, a wet meadow in the creek bottom, and a former hayfield. Look for Savannah and Henslow's Sparrows and bobolinks in the more lush grass, and for Grasshopper and Field Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlark and Bell's Vireo in the dryer sites on the property.


MIKE MCDOWELL
Grasshopper Sparrow

Directions: From Barneveld, travel west 1.5 miles on Hwy 18/151 to Cty T, then south .75 mile on Cty T, look for The Nature Conservancy sign. Park on the east side of Cty T near the sign. Walk east to the kiosk to enter the prairie.

29 Governor Dodge State Park & Pine Cliff State Natural Area

Phone: 608/935-2315
Web site: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Clay-colored & Henslow's Sparrow & Yellow-breasted Chat
Rare Species: Cerulean Warbler, Winter Wren, Louisiana Waterthrush & Bell's Vireo
Gazetteer: Page 34, D-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Dodgeville
Fees: Park fees apply

This 5,000-acre state park offers upland fields and prairies, hardwood forest, two man-made lakes and sandstone bluffs. The Pine Cliff State Natural Area within the park contains all three species of pine native to the state - red, white and jack. Good hiking trails take you from woodlands to open field and around the lake, making it possible to see many species of birds and wildlife. In the mature oak woods and savannas look for warblers, nuthatches and woodpeckers. Grasslands and prairie restorations harbor sparrows of all kinds. In shrubby areas, look for vireos, orioles, and warblers. The lakes attract migrating waterfowl. Adjacent marshes should be checked for Green Herons, American Bitterns and Sora Rails.

Directions: Located 3 miles north of Dodgeville on Hwy 23.

30 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway – Helena Unit

Phone: 608/739-3188 or 800/221-3792
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Merganser & Common Goldeneye
Rare Species: Golden Eagle, Cerulean & Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat
Gazetteer: Page 34, C-3
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Spring Green

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway flows unimpeded 92.3 miles from below the dam at Prairie du Sac to its confluence with the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien. It encompasses 40,000 acres of DNR land on both sides of the river. It was created in 1989 to protect and preserve the scenic beauty and natural character of the river valley, and to manage the resources of the area for the long-term benefit of the citizens of the state. The LWSR is divided into 26 management units; the Helena Unit centers on Spring Green. There are 285 bird and 45 mammal species found within the riverway.

Directions: From Spring Green, travel south on Hwy 23 or Hwy 14 to access the Helena Unit. Consult your Gazetteer for additional access along the river from Prairie Du Sac to the Mississippi River.

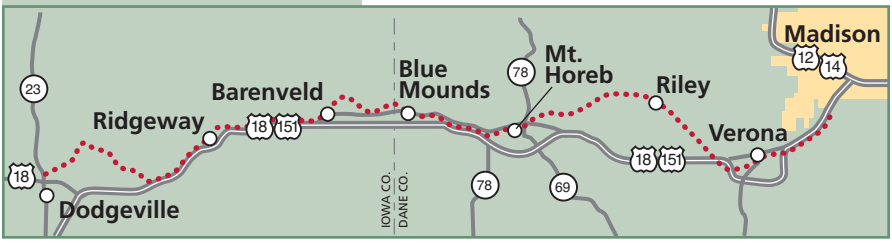
31

Military Ridge State Trail & Shake Rag Trail

Phone: 608/437-7393
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Gazetteer: Pages 26, 34, 35, 27, & 28 (west to east)
Parking: Parking lots along route
Nearest food & lodging: Dodgeville, Ridgeway & Barneveld
Fees: State Trail Pass fee

The 40 mile-long Military Ridge State Trail travels through Iowa and Dane Counties from Dodgeville to Verona. The trail follows an 1855 military road and a former railroad corridor along the ridge tops of this unglaciated corner of Wisconsin. The landscape includes woodlands, wetlands, prairies, villages and small cities as well as picturesque farmland. The trail is constructed of crushed limestone. Its gentle grade is perfect for hiking and biking. There are several observation platforms adjacent to the trail. In Ridgeway the trail passes a historic railroad depot. The new, 6-mile Shake Rag Trail extends the fun from Dodgeville to Mineral Point.

Directions: Parking lots for the Military Ridge State Trail can be found in Dodgeville, Ridgeway, Barneveld, Mt. Horeb and Verona.

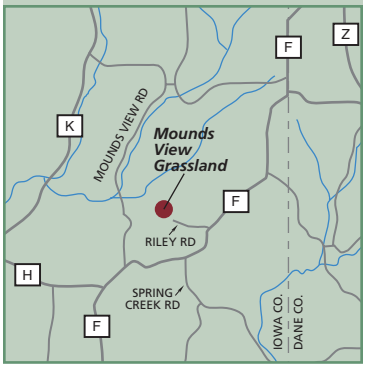


ALAN ORR

Red-winged Blackbird

32 Mounds View Grassland

Phone: 608/845-7065
Web: theprairieenthusiasts.org
Signature species: Badger, Henslow's & Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper
Rare species: Bell's Vireo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Regal Fritillary butterfly, Red-tailed leafhopper & Pickeral frog
Gazetteer: Page 27, A-4
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Mt. Horeb, Blue Mounds, & Barneveld



This 500-acre preserve is owned by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Its well drained, rolling topography has remnant prairie, extensive fields, active crop and pastureland, a few oak groves, areas of dense brush, and cold-water streams with associated spring-fed wetlands. The site is being gradually restored to its original prairie and savanna vegetation. It is located within the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, known for robust grassland-dependent bird communities. This is a property that offers the peaceful solitude that enhances our overall quality of life. Scan the horizon for Short-eared Owls and Northern Harriers. Listen for the whistle of the Upland Sandpiper.

Directions: From Mt. Horeb, travel west 3.5 miles on Hwy 18/151, then south on Cty F 4.9 miles to Reilly Rd (pay close attention to stay on F), then west on Reilly 0.5 mile until the road dead ends at the preserve.

33 Tower Hill State Park

Phone: 608/588-2116
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Turkey Vulture, Indigo Bunting & American Goldfinch
Rare species: Scarlet Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Broad-winged Hawk & Yellow-throated Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 34, C-3
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Spring Green
Fees: Park fees apply

This 77-acre state park takes its name from the mining of lead and production of lead shot at this property in the 1800s. Today, park visitors can tour the restored Helena Shot Tower and melting house. Shot towers were used to drop molten lead 75+ feet into a basin of cooling water. During the free-fall, the lead became spherical. After cooling the shot was sorted by size and could be further fashioned as necessary. The property is heavily wooded and borders the Wisconsin River. There are a number of places to launch a boat or canoe for a quiet day of fishing or paddling. Hikers will enjoy the challenging bluff trails that command panoramic views of the beautiful countryside.

Directions: Located on Cty C just off of Hwy 14, 2.5 miles east of Spring Green.

Jefferson County

Smaller than most, Jefferson County is large in fun things to do and see.

If you like to bike, the **Glacial Drumlin State Trail** transects Jefferson County east-to-west (920/648-8774, www.wiparks.net). This 52-mile railbed trail runs from Waukesha to Cottage Grove, a Madison suburb. Nearly half the trail is in Jefferson County.

In western Jefferson County, Lake Mills straddles the Glacial Drumlin State Trail. This charming Victorian community also graces the shores of Rock Lake. Nearby, **Aztalan State Park** is one of the most important archeological sites in the state – a stockaded village of the Middle Mississippian Indian culture (920/648-8774, www.wiparks.net). The **Aztalan Museum**, near the park, offers a pioneer village museum with log and brick churches, 1840's cabins and a school (920/648-4632).

To the east, at the intersection of Hwy 26 and I-94, **Johnson Creek Premium Outlets** is a popular destination for bargain shoppers (920/699-4111, www.premiumoutlets.com/johnsoncreek). The mall houses more than 60 name brand outlet stores.

To the south, Fort Atkinson was once the home of Wisconsin governor W.D. Hoard, considered the father of dairy farming in the state. His former home is now the **Hoard Historical Museum & National Dairy Shrine** (920/563-7769, www.hoardmuseum.org). Today, the city is best known as the home of the popular **Fireside Dinner Theatre**, staging five professional musicals each year (800/477-9505, www.firesidetheatre.com)

34 Dorothy Carnes County Park & Rose Lake State Natural Area

Phone: 920/674-7260
Web: www.co.jefferson.wi.us or dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: American White Pelican, Virginia Rail & Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rare Species: Black Tern & Great Egret
Gazetteer: Page 29, A-5
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Fort Atkinson

Dorothy Carnes Park is located on the west, south, and east shores of Rose Lake Marsh, one of the most diverse waterfowl areas in the county. Rose Lake is a shallow, hard water seepage lake surrounded by wetlands, oak openings, and steep hills that provide fantastic views of the lake. Ducks, shorebirds and American White Pelicans use the site. Prairie, savanna and wetland habitats being restored attract additional grassland birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Two miles of trails, an effigy mound and accessible viewing platform give good access to the best parts of this Jefferson County Park.

Directions: From Fort Atkinson, go west 1.2 miles on Hwy 12, then north .6 miles on Radloff Lane, then east to the parking area.

