

Tri-State Area

# Birding Guide

2016-2017



# Birds For All Seasons

## Spring

April and May are some of the best times to see songbird migration. Stopping at a boat landing and taking time to scan the treetops can reward a visitor with many species of Warblers. Following the Great River Road on both sides of the river, you will discover one of the many walking trails or decks with spotting scopes to help you view wildlife, but it is always best to bring your own binoculars.

## Summer

In the floodplain forest great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double-Crested Cormorants nest in rookeries. Look for groups of American White Pelicans feeding in formation or soaring over the refuge. The Sora Rail, the laughter of the marsh, is the most common marsh bird. Seldom seen, but often heard, in the early morning or late evening. Eleven species of frogs and toads sing, chirp, and croak from April to August. Listen for them in the evenings at the marsh.

## Spring



## Fall

Fall colors are the backdrop for thousands of waterfowl migrating back to their wintering grounds. Migrating Tundra Swans grace the refuge of the Upper Mississippi fly way through freeze-up. During peak fall migration in late October, watch for hundreds of thousands of Canvasbacks, Common Mergansers, Goldeneyes, Mallards, Shovelers, Blue-Winged Teal, and Coots.

## Summer



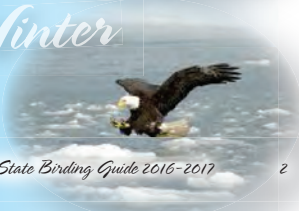
## Winter

Tracks in snow remind you that winter is alive with activity. A track made by otter sliding on the ice or a deer path across the ice are often discovered on a winter outing. Hundreds of wintering Bald Eagles congregate near open water snatching fish with their talons and soaring to the treetops to eat their prey.

## Fall



## Winter



## Meet Your Tri-State Tourism Council

- |                                          |                                                         |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Member                                   | Massbach Ridge Winery                                   |
| Alp & Dell Cheese                        | Mathias Ham House                                       |
| American Lady                            | Mineral Point Chamber of<br>Commerce                    |
| American Trust & Savings Bank            | Mining Museum & Rollo Jamison<br>Museum                 |
| Anton's Saloon                           | Mystique Casino                                         |
| Apple River State Bank                   | National Brewery Museum &<br>Library                    |
| Benvenuto's                              | National Farm Toy Museum                                |
| Blackhawk Waterways CVB                  | National Historic Cheesemaking<br>Center                |
| Breitbach's Country Dining               | National Mississippi River<br>Museum & Aquarium         |
| Brodhead Chamber of Commerce             | National Motorcycle Museum                              |
| Cassville Tourism                        | New Vienna Heritage House<br>Museum                     |
| Catfish Charlies                         | Northwest Territory Historic<br>Center                  |
| Chalet Landhaus                          | Old Blacksmith Shop                                     |
| Chestnut Mountain Resort                 | Pendarvis Historic Site                                 |
| City of Cuba City                        | Platteville Regional Chamber                            |
| Crystal Lake Caves                       | Potosi Brewing Company                                  |
| DeSoto House Hotel                       | Potosi-Tennison Chamber of<br>Commerce                  |
| Diamond Jo Casino                        | Potter's Mill                                           |
| Dickeyville Grotto                       | Rural Route 1 Popcorn                                   |
| Dubuque County Conservation              | Savanna Chamber of Commerce                             |
| Dubuque Harley Davidson                  | Shopping News                                           |
| Dubuque Museum of Art                    | Shullsburg Cheese Store &<br>Brewster House             |
| Dubuque River Rides                      | Sinsinawa Mound                                         |
| Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa                 | State Theatres                                          |
| Family Beer & Liquor                     | Stonefield Historic Site                                |
| Fenelon Place Elevator                   | Telling Our Story at Sinsinawa<br>Mound                 |
| Fennimore                                | TH Media                                                |
| Figge Art Museum                         | The Belvedere Mansion                                   |
| Freeport/Stephenson County CVB           | The Dowling House                                       |
| Fried Green Tomatoes                     | The Great River Road Museum of<br>Contemporary Art      |
| Fulton (Martin House ) Museum            | The Jackson County Historical<br>Society Museum Complex |
| Fulton Tourism                           | Tracing a Journey at Sinsinawa<br>Mound                 |
| Galena & U.S. Grant Museum               | Travel Dubuque                                          |
| Galena Cellars Vineyard & Winery         | TriCor Insurance                                        |
| Galena Gazette                           | Union-Hoermann Press                                    |
| Galena/Jo Daviess CVB                    | University of Wisconsin - Platteville                   |
| German American Heritage<br>Center       | Village of Muscoda                                      |
| Gile Cheese                              | VisitGalena.org                                         |
| Gramercy Park                            | Whispering Bluffs Winery                                |
| Grand Harbor Resort & Waterpark          | Windmill Cultural Center                                |
| Grant County Tourism                     |                                                         |
| Green County Tourism                     |                                                         |
| Green River Guest House                  |                                                         |
| Heritage Canyon                          |                                                         |
| Hidden Valleys of Southwest<br>Wisconsin |                                                         |
| Holiday Inn Dubuque/Galena               |                                                         |
| Holiday Inn Express & Suites             |                                                         |
| Hotel Julien Dubuque                     |                                                         |
| Inspire Café                             |                                                         |
| Lockmaster's House Heritage<br>Museum    |                                                         |

