

# Birds of the Upper Mississippi River

## Follow the Great River Road to Great Birding!

Imagine how the bird habitat and bird life along the Mississippi River must change as the river changes from a small stream running through the pine forests of northern Minnesota, then through what was once tall-grass prairie and oak savanna of central Minnesota. Then it changes again as it cuts through the blufflands of southern Minnesota, northeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin and northwest Illinois. Finally, the river habitat and bird life reflects the big, wide river of southern Illinois and Missouri, where the Missouri and Illinois rivers join in.

You can now take a self-guided birding tour on the northernmost reaches of what is likely one of America's longest birding trails. The "Great River Birding Trail" parallels both sides of the Mississippi River from the headwaters, down 1,366 miles to the confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois. The trail is named after the already well known federally-designated scenic drive called the Great River Road that goes from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

## The Upper Mississippi River: A Globally Important Bird Area and Migratory "Flyway" for Birds

The mighty Mississippi flows though the heart of our nation. It draws millions of visitors each year from all over the world, who come to experience the mystery and magnificence of this old river valley, rich in history, culture, habitat, and recreation. But they aren't the only visitors passing through – 40% of all North American waterfowl use the river as a migratory flyway, and 326 bird species (35% or about 1/3 of all species in North America) use the river corridor as a globally important flyway in their spring and fall migrations.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge stretches southward for 261 miles along the Mississippi River from just above Wabasha, Minnesota, nearly to Rock Island, Illinois. This refuge and the entire Upper Mississippi River offer fabulous opportunities for birding among extensive marshlands, wooded bottom lands, open water, sand prairie, and wooded bluffs.

The river environment serves as a migration corridor not only for waterfowl, but also for numerous other birds such as raptors, shorebirds, and neo-tropical migratory songbirds. In the spring and summer, the river provides important nesting habitat for many species. Even in the coldest months, the area serves as a wintering ground for northern bird populations, in addition to year-round residents.

## Success Stories

Conservation and reintroduction efforts have benefited several bird species in the Upper Mississippi River. The Bald Eagle is one of the greatest success stories in the recovery of an endangered species. While a few hundred eagles used to winter along the Mississippi River, there are now thousands. Peregrine Falcons, once extirpated from their entire eastern range the U.S., have been successfully reintroduced and now nest on cliffs, towers, and bridges along the river. They were recently removed from the endangered species list, but are still endangered in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Red-shouldered Hawks nest in large tracts of mature or medium-aged, floodplain forests along the Mississippi River. Their diet varies but includes frogs, crayfish, salamanders, snakes, small mammals, and birds. They are listed as endangered in Iowa and Illinois, and a species of concern or threatened in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Red-shoulders are still uncommon in many parts of the Upper Mississippi River, but research has indicated relatively stable populations between McGregor, IA and Cassville, WI, and on the Illinois side from East Dubuque to Savanna, IL.

## Species of Concern

Neo-tropical migrants such as the Cerulean Warbler and the Prothonotary Warbler breed along the Upper Mississippi River while wintering in more suitable climates such as Central America and the northern rim of South America. Populations for both of these warblers have been in decline, but are still common along the Upper Mississippi. Red-headed Woodpeckers bore nest cavities in dead trees, fence posts, or utility poles in open woods, savannas, farmlands, and bottomlands. They feed on acorns, nuts, and berries, storing them in caches they defend vigorously. This widespread and common woodpecker's numbers have declined in the past decade due to loss of woodlands and competition with the European Starling. The Upper Mississippi River area is an important refuge for these and other bird species of concern.

## Connecting People to the Mississippi River

The Great River Birding Trail was developed to help educate citizens about the ecological significance of the Upper Mississippi River as an important flyway for birds and to encourage citizens to explore the Upper Mississippi River region through a form of hands-on, low-impact, and non-consumptive recreation. The Great River Birding Trail is a project of the Audubon - Upper Mississippi River Campaign. To learn more about the Audubon - Upper Mississippi River Campaign and the Great River Birding Trail, go [www.audubon.org/campaign/umr](http://www.audubon.org/campaign/umr).