MARY LANGENFELD

Glacial Drumlin State Trail.

35 Glacial Drumlin State Trail – Jefferson County

Phone: 608/266-2181
Web site: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Belted Kingfisher, Common Yellowthroat & Brown Thrasher
Rare Species: Acadian Flycatcher, American Avocet & American White Pelican
Gazetteer: Page 37, D-5 & Page 38, D-1
Parking: Parking lots along route
Nearest food & lodging: Cottage Grove, Deerfield, London & Lake Mills
Fees: Trail fees apply

This state trail runs 52 miles between Madison and Milwaukee, the state's two largest cities, along an abandoned rail corridor. It parallels Hwy 18 and I-94 with access at many locations. This is a great route for biking, hiking and bird watching in three seasons. Just north of Jefferson, between Hwy 26 and Cty Y, a two-mile stretch runs on Junction Rd with very low traffic volume. In winter, the trail is used for X-C skiing and snowshoeing. The trail runs through diverse landscapes with gently rolling countryside, agriculture and wildlife areas producing some interesting species of birds and wildlife.

MIKE MCDOWELL

Belted Kingfisher

Directions: Access to the trail is offered in (west to east) Cottage Grove, Deerfield, London, Lake Mills, Jefferson, Helenville, Sullivan, Dousman, Wales and Waukesha.

36 Hoard Historical Museum

Phone: 920/563-7769
Web: hoardmuseum.org
Gazetteer: Page 29, A-6
Seasonality: Open MD-LD Tues-Sat 9:30am-4:30pm, Sun 11am-3pm; LD-MD Tues-Sat 9:30am-3:30pm.
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Fort Atkinson

The Hoard Historical Museum is named for William Hoard, father of the Wisconsin dairy industry. This local history museum has several permanent collections including the Bird Room containing 500 birds and mounted specimens done by the well-known naturalist Thure Kumlien. Born in Sweden, Kumlien immigrated to America in 1843 and divided his time between farming and his love of botany and ornithology. He raised his family near Lake Koshkonong on forty acres of virgin forest. He was an accomplished artist, collector and taxidermist. He added much to our knowledge of the early flora and fauna of Jefferson County.

Directions: Located south of the Rock River in downtown Fort Atkinson just off Main Street (Hwys 12 & 89) at 401 Whitewater Ave.

37 Jefferson Marsh State Wildlife Area & Jefferson Tamarack Swamp State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-2621
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Eastern Wood-Pewee, Marsh Wren & Sora Rail
Rare Species: Forester's Tern & Cerulean Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 37, D-6
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Jefferson

Because of the exceptional viewing, birds have been monitored here since the 1800s. Habitat management balances outstanding wildlife habitat with recreational opportunities for visitors. At 3,000 acres, the area ranges from open water marsh in the south to a 900-acre tamarack bog in the north that is the Jefferson Tamarack Swamp State Natural Area. This is the largest forested wetland in Jefferson County and one of the most extensive in southeastern Wisconsin. The large acreage makes it an important refuge for many species of birds and animals. The site also contains one of the largest Native American mounds in the state.

Directions: From Jefferson, go east 1.2 miles on Hwy 18 to Cty Y and a parking lot; or turn southeast on Cty Y 2.5 miles to 3 different parking lots centrally located within the property.

38

Lake Mills State Wildlife Area & Zeloski Marsh Unit

Phone: 608/266-2621

Web: dnr.wi.gov

Signature Species: Great Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, Northern Harrier, Black Tern & Wood Duck

Rare Species: Brewer's Blackbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Short-eared Owl, Forester's Tern & Sedge Wren

Gazetteer: Page 37, D-5

Parking: Parking Lots

Nearest food & lodging: Lake Mills

This wildlife area is divided into two units totaling 3,300 acres. The eastern part includes open water marsh, wet prairie, lowland hardwoods, tamarack and oak savanna uplands. The western unit is known as the Zeloski Marsh Unit. This 1,700-acre wetland restoration includes a series of six impoundments where water levels are managed for nesting waterfowl, shorebirds, and other species of plants and animals. The area is easily accessed via lanes established for property management work. The Glacial Drumlin Trail runs through Zeloski Marsh. The property provides ample opportunities to see birds throughout the seasons.

Directions: The eastern unit: is located immediately southwest of Lake Mills on Cty A. For the western unit, continue southwest on Cty A to Cty S north 1 mile to Alley Road west 1 mile to the parking lot.

CAROLYN CLARIN

Zeloski Marsh.

Lafayette County

Lafayette County lies within the unglaciated area of Wisconsin in the driftless region bordering the State of Illinois. With an area of 643 square miles, it has a population of just over 16,000.

The first European settlers came here in 1824 to work the area's many surface lead mines. Lafayette County was formed in 1847 when the Legislature divided Iowa County into two separate counties. The Southern portion became Lafayette County, named after Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the Revolutionary War.

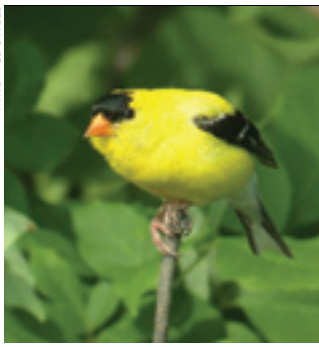
While agriculture is the county's leading enterprise, recreation and tourism are growing. The **Cheese Country Trail** and other club trails welcome horse, ATV and snowmobile riders. The eastern half of the county includes some excellent cold-water trout streams. **Yellowstone Lake State Park** in the northeastern corner of the county is a popular destination with 128 family campsites, good fishing and a nice swimming beach (608/523-4427, www.wiparks.net).

In the northwest corner of the county, tiny Belmont was the state's **First Capitol** for one session of the territorial legislature in 1836 (608/987-2122, www.firstcapitol.org). The site's two modest frame buildings once housed the legislature and the supreme court. To the south, tour the **Badger Mine & Museum** in Shullsburg where you can descend 51 steps into a lead mine hand-dug in 1827 (608/965-4424, www.shullsburgwisconsin.org).

39 Belmont Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Dickcissel, American Goldfinch & Song Sparrow
Rare species: Upland Sandpiper, Bell's Vireo and Wild Quinine
Gazetteer: Page 26, C-1
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Belmont & Platteville
Fees: Trail fees apply

Located along the Pecatonica State Trail, Belmont Prairie is a small mesic to dry prairie remnant with more than 80 species of native plants. This stretch of prairie lies within a former railroad right-of-way, which is one reason for the prairie's preservation. The unintentional fires sparked by the rails and stray cinders from passing trains preserved Belmont Prairie. The fires encouraged the growth of native prairie grasses and forbs and kept the area free from woody species encroachment. The area is only 36 acres in size but contains native plants that attract some nice grassland birds.


MIKE MCDOWELL
American Goldfinch

Directions: From Hwy 126 in Belmont, walk or bike the Pecatonica State Trail 1.2 miles to the eastern boundary of this SNA.

40 Pecatonica State Trail & Cheese Country Trails

Phone: 608/328-9430
Web: tricountytrails.com
Signature species: Field & Savanna Sparrow, Western & Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Bank and Rough-winged Swallow
Rare species: Upland Sandpiper, Great Egret, Northern Harrier and Short-eared Owl
Gazetteer: Pages 26, C-1 through page 27, D-6
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Belmont, Calamine, Darlington, Mineral Point & Monroe
Fees: Trail fees apply

The Pecatonica State Trail traverses 10 miles of the picturesque Bonner Branch Valley from Belmont to Calamine where it links to the Cheese Country Trail that runs from Mineral Point to Monroe. The Pecatonica passes through farmlands where you can see grassland birds in good numbers. The area's small marshes and woodlands produce flycatchers, vireos, Prothonotary Warblers and perhaps a Yellow-breasted Chat. Bridges span several small streams along these biking and hiking trails. One of the best ways to see the Pecatonica River is by canoe or kayak. On the river, look for Western Kingbirds and other flycatchers in the branches of overhanging trees; look for the nests of swallows under the bridges.

ALAN ORR
Great Egret

Directions: Access to these trails can be found in Mineral Point, Belmont, Darlington, Gratiot, South Wayne, and Monroe.

41 Yellowstone Lake State Park & Yellowstone Savanna State Natural Area

Phone: 608/523-4427
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Little Brown Bat, Whip-poor Will, Willow Flycatcher & Blue-winged Warbler
Rare Species: Great Egret, Henslow's & Grasshopper Sparrow & Dickcissel
Gazetteer: Page 26, B-3 & 4
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Darlington & Argyle
Fees: Park fees apply

Together, this State Park and Natural Area total nearly 1,000 acres. The SNA can be accessed from the Blue Ridge, Green Valley and Savanna Trails. (The Savanna is located along the shoreline of the lake.) Nearly 100 avian species nest here, so you should have no trouble adding to your birding list. You can hike a trail through lowland forest and marsh to a dike built out into the lake. It's a good place to see waterfowl, herons, rails and Great Egrets. In the shrub areas, look for flycatchers and the Blue-winged Warbler. The upland hardwood areas in the park are places to see woodpeckers, thrushes, vireos and warblers. Yellowstone Lake is 455 acres in size and is a good fishing lake. Many bathouses harbor thousands of bats that help keep the mosquito population low.