Grant, Iowa, Lafayette  
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The 2016 Tri-State Birding Guide is a product of the Grant, Iowa, Lafayette Shopping News, 11 Means Drive, P.O. Box 500, Platteville, WI 53818, (608) 348-2374 or 1-800-236-2537

# Wisconsin Birding

The Driftless areas ancient landscape of limestone bluffs, the mighty Mississippi, rolling hills, remnant prairies, and savannahs make an ideal habitat for a wide variety of bird species.

## Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area

Location: Highland, WI. Find it 3 miles north of Cobb on Hwy. 80. Then go 2 miles east on County Road BH.

What You Will See: Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area is a 5,038-acre property located in Iowa County. The property is comprised mostly of upland forest, wetlands, farm fields, prairie, lake and abandoned croplands.

Visit [www.blackhawklake.com](http://www.blackhawklake.com)

## Bluebird Nest Nature Center

Location: 308 Main Street, Darlington, WI.

What You Will See: The mission of the Bluebird Nest Nature Center is to provide to the public a facility that serves the purpose of offering educational materials, classes, speakers, and interactive interpretive displays relating to: the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds, threatened and endangered species, the driftless area, and the general fauna and



flora in Southwestern Wisconsin and to stimulate the Center's visitors' interest and interaction in these areas of the natural world. Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information call, (608) 726-2143. Find us on Facebook.

Visit [www.lafayettecountybluebirdsociety.wordpress.com](http://www.lafayettecountybluebirdsociety.wordpress.com)

## Darlington, WI

Darlington has become a hub for birding enthusiasts. In previous years, Darlington has been named the National Blue Bird Capital. The city's proximity to Yellowstone Lake State Park and Blackhawk Memorial Park provides excellent opportunities for short bird watching excursions. Darlington offers lodging and restaurants while watching our feathered friends. Visit [www.darlingtonwi.org](http://www.darlingtonwi.org)

### *The Bluebird Nest Nature Center*

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- Interactive displays
- Cedar nest boxes for sale
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### Contact Information:

[lafayettecountybluebirdsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:lafayettecountybluebirdsociety@yahoo.com)  
or Manager Sue Cashman [jasuca9@gmail.com](mailto:jasuca9@gmail.com)

Visit this website for a program listing:

<http://lafayettecountybluebirdsociety.wordpress.com/>

308 Main Street, Darlington, WI 53530

Mailing address: 9320 Wicks Rd.

Gratiot, WI 53541

### Hours:

Wed., Thur., Fri. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**608-776-2290**

Open by appointment on Saturday

LCBS is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation

*Supported by the*

*Lafayette County Bluebird Society, Inc.*

adno=477579-01



## Fenley Recreation Area



Location: Two miles west of Kieler, WI.

What You Will See: A

287-acre property located in Grant County. The property consists of upland hardwoods and steep bluffs. It overlooks the Mississippi River. This area is good for hiking, wildlife viewing, and bird watching. Fenley State Recreation Area is open year-round from sunrise to sunset daily. The property is closed to visitors after dark. Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)

## Governor Dodge State Park



Location: Dodgeville WI. Take

U.S. Hwy. 18 to Dodgeville, about 48 miles west of Madison, WI. Then go north on State Hwy. 23. The park entrance is on your right about 3 miles north of Hwy. 18.

You also can take the scenic Hwy. 23 south from Spring

Green, or north from Mineral Point to reach the park.

What You Will See: Bird species include: Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Peewee, Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Worm Eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black Billed Cuckoo, Red Headed Woodpecker, Brown Thrasher, Willow Flycatcher, Blue Winged Warbler, Field Sparrow, Henslow Sparrow, Water Fowl, and Migrating Land Birds.

## Millville Unit – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

Location: Find it on County Road C in Millville, WI.

What You Will See: Millville Unit – Lower Wisconsin State Riverway is a 3,625-acre property located in Grant County. The property consists of river, sloughs, prairie, and bottom-land hardwood forest. Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)



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- Picnic Areas
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Hovercrafts
- Swimming

# Wisconsin Birding

## La Riviere Park



Location: Vineyard Coulee Road southeast of Prairie du Chien, WI

What You Will See: Resident warblers include Blue-wings, Ceruleans, Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Wood Thrushes, Rufous-sided Towhee, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Scarlet Tanagers, and Carolina Wrens. On the Toboggan Slope and Dan La Riviere Trails, species such as Lark Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants and

several species of woodpeckers can be seen. A 300 acre city park in its natural setting with native prairie. Provides hiking, nature, bird watching, skiing, riding trails, picnic area, shelter house, and horse camping. Operated by Prairie du Chien Parks Department.

## Prairie du Chien Bald Eagle Appreciation Event

February  
24-25, 2017

Friday Evening  
Programs at local hotels

Saturday  
Programs at Hoffman Hall  
(1600 S. Wacouta Ave)

- Live Bald Eagle & Raptor Programs
- Educational Exhibits
- Birding Experts
- Winter Lodging Specials

*Free event for the family!*

More information:  
1-800-732-1673  
[www.prairieduchien.org](http://www.prairieduchien.org)  
Prairie du Chien Tourism Council

adno=478804-01

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adno=572182A1

**Lawler Park**

Location: West on Blackhawk Avenue, downtown Prairie du Chien

What You Will See: Prime location for viewing Bald Eagles. Riverfront park on St. Feriole Island in Prairie du Chien. The park features the Walk of History, detailing earliest periods of Wisconsin's Second Oldest Community. Named for John Lawler, known for building the pontoon bridge and the city's greatest philanthropist. The park has excellent facilities for family picnics, boat landing, and public restrooms.

**Nelson Dewey State Park**

Location: Hwy. V V, Cassville, WI.

What You Will See: A park with a fascinating past. Nelson Dewey State Park's high bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and native and restored prairies attract varied birds and wildlife. Walk in the hidden valleys or picnic while bird watching.

Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)

**Oakwood Nature Park**

Location: Hwy. 18 East on N. Bronson Blvd., Fennimore, WI. Call 1-800-822-1131.

What You Will See: Ideal habitat for a wide variety of bird species. Forty-five acres and open to the public, 6:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. daily. Native trees and wildlife, more than 3 miles of walking trails, RV park, picnic areas, trees, small game and a free 18 hole disc golf course.

**Potosi Point**

Location: Hwy. 61 to Main Street crossing Hwy. 133 to Potosi Point Road, Potosi, WI.