Directions: From Blanchardville, travel west 8 miles on Cty F, then south on Lake Road one mile to the park office.

42 Yellowstone State Wildlife Area

Phone: 608/523-4427
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: White-eyed Vireo, Sedge Wren, Eastern & Western Meadowlark
Rare species: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Orchard Oriole, Bell's Vireo & Hooded Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 26, B-3 & 4
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Darlington & Argyle

This 4,000-acre property is contiguous with Yellowstone State Park and Natural Area, lying west and south of the park. It is mostly rolling upland grass and farm fields with scattered woods and oak savanna. These habitats combine to harbor a host of birds including Great-horned and Barred Owls, Bob-White Quail, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows and Bobolinks. Both Eastern and Western Meadowlarks can be found here along with Red-tailed Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks are here in the winter along with Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs. The trails that take you through the interior of the property cross the Yellowstone River at different locations and are a good way to see the property.

Directions: Located west and south of Yellowstone Lake State Park. Access it from Cty F or G.

Richland County

Bordered on the south by the Wisconsin River, Richland County is a maze of ridgelines and valleys. This is the driftless area of Wisconsin – a corner of the state not bulldozed by the last great Wisconsin glacier.

Creeks and streams and rivers drain the valleys of Richland County. Most are spring-fed, cold-water streams that hold brown and brook trout. Their names are as colorful as their fish: Gault Hollow Creek, John Hill Creek, Dieter Hollow Creek and Fancy Creek to name but a few of dozens. This is fly-fishing heaven where you can literally fish a different creek every week of the season.

Richland Center is the county seat. **The Starlite 14 Drive-In Theater** is one of only a few outdoor theaters left in Wisconsin (608-647-3669). Downtown, the **Valley Antique Mall** offers three floors of antiques and collectibles, displayed by more than 30 dealers (608/647-3793). Also downtown, the **Court Street Commercial Historic District** encompasses 69 buildings in the ten-block area around Court Street.

Krouskop Park, off Hwy 14 on the city's northwest side, includes an excellent 9-hole disc golf course with some tightly wooded holes and slight elevation. On the **Pine River Recreation Trail**, you can take a lazy bike ride up a lazy river – 15.8 miles from Richland Center to Lone Rock on a gentle railbed trail (800/422-1318, www.richland-chamber.com). Along the way you'll cross 15 bridges that span the meandering Pine and its tributaries. One bridge is a whopping 241 feet long. Town Parks in Gotham and Lone Rock offer pleasant rest stops.

43 Ash Creek Community Forest

Phone: 800/422-1318
Web: rclrs.net/parkcommission
Signature species: Blue-winged Warbler, Willow Flycatcher & Great-crested Flycatcher
Rare species: Pileated Woodpecker & Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Gazetteer: Page 33, B-7
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Richland Center

This 355-acre county conservation property is an excellent place to spot warblers and other migrating songbirds in the spring. It produces good birds throughout the year as well. Four miles of hiking trails through the property allow you to explore spring-fed Ash Creek, shrubby lowlands, pond and forest habitat. There is some open grassland scattered through the lowlands. Look for flycatchers, Common Yellowthroats, American Goldfinch and Indigo Buntings. Ash creek is a Class I trout stream, one of many in this county.

MIKE MCDOWELL

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

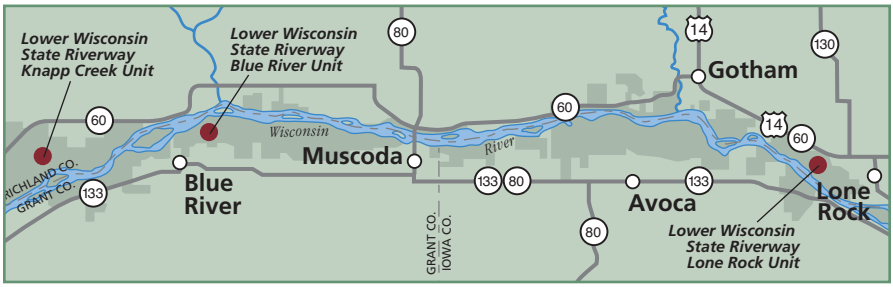
Directions: Travel south of Richland Center on Hwy 80 about 2 miles.

44 Lower Wisconsin State Riverway - Knapp Creek, Blue River & Lone Rock Units

Phone: 608/935-3368
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Black-billed Cuckoo, Bald Eagle, Osprey & Bob White Quail
Rare species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher & Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Gazetteer: Page 33, C-5 thru Page 34, C-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Lone Rock, Gotham, Muscoda & Blue River

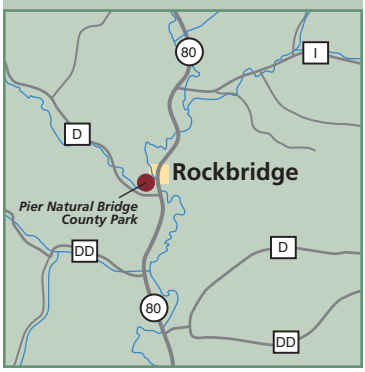
These three units of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway total more than 3,000 acres. There is good birding from your car as you drive along the highway. Take your time. Many parking areas lead to hiking trails and bridges that take you across creeks and the river. Travel the side roads that run close to the river and back into the hollows and valleys. Bald Eagles nest along the woods where the trees meet the marshes. Sandhill Cranes glean insects from the fields. Warblers, sparrows and orioles call from brushy roadsides and treetops.

Directions: North of the river, travel Hwy 60 from Boscobel to Lone Rock; south of the river, travel Hwy 133.



45 Pier Natural Bridge County Park

Phone: 800/422-1318
Web: rclrs.net/parkcommission
Signature species: Cliff & Bank Swallow, Blue Jay & Eastern Wood-Pewee
Rare Species: Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-shouldered Hawk & Great Egret
Gazetteer: Page 34, A-1
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Rockbridge & Richland Center



The Pier family donated the land for this county park to preserve the site's very unusual geological feature; a half-mile-long, narrow finger of blocked and layered sandstone that rises nearly 60 feet above the flood plain of two merging valleys. Tall red pines top the rock. The west and main branches of the Pine River meet underneath the rock, forming a natural bridge. The park has two historical markers: one that highlights the rock formation, and another that recognizes the significance of the Blackhawk War in this area. There is a stairway to the top of the rock formation that gives you a great view of the countryside. A manmade tunnel allows you to walk through the rock formation to the west Branch of the Pine River.

Directions: Located on Hwy 80 just south of Rockbridge.

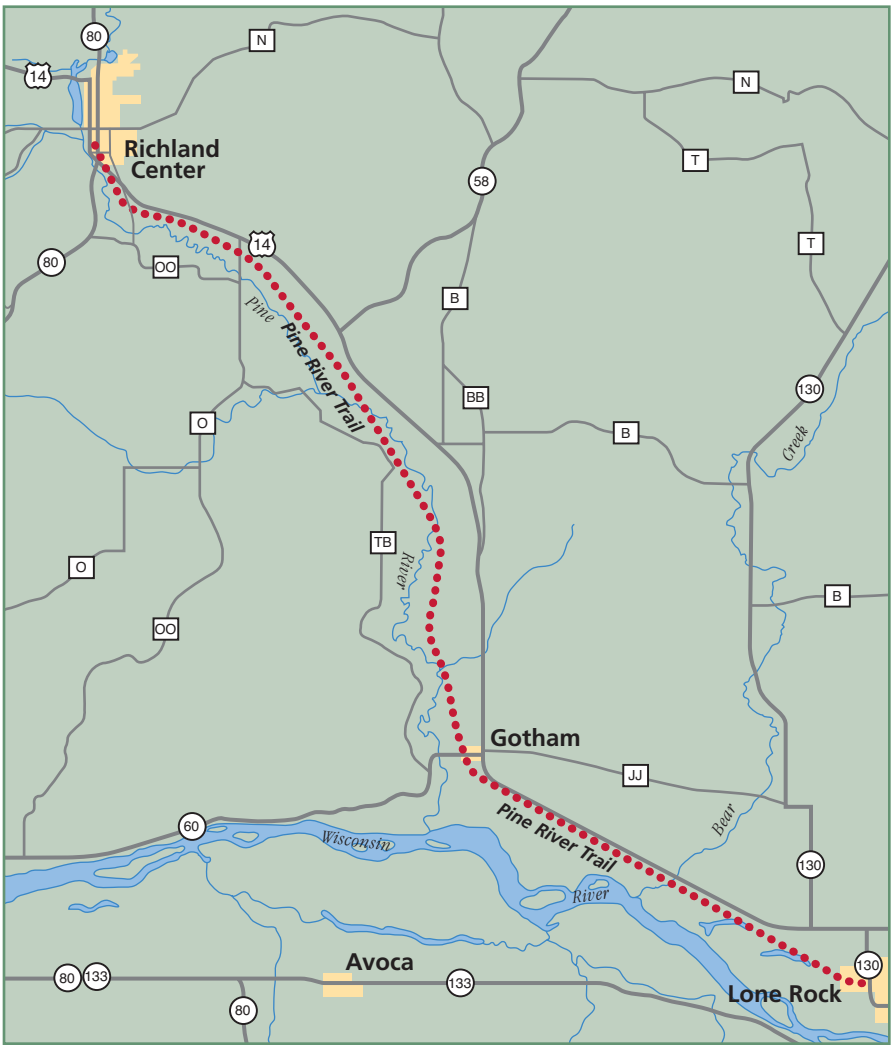
46 Pine River County Trail

Phone: 800/422-1318
Web: rclrs.net/parkcommission
Signature species: Eastern Bluebird, Song Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo & Golden-crowned Kinglet
Rare species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Bob White Quail & Whip-poor Will
Seasonality: Open all year except for deer gun season
Gazetteer: Page 34, B-1 to C-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Richland Center, Lone Rock & Gotham.