What You Will See: The Potosi Point is designated a National Wildlife Refuge and is visited annually by 270 species of birds. It is particularly attractive in the spring, when Herons and Egrets can be seen wading in the shallows. During the migration season, in addition to ducks, American Pelican and Swan make use of the marsh area, as they move north or south. Yellow-headed Blackbirds have been spotted and on warm summer evenings, swarms of Bank Swallows can be seen on the horizon as they feed on insects. Source: Travel Wisconsin.com

Visit [www.potosiwisconsin.com](http://www.potosiwisconsin.com)



**Visitor Center/Museum**  
*(Seasonal)*  
**397 W. Seminary Street**  
**Richland Center, WI 53581**  
**(608) 649-DEPOT (3376)**

**City Clerk**  
**(608) 647-3466**

**[www.richlandcenter-tourism.com](http://www.richlandcenter-tourism.com)**

adno=478067-01

# Wisconsin Birding

## Wyalusing State Park

Location: 13801 State Park Lane, Bagley, WI.

What You Will See: You may camp 500 feet above the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers. Wyalusing features Indian burial mounds, hiking trails, a canoe trail, bird watching, boating, bicycling, picnicking, and nature. Wyalusing's 2,628 acres include hardwood forests, pine plantations, bluffs, springs, waterfalls, wetlands, and backwaters. More than 90 bird species live here during the summer, and 100 more can be observed during spring and fall. They include: Wild Turkeys, Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Hawks, Owls, Waterfowl, Woodpeckers, and a variety of Songbirds.

Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)



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**Yellowstone State Park and Trail**

Location: 8495 Lake Road, Blanchardville, WI.

What You Will See: One of few lakes in Southwestern Wisconsin the 450-acre lake is a popular recreation area year-round. The Yellowstone Lake State Park Trail is located on the Blue Ridge Trail in the eastern end of the park. The trail consists of 17 Simple boxes and one Peterson box. The Eastern Bluebird occupies many of the boxes during the nesting season, along with chickadees, wrens and Tree Swallows. The House Sparrow is discouraged from nesting in the boxes because of its tendency to kill the parent bird on the nest and the young. The trail is monitored by members of the Lafayette County Bluebird Society.

Visit [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)



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# Tri-State Tourism Bird Species Checklist...

- |                                                          |                                                   |                                                           |                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher              | <input type="checkbox"/> Cowbird                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellow Legs               | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Winged Blackbird       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher                | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Flicker           | <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ring Billed Gull           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern                | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Moorhen           | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Eared Owl                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Ring Necked Duck           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Coot                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat      | <input type="checkbox"/> Loon                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose Breasted Grosebeak    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Crow                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel               | <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike                | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby Throated Hummingbird  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel                | <input type="checkbox"/> Double-Crested Cormorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart               | <input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker         | <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American White Pelican          | <input type="checkbox"/> Eared Grebe              | <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Breasted Nuthatch      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe           | <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Breasted Grosbeak      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole                | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl      | <input type="checkbox"/> Meadowlark                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Necked Phalarope       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark       | <input type="checkbox"/> Merganser                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ring Billed Gull           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Robin                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Virio                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Peeewe      | <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher               | <input type="checkbox"/> European Starling        | <input type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler                | <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Capped Chickadee          | <input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern           | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite                | <input type="checkbox"/> Scarlett Tanager           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker         | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-Throated<br>Green Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker      | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp Shinned Hawk         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp Tailed Grouse        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler         | <input type="checkbox"/> Finch                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Billed Cuckoo             | <input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Junco                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sora                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Crowned Night Heron       | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge           | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird             | <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Gray Gnatcatcher           | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Winged Teal        | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Rush            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Headed Vireo               | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron         | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Titmouse                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Rough<br>Winged Swallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebird                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret              | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl            | <input type="checkbox"/> Trumpet Swan               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Winged Teal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl         | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler                | <input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Winged Warbler             | <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Lesser Scaup     | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush             | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead Duck                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron              | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Finch               | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Veery                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bobwhite                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Crown Kinglet     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brewer's Blackbird              | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Winged Warbler    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelican                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow      | <input type="checkbox"/> Perigrin Falcon                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown-Headed Cowbird            | <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird             | <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo               | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker              | <input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-whil             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broad Winged Hawk               | <input type="checkbox"/> Gull                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin                      | <input type="checkbox"/> White Eyed Vireo           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Warbler                     | <input type="checkbox"/> White Breasted Nuthatch    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasant                         | <input type="checkbox"/> White Throated Sparrow     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pied Billed Grebe                | <input type="checkbox"/> White Winged Tern          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardinal                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler           | <input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut Sided Warbler          | <input type="checkbox"/> House Finch              | <input type="checkbox"/> Prothonotary Warbler             | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift                   | <input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow                | <input type="checkbox"/> House Wren               | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Eyed Vireo                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay-colored Sparrow            | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting           | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Tailed Hawk                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Worm-eating Warbler        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler         | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Bellied Woodpecker           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Breasted chat       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Gackle                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Breasted Nuthatch            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Billed Cuckoo       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingbird                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Crossbill                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Bellied Sap sucker  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Night Hawk               | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingfisher               | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Eyed Vireo                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Crowned Night Heron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern                     | <input type="checkbox"/> King Rail                | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Headed Woodpecker            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Headed Blackbird    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut Warbler             | <input type="checkbox"/> Kestrel                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Necked Grebe                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Rumped Warbler      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coopers Hawk                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow             | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Shouldered Hawk              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler             |
|                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern            | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Tailed Hawk                  |                                                     |
|                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher         |                                                           |                                                     |

# Eagle Events...

Winter is the ideal time to spot Eagles in the Tri-State area. The Bald Eagle spends some of the coldest months of the year fishing in the open waters beneath dams or where tributaries dump into the Mississippi. Winter comes to life in the Upper Mississippi Valley during events that celebrate the Eagle.



Photo by Mark Van Osdol

## Rural Route 1 POPCORN



**Bus Tours Welcome**  
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## 2016-2017 TRIP TIPS: Eagle-Watching Festivals and Tours

### February 24-25, 2017

**Prairie du Chien Bald Eagle Appreciation Days.** If you enjoy watching Bald Eagles, visiting the Prairie du Chien, WI area is a must! Prairie du Chien is along the migration route and is a normal wintering area for these birds on the Mississippi River Valley. Visit [www.prairieduchien.org](http://www.prairieduchien.org).

### January 14, 2017

**Bald Eagle Watch in Dubuque, IA.** Live-eagle programs and free trolley rides from the Grand River Center downtown to the National Mississippi River Museum and Lock and Dam 11. This is a tentative date, please call 1-800-226-3369 for dates and times. Visit [audubondubuque.org](http://audubondubuque.org)

*\*Numerous locations along the Mississippi in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin sponsor Bald Eagle events in mid to late January. Consult the local Audubon Society and Chamber of Commerce for specific dates and events.*

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### Dickeyville Grotto

This Shrine was built from 1925-1930 with stone, mortar, and bright colored objects from all over the world. Guided tours available and gift shop. Located at 305 W. Main Street, Hwy. 61/35/151, Dickeyville, WI. Call **(608) 568-3119**. Visit [www.dickeyvillegrotto.com](http://www.dickeyvillegrotto.com)

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# Illinois Birding

## Apple River State Park

Location: This state-owned park surrounds the Apple River, having woodland, riparian, and open picnic areas. Trails go through various parts of the park and offer viewings of woodland birds.

What you'll see: Nice spot for spring migrants and wildflowers. This park is about seven miles northwest of Stockton on Canyon Park Road. There are two parking lots, with hiking trails by each.

## Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve



Location: Three miles south of Galena on Pilot Knob Road, Parking lot at site. A property owned by Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

What you'll see: Good birding for spring migrants, nesting Bluebirds, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Baltimore Orioles. A trail system goes through the site to give views of various habitats. A good spot for seeing Bald Eagles, American White Pelicans soaring along the bluffs and river. You can also see migrating Hawks during the fall. This site has prairie re-creations and open woodlands. It sits on a bluff of the Mississippi River.

Visit [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)

## Galena Biking/Walking Trail

Location: Park in the Galena city lot on the east side of the Galena River on Bouthillier Street.

What you'll see: This is an old railroad bed and sits next to the Galena River. A spot especially nice for spring migrants. The trail goes north which ends up at Bueller Reserve owned by the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, which is a recreated wet prairie along the Galena River and offers a interesting birding experience. The trail to the south of the parking lot offers more brushy cover and is nice for spring migrants.

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**Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Recreation Area**



Location: Lena, IL in Stephenson County, just west of Route 73 on Lake Road, the park is six miles south of the Illinois-Wisconsin state line and three miles north of Lena.

What You Will See: Whether you visit for an afternoon or

stay a few days, you will leave Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Recreation Area with many happy memories.

Visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Mississippi Palisades State Park**

Location: Savanna, IL, near the confluence of the Mississippi and Apple Rivers in northwestern Illinois.

What You Will See: This 2,500-acre state park is rich in history. The Native American pathfinders along the rock palisades of the Mississippi River, in coursing the bluffs, they took the paths of least resistance. Walk them and you'll trace the footsteps of nearly a thousand years ago.

Visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

**Tapley Woods**

Location: Galena area-Hanover, IL, Located five miles west of Elizabeth, IL on U.S. Route 20.

What You Will See: Upland forest timber terrain.

**Wards Grover Nature Preserve**

Location: The preserve is one mile south of Rt. 20 on Willow Rd. and three miles east of Stockton. The parking lot is on the east side of the preserve on Willow Rd. This property is owned by IL Department of Natural Resources.

What you'll see: Great for seeing Spring migrants and woodland nesting birds such as Scarlet Tanagers, Ovenbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Black and White Warbler, and Pileated Woodpeckers. There are no trails, so be prepared to push through on your own.



# Iowa Birding

The Driftless areas ancient landscape of limestone bluffs, the mighty Mississippi, rolling hills, remnant prairies, and savannahs make an ideal habitat for a wide variety of bird species.

## **Bellevue State Park**

Location: 24668 U.S. Hwy. 52, Bellevue, Iowa

What You Will See: Four trails provide a variety of hiking opportunities. The Dyas Unit encompasses almost four miles of foot trails, scenic overlooks, and a stream. In winter, Bald Eagles concentrate to feed near the open waters below Lock and Dam 12. Pileated Woodpeckers are occasionally seen in isolated areas. Found along the Mississippi River Bluffs, the park offers good birding, hiking, and sightseeing. Call (563) 872-4019. Visit [www.dnr.iowa.gov](http://www.dnr.iowa.gov)

## **Finley's Landing Park**

Location: Finley's Landing is located 15 miles north of Dubuque off the Great River Road.

What You Will See: The 120 acre area is home to mature upland forests, Mississippi River front, and rugged river bluffs. There are many birds to list; here are just a few highlights: Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Great Egrets, Bald Eagles, White Pelicans, Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Prothonotary Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrushes, and Waterfowls. Scenic views and spectacular birding await those who follow the nature trails at Finley's Landing.

## **Heritage Trail**

Location: Trail that runs from the north end of Dubuque (Heritage Pond on Rupp Hollow Road) to Dyersville.