This crushed limestone, abandoned railbed trail runs 14.3 miles between Richland Center and Lone Rock. Richland County maintains the trail for bikers and hikers in the warmer weather, and snowmobilers in the winter. The trail follows the Pine River to its confluence with the Wisconsin River just south of Gotham, crossing the river several times and passing 250-foot-high river bluffs. The best stretch is along Hwy 60 from Gotham to Lone Rock where the trail and road hug the edge of Bogus Bluff next to the Wisconsin River. The trail passes farmlands, woods, ridge-tops, marshes and several nice town parks making for a pleasant day of birding.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Golden-crowned Kinglet

Directions: Access to the trail is found in Richland Center, Lone Rock & Gotham.



Rock County

The Rock River is the single, dominant terrain feature of Rock County. It flows south out of Lake Koshkonong to the Illinois border, bisecting the county and its two largest cities, Janesville and Beloit.

With 2,000 acres of scenic parkland along the river, Janesville is truly "Wisconsin's Park Place." A visitor favorite is the **Rotary Gardens**, a 20-acre internationally themed botanical garden (608/752-3885, www.rotarygardens.org). Nearly twenty percent of Wisconsin's buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places can be found in Janesville, including the **Lincoln-Tallman House**, a 26-room Italianate-style mansion where President Lincoln once slept (800/577-1859, www.rchs.us). On Wednesday and Sunday evenings in summer, the city's **Rock Aqua Jays**, perennial national champions, put on a terrific waterski show at Traxler Park (800/487-2757, www.rockaquajays.org).

Five miles northeast of Janesville, visit the **Milton House Museum** (608/868-7772, www.miltonhouse.org). This 1844 stagecoach inn was once a station on the Underground Railroad, complete with a secret tunnel.

In southern Rock County, Beloit is home to Beloit College and its **Logan Museum of Anthropology**, which houses 160,000 archaeological objects from 122 countries (608/363-2677, www.beloitcollege.edu/logan). The city's **Angel Museum** displays the largest privately held angel collection in the world (608/362-9099, www.angelmuseum.com). West of town, the **Beckman Mill** is one of the few working gristmills left in the state (608/362-4703, www.beckmanmill.org).

47 Avon Bottoms State Wildlife & State Natural Area

Phone: 608/273-5955
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Prothonotary Warbler & Whip Poor Will
Rare Species: Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler & Osprey
Gazetteer: Page 28, D-1 & 2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Beloit

Avon Bottoms straddles the Sugar River in the southwestern corner of Rock County. Its 1,500 acres consists of lowland hardwood forest, wetlands, marsh, sloughs and mesic prairie. It also includes a State Natural Area of 168 acres in the floodplain of the meandering river. The property's forest contains large silver maple, swamp white oak and green ash as well as sycamore trees at the northern limit of their range. Bird life is diverse here with nesting Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Wildlife here includes a variety of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. One of the best ways to view this property is by canoe or kayak on the Sugar River.

Directions: Travel west of Beloit 10 miles on Hwy 81 to parking areas located off Nelson or Avon Store Roads.

48 Big Hill Park

Phone: 608/364-2929
Web: www.ci.beloit.wi.us
Signature species: Barred and Great Horned Owl, Kinglets, & Scarlet Tanagers
Rare species: Orchard Oriole & Tufted Titmouse
Gazetteer: Page 29, C-4
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Beloit

This 190-acre city park offers the bird watcher a large wooded area along the sandstone bluffs on the west side of the Rock River. The park has a nature trail loop that leads from the bluffs to the river and then follows a former railroad grade. There's also a scenic overlook with spectacular vistas, and an environmental education center. During the spring, the Rock River serves as a migratory route for hawks, passerines and waterfowl of all types making a trip to this park worthwhile. The park offers guided hikes during the summer and also serves as a day camp for area youngsters.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Scarlet Tanager

Directions: From Beloit, travel north 1.5 miles on Afton Rd/Cty D to Big Hill Rd east to the park.

49 Cook Memorial Arboretum

Phone: 608/758-6553
Signature species: Tufted Titmouse, Blue-winged Warbler & White-eyed Vireo
Rare species: Cerulean & Hooded Warbler & Acadian Flycatcher
Gazetteer: Page 28, C-4
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Janesville

One of the best places to look for birds near Janesville is the Cook Arboretum. Owned by the local school district, the property is part of a larger forest system on the west side of the Rock River northwest of the city. The area supports breeding populations of birds that are sensitive to forest fragmentation. More than 125 species of birds are listed on the property's species list. An ongoing research project at the site is surveying populations of Hooded and Cerulean Warblers and Acadian Flycatchers. There is an excellent hiking trail linking the property's varied habitats. Because of its proximity to the river, the arboretum holds birds in all seasons.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Acadian Flycatcher

Directions: From Janesville, travel west 1 mile on Cty A to its intersection with Austin Road.

50 Rock River Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 608/275-3266
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Eastern Meadowlark, Great Blue Heron & Black-billed Cuckoo
Rare species: Dickcissel, Grasshopper & Field Sparrow
Gazetteer: Page 29, C-4
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Beloit

Just north of Big Hill Park, this small but rich property lies on the east-facing slope of a gently rolling terrace above the Rock River. The dry-mesic prairie contains several rare plant species including prairie thistle, prairie bush clover and prairie false dandelion. In the spring, showy displays of pasque-flower and cream wild indigo can be seen. More common forbs are silky aster, shooting-star, prairie-smoke, birds-foot violet, smooth yellow flax, fringed puccoon, downy gentian and spiderwort. The northern portion of the site contains a small oak opening being restored by brush removal and pre-scribed fire.

Directions: From Beloit, go north on Hwy 51 about 3 miles, then west 1.1 miles on Town Line Rd, then south .8 mile on Walters Rd. Park in the parking lot on the south side of the area.

51 Storrs Lake & Lima Marsh State Wildlife Areas

Phone: 608/273-5955
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Common Loon, American Restart, American Bittern & Bob White Quail
Rare species: Least Bittern, Red Crossbill & Red-headed Woodpecker
Gazetteer: Page 29, B-5
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Milton

Sprinkled through the northeastern corner of Rock County, these two areas offer more than 2,500 acres of marsh, bog grasslands, lake and hardwood habitats. There are 3 small pothole lakes at Storrs Lake that attract ducks and interesting shorebirds in low water years. Yellow-headed Blackbirds nest on Round Lake. Look for good songbird migrations in April-May and again in August-September. Lima Marsh State Wildlife Area attracts waterfowl, rails and cranes. Wilson's snipe is common here and can be heard with regularity in the spring. Lima Bog is a tamarack bog. Because of its proximity to oak woodlots, it attracts flycatchers, cuckoos, Field Sparrows and Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Directions: From Milton, travel 1 mile east on Storr's Lake Road. Other access is via Bowers Lake Road, Hwy 59, to Cty N.

Sauk County

The Wisconsin River forms the southern, and much of the eastern border of Sauk County from **Wisconsin Dells/Lake Delton** in the county's northeastern corner to Spring Green in the southwestern corner.

River scenery, duck rides, waterparks and myriad family amusements have made Wisconsin Dells/Lake Delton a Wisconsin tourism legend. Check them all out at www.wisdells.com, or call 800/223-3557.

Seven miles to the south, Baraboo is the county seat and home of the new **Aldo Leopold Legacy Center**, a must-stop for environmentalists (608/355-0279, www.aldoleopold.org). Nearby, you can visit **Circus World Museum** offering Big Top performances in the summer and terrific displays of circus memorabilia year-round (866/693-1500, www.circusworldmuseum.com). South of town, **Devil's Lake State Park** offers spectacular bluff-top views, swimming, kayaking and 407 family campsites (608/356-8301, www.wiparks.net).

Eight miles west of Baraboo in tiny North Freedom, the **North Continent Railway Museum** keeps the age of the steam engine alive (800/930-1385, www.midcontinent.org). Diesel train rides are offered daily in summer.

Southeast of Baraboo at Merrimac, the **Merrimac Ferry** offers free ferry rides across the Wisconsin River on Hwy 113 (608/246-3806, www.dot.Wisconsin.gov/travel/water/merrimac.htm). It's fun – there's an ice cream stand on either end of the ferry.

South of Merrimac and just across the river from Prairie du Sac, the **Wollersheim Winery** offers tours and tastings at the state's oldest winery (800/847-9463, www.wollersheim.com).

52 Aldo Leopold Legacy Center

Phone: 608/355-0279
Web: aldoleopold.org
Gazetteer: Page 43, D-6 (E13701 Levee Road)
Seasonality: Center is open Apr 14-Nov 1, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Oct 31- Apr 13, Mon-Sat 10am-4pm
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Baraboo & Portage

Leopold said, "That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics." He defined conservation as a way of life in which the land does well for its people, people do well by their land, and both end up better for the partnership. Today, the Leopold Center honors that ethic by demonstrating how a building can achieve carbon neutrality. Visitors learn more about Leopold, green building technology, and how to live lightly on the planet. Leopold's best-known work, A Sand County Almanac has inspired generations to think naturally.

Directions: Located about 7 miles southeast of Wisconsin Dells between I-90/94 and the Wisconsin River on Levee Road 2 miles east of its junction with Cty T.

53 Bakken's Pond State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature Species: Black Tern, Pine Warbler, Bald Eagle & Yellow-headed Blackbird
Rare Species: Blanding's Turtle, Great Egret & Blanchard's cricket frog
Gazetteer: Page 34, C-2
Parking: Parking lot off Kennedy Road
Nearest food & lodging: Spring Green & Lone Rock

Bakken's Pond is a great destination for birders. Journal entries from a local birder note "eagles' nest and young, woodlands filled with warblers, Sandhill Cranes incubating eggs and Northern Harriers skimming the grasslands." In the spring and fall, large concentrations of waterfowl are found here. This property lies within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway and features a cold, spring-fed stream with southern sedge meadow and oak barrens. There is extensive wet meadow of bluejoint grass and sedges, scattered woody vegetation and bottomland forest bordering the Wisconsin River, all offering excellent habitat for a large variety of birds.

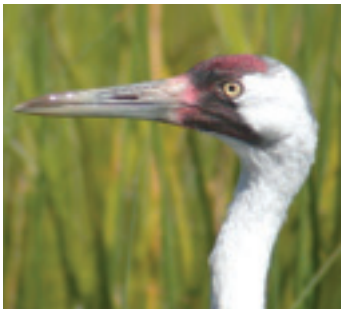
Directions: From Spring Green, go west 3 miles on Hwy 14, then south on Dyke Road 0.6 mile, then west on Kennedy Road 0.6 mile to parking lot.

54 International Crane Foundation

Phone: 608/356-9462
Web: Savingcranes.org
Signature Species: All 15 species of cranes in the world
Gazetteer: Page 43, D-5 (E11376 Shady Lane Rd)
Seasonality: Open for tours May 1-Oct 31,daily 9am-5pm
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Baraboo & Wisconsin Dells
Fees: Admission fee

This 225-acre preserve includes restored tall grass prairie, wetlands, and oak savanna suitable for displaying the world's 15 remaining species of cranes. The facility includes a research library, captive breeding and veterinarian services, a visitor's center, outdoor amphitheater, indoor video theater, and gift shop. Cranes are one of the oldest living families of birds and also the most endangered. The foundation not only studies the birds, but also is the only institution in the world to breed all fifteen species. Since 1990, Whooping Crane chicks have been raised here for release into the wild in an effort to restore other populations.

MIKE MCDOWELL



Whooping Crane

Directions: Located two miles south of Wisconsin Dells via Hwy 12, then east on Shady Lane Road.

55 Riverland Conservancy - Merrimac Preserve

Phone: 608/458-3818
Web: riverlandconservancy.org
Signature Species: Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey & Eastern Bluebird
Rare Species: Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Sedge Wren & Lark Sparrow
Gazetteer: Page 35, A-6
Parking: Parking lots on Hwy 113
Nearest food & lodging: Baraboo

This 1,800-acre Alliant Energy preserve is a mosaic of prairie, shallow wetlands, oak savanna, and woodlands that lies between the southeast corner of Devil's Lake State Park and the Wisconsin River. Flowing from the park, Manley Creek transects the property and enhances this major avian migration corridor. The preserve promotes conservation, protection and restorations of the area's lands, waters and natural communities. In addition to its own interpreted trails, four miles of the Ice Age Trail pass through the property. With all of the diversity found here, you can expect to add a few new birds to your checklist.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Lark Sparrow

Directions: From Merrimac follow Hwy 113 west and north about 2 miles to marked parking lots (S6888 Hwy 113), or access the property from Marsh Road.

56 Spring Green Prairie & Spring Green Preserve State Natural Area

Phone: 608/266-7012 or 608/381-0746
Web: dnr.wi.gov or tnc.org
Signature Species: Prickly pear cactus, Dickcissel, Grasshopper & Lark Sparrow
Rare Species: Six-lined racerunner and blue racer lizards & bullsnake
Gazetteer: Page 34, C-3
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Spring Green

Spring Green Prairie is known as "Wisconsin's Desert" this 1000-acre landscape is a rolling sand prairie on an old terrace of the Wisconsin River. The Nature Conservancy opens this property to visitors for hiking, photography and bird watching. The dry sandy soils contain many desert-like plants that thrive in several sand blows with shifting dunes and open sand. There are also oak barrens, woodlands, high quality dolomite dry bluff prairie, and dry cliff communities. A population of pocket gophers lives here among interesting grassland birds and plants that are found in few other places in the state.

Directions: From Spring Green, go north 0.5 mile on Hwy 23, then east 0.75 mile on Jones Rd, then north on Angelo Lane to a parking area. Trails lead through the site.

Walworth County

Walworth County's glacial legacy includes a handful of large lakes and lake systems, as well as a lobe of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Geneva Lake is the largest of the lakes. Along its shores, Lake Geneva has been a resort community since just after the Civil War when wealthy Chicago families built their summer homes here. You can see these grand homes from the water aboard a **Lake Geneva Cruise Line** dinner, sightseeing, or Dixieland cruise (800/558-5911, www.cruiselakegeneva.com). Several popular golf resorts, sailing, swimming and shopping round out the summer fun here.

The world's largest lens-type telescope is housed at **Yerkes Observatory** in nearby Williams Bay. Tours of this University of Chicago facility are offered on Saturdays only at 10 & 11am and noon (262-245-5555, astro.uchicago.edu/yerkes).

Between Lake Geneva and Delavan on Hwy 50, bring the kids to **Lake Geneva Animal Gardens** where they can see exotic animals and pet their barnyard favorites (262/728-8200, www.animalgardens.com).

The kids will also like **Watson's Wild West Museum** in Elkhorn where guided tours offer cowboy fun in a reproduction of an 1880's western general store (262/723-7505, www.watsonswildwestmuseum.com). Local and Civil War history are displayed at the **Webster House Museum** (262/723-4248, www.geocities.com/walcohistory).

To the north in East Troy, the **East Troy Electric Railroad Museum** is one of the last pieces of a large trolley system that once operated in the metro-Milwaukee area (262/642-3263, www.easttroyrr.org). Ten-mile trolley rides are still offered.

57 Big Foot Beach State Park

Phone: 262/248-2528
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Great-horned Owls, Eastern Kingbird, Marsh & Sedge Wren
Rare species: Wood Thrush, Eastern Meadowlark & Bobolink
Gazetteer: Page 30, D-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Lake Geneva
Fees: Park fees apply

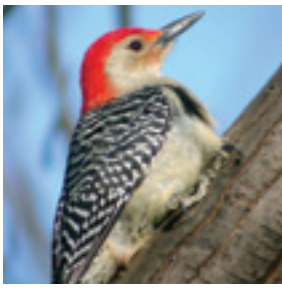
This 272-acre state park is located on Lake Geneva, a large, deep lake with clean, clear water that draws good species of birds. In the spring and fall, the lake is a good place to see numerous species of migrating ducks including Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser and the occasional Horned or Eared Grebe. The park has more than 5 miles of hiking trails through forest and open meadow. The oak woods found here is habitat for Great-crested Flycatcher, Northern Flicker, Hermit Thrush and American Robin. The park offers 100 campsites, a swimming area, sandy beach, picnic areas and good fishing on the lake or from the park piers.

Directions: Located 2 miles south of Lake Geneva via Hwy 120, at 1550 S. Lake Shore Dr.

58 Kettle Moraine Oak Opening State Natural Area

Phone: 262/594-6200
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Great-horned Owl, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-bellied & Hairy Woodpecker
Rare species: Red-headed Woodpecker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Golden-winged Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 30, B-1
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Palmyra

Located within the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and included as an Important Bird Area, this 659-acre SNA lies in a rugged landscape of glacially formed kettle holes, kames and gravelly hills and ridges. The area is a mix of oak opening and woods dominated by open-grown bur and black oaks. Small dry prairie openings occur on gravel knobs and steep ridges. Bald Bluff, the largest and most diverse of these, contains short grass prairie. This property is important for species of birds that require savanna and upland forest habitat including the Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Brown Thrasher and Hooded, Cerulean and Kentucky Warbler.