What You Will See: Birders at the east end of the trail will see Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, Gulls, American Redstarts, Scarlet Tanagers, and Raptors a plenty. As you move west you will notice the ever increasing Warblers, during the summer and the local favorites like the Tufted Titmice, Black-Capped Chickadees, Bald Eagles, American Goldfinches and of course the Barred Owls. The Heritage Trail is a beautiful place to explore, there is no shortage of wildlife to see on this 26 mile gem. Visit [www.trailink.com](http://www.trailink.com)

## **Maquoketa Caves State Park**

Location: 10970 98th Street, Maquoketa, Iowa

What You Will See: Hikers can enjoy the scenery along the six miles of trails. Trail highlights include the dramatic "Natural Bridge" which stands nearly 50 feet above Raccoon Creek, 17-ton "Balanced Rock", and "Dancehall Cave." A trail in the western area of the park takes hikers past a restored prairie, an experimental oak savanna restoration, and a wildlife food plot. Its caves, limestone formations, and rugged bluffs provide visitors a chance to "step back" into geological time thousands of years. Visit [www.dnr.iowa.gov](http://www.dnr.iowa.gov)

### Mines of Spain Recreation Area

Location: 8991 Bellevue Heights, Dubuque, Iowa  
What You Will See: The 1,380 acres that make up the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area include a variety of interesting landforms, plant species and communities, animals and water types. A large portion of the area is rugged, wooded Mississippi River Bluff land. Numerous birding opportunities including Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures, Barred Owls, Great Horned Owls, Eastern Meadow Larks, Bobolinks, and many more species exist in the park. The park has 21 miles of trail going through prairies, wetland, upland and lowland forest and it is adjacent to the Mississippi River.

Visit [www.minesofspain.org](http://www.minesofspain.org)

### Mud Lake Park

Location: Mud Lake Park is located six miles north of Dubuque off Mud Lake Road on Gulf Lake Road.

What You Will See: Mud Lake sits along the banks of the Mississippi River and is home to the Osprey Reintroduction Project. A hacking tower is located in the southern corner of the park and has a webcam during the hacking period. Sandhill Cranes can be seen during the spring months. There are Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, White Pelicans, Great Egrets, Swallows, Shorebirds, and Waterfowl. Large birds of prey and many song birds utilize this park for habitat.

Visit [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)



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# Iowa Birding

## Swiss Valley Nature Preserve



Location: 13606 Swiss Valley Road. Two miles off of Hwy 20, 4.5 miles southwest of Dubuque in Peosta, IA.

What You Will See: A 476 acre preserve with 10 miles of hiking trails through oak/hickory forests, maple/basswood forests, prairies, wetland areas, and a creek meanders through the valley. Birding is one of the most popular activities for visitors to the preserve. Birds to be seen: Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Common Yellowthroats, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Kingfishers, Wood Ducks, Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, Barred Owls, and many more. Swiss Valley is your year round birding headquarters!

**Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area**

Location: From Dubuque, take US 151 South about 10 miles. Just past the junction with Dubuque County Y21 take the first left onto Curoe Road. There is a brown Whitewater Canyon sign before the turn. Follow the signs to the end of the black-top. Turn right and follow the lane to the parking lot.

What You Will See: Whitewater is a birder's paradise. It offers steep bluff lands, Whitewater Creek, prairie, oak/hickory forests, and scenic cavernous valleys, all of which mean diversity of species. For those who love a great Raptor sighting, Whitewater has boasted: Northern Harriers, Rough-Legged Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, American Kestrels, Cooper's Hawks, Short-Eared Owls, and Barred Owls. There are game birds galore: Turkeys, Pheasants, Quail, and Ruffed Grouse. Whitewater is also home to some very rare winged friends: Bobolinks, Henslow Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Cerulean Warblers, Dickcissles, Scarlet Tanagers, Acadian Flycatchers and much, much more!

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## Yellow River Forest



Location: 729 State Forest Road, Harper's Ferry, IA.

What You Will See: Yellow River Forest is home to many species of wildlife who live in its various habitats.

The forest has many good opportunities for bird watchers to pursue their interests. Many ducks, wading birds, and other marsh dwelling birds occupy the marshes and beaver ponds on Little Paint Creek. Bald Eagles may be seen at any time on the forest and surrounding environments. A threatened and endangered bird of the forest is the Red-Shouldered Hawk.

Visit [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)

Iowa

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— John Muir

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