MIKE MCDOWELL
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Directions: From Palmyra, travel south 2.7 miles on Cty H to the Bald Bluff parking area, east of the road.

59 Turtle Creek State Wildlife Area

Phone: 414/263-8606
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Prothonotary Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Henslow's Sparrow
Rare species: Cerulean Warbler, American Redstart & Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Gazetteer: Page 29, C-7
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Delavan

This 1,035-acre SWA snakes along Turtle Creek for 10 miles in western Walworth and eastern Rock Counties. The property is broken into 4 segments with 10 road crossings and parking lots scattered along its length. Some hiking trails provide access. The habitat is sedge meadow, shrub carr, hardwood forest, and small prairie remnants. The bird life is rich with savanna, woodland, and water birds in abundance. Yellow, Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers can be found in the brushy and marshy areas, with Eastern Meadowlark, Brown Thrasher and Lark Sparrow in the brush and shrub carr areas. Look for large fall and winter concentrations of Canada Geese. Mammals here include mink, coyotes, fox, deer, opossum and fox squirrels.

Directions: Access the property west of Delavan via Hwy 11 or Cty M.

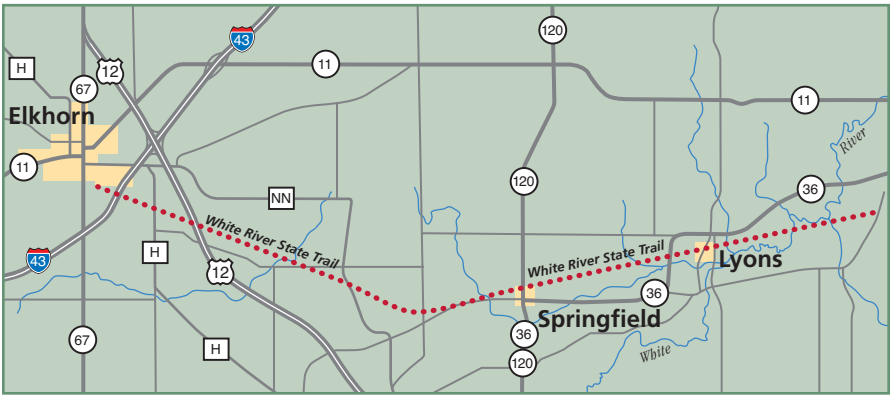
60

White River State Trail – Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail

Phone: 262/741-3114
Web: co.walworth.wi.us or dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Horned Lark, Chipping & Field Sparrow, Rough-wing, Barn & Bank Swallow
Rare species: Northern Harrier, Belted Kingfisher & Bobolink
Gazetteer: Page 30, C-1
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Elkhorn & Burlington
Fees: State Trail Pass fee

This 11-mile former railbed trail runs east from Elkhorn to the Walworth-Racine County line. The trail is used for hiking and biking in the warmer weather, and snowmobiling in the winter. A 2-mile stretch between Springfield and Lyons is open to horseback riding. The trail goes past numerous bridges, scenic vistas, quaint towns, farmland and wetlands making for interesting bird watching. While there are scattered remnant prairie patches that contain native grasses and wildflowers, the rich soils here have been converted to agriculture. An historic grain elevator near the trail in Springfield is a reminder of that agricultural heritage.

Directions: To access the Elkhorn trailhead from Hwy 12, take the Cty NN exit west and then turn left (south) on Cty H about .6 mile south to the trailhead parking lot.



ALAN ORR

Painted Turtles.

Washington County

With the rolling hills of the Kettle Moraine to the north and metro Milwaukee to the south, Washington County is a rich blend of industry and recreation.

In West Bend, the county seat, The **Museum of Wisconsin Art** displays the exquisite paintings of German/American master Carl Von Marr (262/334-9638, www.wbartmuseum.com). Around the corner, the Old Courthouse Square Museum displays local history (262/335-4678, www.historyisfun.com).

To the east, the **Riveredge Nature Center** in Newburg preserves 370 acres of prairies, forests, ponds and marshes along the Milwaukee River (800/287-8098, www.riveredge.us).

In the southern half of the county, the **Wisconsin Automotive Museum** in Hartford displays a rare collection of Kissel, Nash and Pierce-Arrow automobiles (262/673-7999, www.wisconsinautomuseum.com). East of town, the **Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest** offers an observation tower and 32 family campsites (262/670-3400, wiparks.net). Travelers from around the world visit the **Shrine of Mary at Holy Hill** near Hubertus; the church built high atop the hill is said to have mysterious healing power (262/628-1838, www.holyhill.com).

In the southeastern corner of the county, Germantown has preserved its "old world" heritage in the **Dheinsville Historic Park** (262/628-3170, www.visitwashingtoncounty.com). The facility includes the **Bast Bell Museum** displaying a collection of 5,000 bells.

61 Allenton & Theresa Marsh State Wildlife Area

Phone: 414/263-8500
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Sandhill Crane, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow & Snow Geese
Rare species: Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, Bobolink & American Bittern
Gazetteer: Page 38, A-3
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Allenton & West Bend

The Allenton SWA is strung along the East Branch of the Rock River in western Washington County. It is the site of an old glacial lake that is today wooded bottomland. There are two 10-acre impoundment lakes on the property along with several dozen small ponds and other wetlands, making it a good place for birders. The larger Theresa Marsh is located north of the Allenton SWA; about half the property is in Washington County with the other half in Dodge County. Together, these two properties offer more than 7,000 acres to explore. They are often thought of as a mini-Horicon Marsh; many of the same birds and wildlife can be found in both places.

Directions: From Allenton, travel Cty W south 2 miles to the property. Theresa SWA can be accessed by traveling north 4 miles on Hwy 41 to Cty D west. (Or, see Theresa SWA in the Dodge County section.)

62 Jackson Marsh State Wildlife Area & State Natural Area

Phone: 414/263-8500
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-throated Sparrow & Blue-winged Warbler
Rare species: Kentucky, Mourning, Canada and Black-throated Green Warblers
Gazetteer: Page 39, B-5
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Kewaskum & West Bend

This 2,312-acre property is Wisconsin's southernmost white cedar swamp. At the core of the property is the 1,571-acre Jackson Swamp, a matrix of lowland hardwoods, white cedar and tamarack. The property includes two diked flowages and several additional pothole lakes. Waterfowl of all types use these habitats in the spring and fall. Upland fields are in permanent grass cover or are cropped to provide wildlife food and cover. The Jackson Marsh SNA harbors 212 acres of mature silver maple forest with yellow birch and black ash, along with some white cedar and tamarack. The shrub layer is winterberry and ground cover in a mix of sedges, sphagnum moss and blooming flowers.

Directions: From the intersection of Hwys 45 and 60 near Jackson, go east 3 miles on Hwy 60, then north on Cty G, which bisects the property.

63 Lac Lawrann Conservancy

Phone: 262/335-5080
Web: www.ci.west-bend.wi.us
Signature species: American Tree & Chipping Sparrow, Swainson's Thrush, Gray Catbird & Chestnut-sided Warbler
Rare species: Northern Saw-whet & Long-eared Owl, & Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Gazetteer: Page 39, A-4
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: West Bend

Located in West Bend, this conservancy park is a beautiful and peaceful 104-acre natural area managed for nature study and passive outdoor recreation. The park boasts a bird list of 200 species, as well as 300 species of plants. Located at the confluence of two lobes of the Wisconsin glacier, the park presents several examples of interesting glacial landforms. As the glaciers retreated, they left moraines interspersed with steep-sided kettles formed as blocks of ice in the glacial debris melted. Other classic examples of glacial geology found here include a kame, esker and kettle lakes. There is a self-guided trail system that extends through or alongside tall grass prairie restorations, pine and hardwood forests, lake and wetlands.

Directions: Located at 300 Schmidt Road. Follow Hwy 33 east to Schmidt Road to the park entrance.

64 Lizard Mound County Park

Phone: 262/335-4400
Web: co.washington.wi.us
Signature features: Lizard, bird & panther mounds
Gazetteer: Page 39, A-5
Seasonality: Open Apr 1-Nov 15, dawn to dusk
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: West Bend

This park contains 47 effigy mounds built from 500 to 1000 A.D. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the park was established in 1950 to preserve what is one of the best mound groups in the state. The park is named for its most outstanding mound, shaped like a gigantic lizard. These mounds are especially impressive as they are of prominent height (three feet) and show that great care was taken in the construction of each. The park's self-guided anthropological trail guides you to more than 20 well-preserved effigy mounds. Markers along the trail tell the story of the people that built the mounds and their use of the plants and animals found in the area.

Directions: Located at 2121 Cty A in the Town of Farmington. From West Bend, travel north 2 miles on Hwy 144 to Cty A east to the park.

65 Milwaukee River Floodplain Forest State Natural Area

Phone: 414/263-8500
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Barred & Great-horned Owl
Rare species: Brown Creeper and longear sunfish
Gazetteer: Page 46, D-3
Parking: Parking area
Nearest food & lodging: Kewaskum

This 119-acre property is located along the East Branch of the Milwaukee River. It features a bottomland hardwood forest with small upland islands in the river. The site also contains dry-mesic forest and shrub-carr. Large silver maple and green ash with hackberry dominate the well-structured floodplain forest with black ash and bur oak trees. The ground layer plants include bedstraw, sensitive fern, water parsnip and green dragon. Shrubs include dogwoods, prickly ash and hawthorn. This is a good place to walk in the early morning to look for Indigo Buntings, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats and Catbirds.

MIKE MCDOWELL
Great-horned Owl

Directions: Located within the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. From Kewaskum go east 2 miles on Hwy 28, the south 1.2 miles on Oak Drive Rd. The site lies .1 mile west of the road.

Waukesha County

Metro-Milwaukee meets rural Wisconsin in Waukesha County. The eastern half of the county is suburban Milwaukee; the western half is known as "lake country" with eight large lakes in the northwestern corner of the county and 22,000 acres of the **Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest** in the southwestern corner (262/594-6200, www.wiparks.net).

The **Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum** in the City of Waukesha is housed in the old county courthouse on Main Street (262/251-2859, www.waukeshacountymuseum.org). Built in 1893, this Romanesque beauty exhibits local and regional history. West of town, the **Retzer Nature Center** is a 403-acre refuge with woodland, wetland and prairie habitats perfect for birding (262/896-8007, www.waukeshacounty.gov/parks).

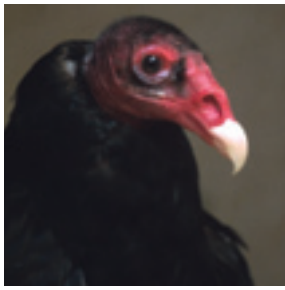
West of Waukesha in Delafield, tour the grounds of the **St. John's Northwestern Military Academy** (800/752-2338, www.sjnma.org). With cadets on parade and an 1884 castle-like building, it's a mini-West Point. South of town the **Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest** offers a spectacular view of the countryside from atop its observation tower (262/646-3025, www.wiparks.net).

Southwest of Waukesha near Genesee Depot, **Ten Chimneys**, the eclectic Wisconsin retreat of Broadway legends Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, is open for tours summer and fall (262/968-4110, www.tenchimneys.org). In the southwestern corner of the county near Eagle, visit **Old World Wisconsin**, a collection of 60 historic buildings operated and interpreted by the Wisconsin Historical Society (866/944-7483, www.oldworldwisconsin.org).

66 Kettle Moraine State Forest - Lapham Peak

Phone: 262/646-3025
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Scarlet Tanager & Turkey Vulture
Rare species: Golden-winged Warbler, Veery & Acadian Flycatcher
Gazetteer: Page 38, D-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Delafield, Oconomowoc, Wales & Dousman

At 1,233 feet above sea level, Lapham Peak is the highest point in Waukesha County. Its glaciated topography offers 21 miles of hiking trails, including a portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. A 45-foot observation tower gives you a panoramic view of the countryside, as well as great looks at Turkey Vultures that fly below you. The bird life in the park is excellent with many species of thrushes, vireos and warblers seen. In the spring and fall hawk migrations, the observation tower puts you at eye level with many of the birds moving through the area. There are also 5 miles of mountain bike trails and access to the 115-mile Kettle Moraine Scenic Drive.


RON TOEL
Turkey Vulture

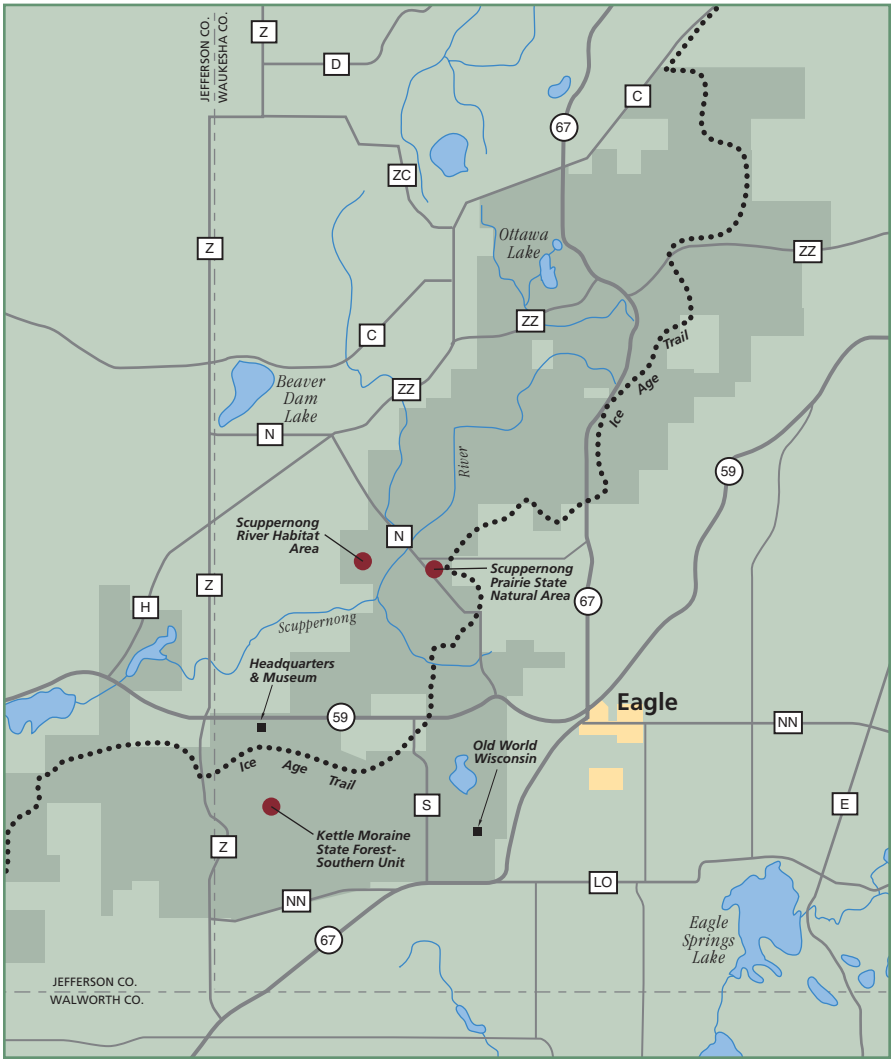
Directions: Located 1 mile south of Interstate 94 near Delafield via Cty C.

67 Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit, Scuppernong River Habitat Area & Scuppernong Prairie State Natural Area

Phone: 262/594-6200
Web: dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Bobolink, Western Meadowlark & Short-eared Owl
Rare species: Upland Sandpiper, Franklin's Ground Squirrel & Badger
Gazetteer: Page 30, A-1-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Eagle and Whitewater

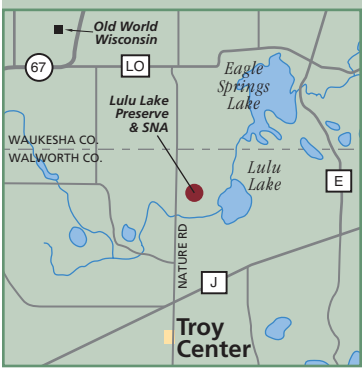
The southern unit of the KMSF is 30 miles long and totals 20,000 acres. It straddles three counties – Waukesha, Jefferson and Walworth. Within its boundaries lies the 3,500-acre Scuppernong River Habitat Area, the largest mesic prairie east of the Mississippi River, and the very diverse Scuppernong Prairie SNA. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail meanders through the entire length of the property. Wildlife viewing here is exceptional at any time of the year. Standing among the wildflowers on the Scuppernong Prairies and hearing the call of grassland birds is awe-inspiring. You'll want to revisit this area throughout the seasons.

Directions: From Eagle in Waukesha County, the best access is north on Hwy 67, west on Hwy 59, or north on Hwy N – headquarters and museum off Hwy 59.



68 Lulu Lake Preserve & State Natural Area

Phone: 262/642-7276
Web: nature.org or dnr.wi.gov
Signature species: Cooper's Hawk, Osprey & Sandhill Crane
Rare species: long-ear sunfish, Blanding's Turtle, kitten tail (plant) & pickerel frog
Gazetteer: Page 30, B-2
Parking: Parking lot
Nearest food & lodging: Eagle



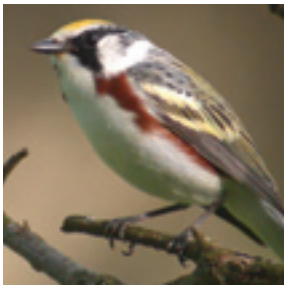
Lulu Lake encompasses 1,800 acres and is an exceptional property owned by The Nature Conservancy and DNR. It was designated a State Natural Area in 1977. It supports high quality and diverse wetland and upland communities on glacial topography in the Kettle Moraine region. Many of the natural communities protected here have been virtually eliminated from southeastern Wisconsin. The Nature Conservancy and DNR work to preserve the high quality stream, wetlands and oak openings that support the rare plants and animals found here. Management of the site is aimed at protecting health of the entire Mukwonago River Watershed.

Directions: Located at N9564 Nature Road. From the town of Troy Center, take Nature Road 1.5 miles north, then turn right at the driveway to the parking area.

69 Nashotah County Park

Phone: 262/548-7790
Web: waukeshacounty.gov
Signature species: Blue & Green-winged Teal, Chestnut-sided Warbler & Willow Flycatcher
Rare species: Red-shouldered Hawk, Bobolink & Carolina Wren
Gazetteer: Page 38, C-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Nashotah, Hartland, Oconomowoc & Delafield

Several larger, deeper lakes surround this 443-acre park in the lake country of Waukesha County. Early naturalists Increase Lapham and Thure Kumlien kept records of the flora and fauna of this area in the early 1830s. The park has a quiet atmosphere, is a mix of habitats and has two shallow lakes – Forest and Grass Lakes – that draw good numbers of migrating waterfowl in spring and fall. Nature trails lead through the landscape shaped by the glacier that today supports oak forest and savanna, deep and shallow marsh, and meadows. Each of these habitats has its own set of birds. Many woodland and grassland species nest here.


MIKE MCDOWELL
Chestnut-sided Warbler

Directions: From Hwy 16 at Nashotah, travel north 1 mile on Cty C to the park entrance and parking lot.

70 Old World Wisconsin

Phone: 262/594-6300
Web: oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org
Signature species: Black Tern, Sandhill Crane & Pied-billed Grebe
Rare species: Red-breasted Nuthatch & Pine Warbler
Gazetteer: Page 30, A-2
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Eagle, Mukwonago & Delafield
Fees: Admission fee

Old World Wisconsin is a 573-acre property operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society. It showcases 65 historic buildings in five ethnically themed villages. It is the Midwest's largest living history museum. The site encompasses 9 plant communities with 5 miles of gravel roads and hiking trails that wind through natural areas and the historic village and farmstead restorations. Bird life is good here with breeding pairs of Sandhill Cranes, Black Terns and Pied-billed Grebes. A recently rejuvenated Eastern Bluebird trail is a welcome addition to the property. The habitat found here includes wetlands, oak woodlands, red pine plantings, open grassland, oak savanna, prairie remnants and restorations.

Directions: Located at S103 W37890 Hwy 67, Eagle 53119. Located 1.5 miles south of Eagle on Hwy 67.

71 Retzer Nature Center

Phone: 262/896-8007
Web: waukeshacounty.gov
Signature species: Upland Sandpiper, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow, & Northern Harrier
Rare species: Yellow-throated Vireo, Mockingbird & Yellow-breasted Chat
Gazetteer: Page 38, D-3
Seasonality: Grounds open daily, dawn-dusk; nature center open daily 8am-4:30pm.
Parking: Parking lots
Nearest food & lodging: Waukesha

This 403-acre county property includes oak savanna, oak forest, marsh, fen, streams, ponds, pine plantations, grasslands and restored prairies. The glacial landscape includes a drumlin with commanding views of adjacent drumlins and the stream valley. The center offers 5 miles of trails for hiking, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing. The Adventure Trail is a handicapped accessible paved walkway with 30 interpretive stops highlighting Wisconsin plants and wildlife. You can join a bird hike on Fridays in the spring, or venture out on your own to see many species of birds. The center hosts more than 5,000 students annually through its environmental education program, and sponsors public events throughout the year.

Directions: Located at W284 S1530 Cty DT, 2.5 miles west of Waukesha, midway between Waukesha and Wales, just south of Hwy 18.

More Sources of Tourism Information

County Contacts

These contacts, in each of the thirteen counties in the Southern Savanna region, are ready to help you plan your outdoor adventure. They can suggest accommodations and restaurants, as well as attractions and other historical, cultural and environmental opportunities.

Columbia County Tourism & Economic Development
608/742-6161, 800/842-2524
www.travelcolumbiacounty.net

Portage Area Chamber of Commerce
608/742-6242, 800/474-2525
www.portagewi.com

Greater Madison CVB
608/255-2537, 800/373-6376
www.visitmadison.com

Dodge County Tourism Association
920/386-3701, 800/414-0101
www.dodgecounty.com

Green County Tourism
608/328-1838, 888/222-9111
www.greencounty.org

Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce
608/935-5993, 877/863-6343
www.dodgeville.com

Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce
608/987-3201, 888/764-6894
www.mineralpoint.com

Jefferson County Area Tourism Council
920/563-3210
www.jctourism.com

Lafayette Development Corporation
608/776-8080
www.lafayettecounty.org

Richland Center Area Chamber/Main Street
608/647-6205, 800/422-1318
www.richlandchamber.com

Rock County Tourism Council
608/757-5587, 866/376-8767
www.rockcounty.org

Janesville Area CVB
608/757-3171, 800/487-2757
www.janesvillecvb.com

Beloit CVB
608/365-4838, 800/423-5648
www.visitbeloit.com

Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce
608/356-8333, 800/227-2266
www.baraboo.com

Sauk Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce
608/643-4168, 800/683-2453
www.saukprairie.com

Walworth County Visitor's Bureau
262/723-3980, 800/395-8687
www.visitwalworthcounty.com

Lake Geneva Area CVB
262/248-4416, 800/345-1020
www.lakegenevawi.com

Washington County CVB
262/677-5069, 888/974-8687
www.visitwashingtoncounty.com

Waukesha & Pewaukee CVB
262/542-0330, 800/366-8474
www.visitwaukesha.org

Wisconsin Dells Visitor & Convention Bureau
608/254-4636, 800/223-3557
www.wisdells.com

More Birding Resources

National Audubon Society
800/542-2748
www.audubon.org/states/wi

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge
920/387-2658
www.fws.gov/midwest/Horicon

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
608/266-2621
www.dnr.wi.gov

TravelGreenWisconsin

The success of Wisconsin's tourism industry has been largely dependent upon the quality and diversity of our natural resources – the state's scenic lakes, streams, rivers, forests, prairies, and the wildlife that inhabit them. Understanding this, Wisconsin is committed to preserving this pristine natural product.

Travel Green Wisconsin is a Wisconsin Department of Tourism initiative that encourages tourism operators to reduce their environmental impact. Designed to promote smart, eco-friendly business practices, Travel Green is a win-win concept. Launched in 2006, the program has been embraced by every sector of the state's travel and hospitality industry.

As you travel, look for the Travel Green Wisconsin logo. Businesses displaying the Travel Green certificate demonstrate their commitment to a sustainable Wisconsin tourism industry.

For more information, visit www.travelgreenwisconsin.com

Just a few smiles away.

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism operates eight **Wisconsin Welcome Centers** at major highway entrances to the state. They're great places to stop for maps, travel information, trip planning, brochures and publications, vacation ideas, or just a friendly smile and directions to the nearest restaurant.

Centers distribute free publications that detail Wisconsin accommodations, attractions, events, golfing, camping, biking, birding, state parks, and historic attractions. You can also order these free publications on-line at **www.travelwisconsin.com**, or call toll-free **800/432-8747**.

Bird watchers can pay their way

Through the simple act of buying a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation or "Duck" stamp at your post office, you join conservationists who contribute directly to their hobby of bird watching. Sales of the stamp raise $25 million dollars annually in the US and are sold to conservationists, hunters and stamp collectors. Since 1934, $7 million dollars worth of stamps have been purchased in Wisconsin. Ninety-eight cents from each dollar is used to fund wetland wildlife habitat acquisitions. These waterfowl production areas include Necedah and Horicon National Wildlife Refuges, among others.

Conserve habitat & your hobby...
Buy Duck Stamps

Why are Wisconsin's birds in a precarious position?

Loss of habitat, pollution and global warming all threaten the birds that enhance our quality of life. You can be a part of the solution.

Please make a donation to the Natural Resources Foundation Bird Protection Fund today.

www.wisconservation.org

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin - Call Us Toll-Free at 866-264-4096

Thanks to the Raptor Education Group, Inc., Madison Gas & Electric Foundation and more than 200 other partners for helping us protect Wisconsin's birds!

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www.horiconmarsh.org • 920-387-7860

Horicon Marsh Bird Festival
www.horiconmarshbirdfestival.com • 920-485-2936

Dodge County Tourism Association
www.dodgecounty.com • 800-414-0101

Horicon Chamber
www.horiconchamber.com • 920-485-3200

Horicon Marsh Boat Tours
www.horiconmarshboattours.com • 800-814-4474

From the mossy shadows of Parfrey's Glen to the soaring majesty of Plum Lake Hemlocks, discover the treasures of Wisconsin's prairies, bogs, forests, and fens with this guide to 150 of our finest State Natural Areas. The perfect companion for hikers, birders, and nature lovers, this 184-page, spiral-bound book describes the plants, animals, and natural communities found in these special places. Color maps and detailed driving directions to each site are also included.

Proceeds from the sale of "Wisconsin, naturally" will be used to protect our state's natural heritage for future generations.

To order, please send a check or money order (payable to Endangered Resources Fund-Guidebook) to:

Wisconsin DNR - Guidebook - ER/6
P.O. Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

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For more information visit www.wisconsinbirds.org/trail or travelwisconsin.com