## IBA's Take Flight: Identifying and Conserving Essential Habitat for Birds

Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are defined as sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of birds that are a high priority within a state, such as birds that are threatened, endangered, or have been in population decline. The IBA Program helps birds by setting science-based priorities for habitat conservation and promoting positive action to safeguard vital bird habitats. In 1995, Audubon launched an IBA initiative in the United States, working to establish IBA programs in all 50 states. IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds, and are selected using standardized, science-based criteria. You can help identify and conserve Important Bird Areas in your state or region. For more information on the Audubon IBA Program, go to: [www.audubon.org/bird/iba/](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/). This site includes the addresses of state IBA coordinators as well as information about many other Audubon bird conservation projects.

## Birds of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge Checklist

Provided below is a checklist highlighting the 302 species of birds that can be found within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge. It is not a comprehensive checklist for the entire Upper Mississippi River. Be sure to bring a birding book along for reference, or contact the state Department of Natural Resources or state Ornithological Union for a more specific birding list to the region you are visiting. Season, abundance and nesting status for each bird's suitable habitat along the Mississippi River corridor are coded as follows:

Season:	Abundance and Nesting Status:
Spring – March through May	A – abundant
Summer – June through August	C – common
Fall – September through November	U – uncommon
Winter – December through February	R – rare
	* – Nests on the refuge

Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W	Common Name	Sp	Su	F	W
Common Loon	u		u		Herring Gull		c	u	c	u	Blackpoll Warbler		c	c
Horned Grebe		u	u		Glaucous Gull		r		r	Cerulean Warbler*		u	u	
Pied-billed Grebe*		c	c	c	Caspian Tern		u	u	u	Black-and-white Warbler		c		c
Red-necked Grebe		r		r	Common Tern		u	u	u	American Redstart*		a	a	c
American White Pelican		c	u	c	Forster's Tern*		c	u	u	Prothonotary Warbler*		c	c	c
Double-crested Cormorant*		c	c	c	Black Tern*		c	c	u	Ovenbird*		c	u	u
American Bittern*		u	u	u	Rock Dove*		c	c	c	Northern Waterthrush		c	u	c
Least Bittern*		u	u	u	Mourning Dove*		c	c	u	Louisiana Waterthrush		u	u	u
Great Blue Heron*		a	a	a	Black-billed Cuckoo*		u	c	c	Kentucky Warbler*		r	r	
Great Egret*		a	c	a	Yellow-billed Cuckoo*		c	c	u	Connecticut Warbler		r		r
Snowy Egret		r	r	r	Eastern Screech-Owl*		u	u	u	Mourning Warbler		r	r	u
Little Blue Heron			u		Great Horned Owl*		c	c	c	Common Yellowthroat*		a	a	c
Cattle Egret		u	r	u	Snowy Owl		r		r	Hooded Warbler		r	r	
Green Heron*		c	c	c	Barred Owl*		c	c	c	Wilson's Warbler		u	u	u
Black-crowned Night-Heron*		u	u	r	Long-eared Owl*		u	r	u	Canada Warbler		r		u
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*		u	r	u	Short-eared Owl		u	u	u	Yellow-breasted Chat*		r	r	u
Tundra Swan		a	a	u	Northern Saw-whet Owl*		u	u	u	Scarlet Tanager*		c	u	u
Trumpeter Swan		r	r	r	Common Nighthawk*		c	u	u	Northern Cardinal*		a	a	c
Mute Swan		r	r	r	Whip-poor-will*		u	u	u	Rose-breasted Grosbeak*		c	c	c
Greater White-fronted Goose		r		r	Chimney Swift*		c	c	u	Indigo Bunting*		c	c	c
Snow Goose		u		u	Rudy-throated Hummingbird*		u	c	u	Dickcissel*		c	c	c
Canada Goose*		a	c	a	Belted Kingfisher*		c	c	u	Eastern Towhee*		u	u	u
Wood Duck*		a	c	a	Red-headed Woodpecker*		u	u	u	American Tree Sparrow		c	a	a
Green-winged Teal		c	r	c	Red-bellied Woodpecker*		c	c	c	Chipping Sparrow*		a	c	a
American Black Duck*		c	u	c	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*		c	c	c	Clay-colored Sparrow		u	u	u
Mallard*		a	c	a	Downy Woodpecker*		c	c	c	Field Sparrow*		u	c	c
Northern Pintail		c	r	c	Hairy Woodpecker*		c	c	c	Vesper Sparrow*		u	u	u
Blue-winged Teal*		a	c	a	Northern Flicker*		c	c	c	Lark Sparrow*		u	u	u
Northern Shoveler		c	u	c	Pileated Woodpecker*		u	u	u	Savannah Sparrow*		u	u	u
Gadwall		c	u	a	Olive-sided Flycatcher		r	u	u	Grasshopper Sparrow*		c	c	u
American Wigeon		a	u	a	Eastern Wood Pewee*		c	c	c	Henslow's Sparrow*		r	r	
Canvasback		a	r	a	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		r	r	r	Le Conte's Sparrow		r	r	r
Redhead		c	r	c	Acadian Flycatcher*		r	r	r	Fox Sparrow		c	c	c
Ring-necked Duck		a	r	a	Alder Flycatcher		r	r		Song Sparrow*		a	a	u
Greater Scaup		u	u	u	Willow Flycatcher*		u	u	u	Lincoln's Sparrow		u	c	u
Lesser Scaup		a	r	a	Least Flycatcher*		c	c	c	Swamp Sparrow*		c	c	c
Oldsquaw		r			Eastern Phoebe*		c	u	c	White-throated Sparrow		c	c	r
Black Scoter		r	r	r	Great Crested Flycatcher*		c	a	u	White-crowned Sparrow		u	u	u
White-winged Scoter		r	u	r	Eastern Kingbird*		c	c	u	Harris Sparrow		u	u	r
Common Goldeneye		a	a	c	Horned Lark*		r	r	u	Dark-eyed Junco		a	a	a
Bufflehead		c	a	r	Purple Martin*		u	u	u	Lapland Longspur		r	r	r
Hooded Merganser*		c	c	c	Tree Swallow*		a	a	c	Snow Bunting		r	r	u
Common Merganser		r	r	c	Northern Rough-winged Swallow*		c	c	u	Bobolink*		u	u	u
Red-breasted Merganser		c	u	u	Bank Swallow*		c	u	u	Red-winged Blackbird*		a	a	u
Ruddy Duck		c	r	c	Cliff Swallow*		u	u	u	Eastern Meadowlark*		c	c	u
Turkey Vulture		c	c	c	Barn Swallow*		c	c	c	Western Meadowlark*		r	r	r
Osprey*		u	u	c	Blue Jay*		a	a	a	Yellow-headed Blackbird*		u	u	u
Bald Eagle*		c	c	a	American Crow*		a	a	c	Rusty Blackbird		c	c	u
Northern Harrier*		u	u	u	Black-capped Chickadee*		c	c	c	Brewer's Blackbird*		u	u	r
Sharp-shinned Hawk		c	u	a	Tufted Titmouse*		u	u	u	Common Grackle*		a	a	u
Cooper's Hawk*		u	u	c	Red-breasted Nuthatch		u	u	u	Brown-headed Cowbird*		a	a	r
Northern Goshawk		u	u	r	White-breasted Nuthatch*		c	c	c	Orchard Oriole*		u	u	u
Red-shouldered Hawk*		u	u	r	Brown creeper*		c	u	u	Baltimore Oriole*		c	a	
Broad-winged Hawk*		c	u	a	Carolina Wren*		r	r	r	Pine Grosbeak		r	r	
Swainson's Hawk			r		Bewick's Wren		r		r	Purple Finch		u	u	u
Red-tailed Hawk		c	c	a	House Wren*		a	a	c	House Finch*		c	c	c
Rough-legged Hawk		u	u	u	Winter Wren*		u	u	r	Red Crossbill		r	r	r
Golden Eagle		r	u	r	Sedge Wren*		u	u	u	White-winged Crossbill		r	r	
American Kestrel*		c	c	u	Marsh Wren*		c	c	c	Common Redpoll		u	u	u
Merlin		u	u	u	Golden-crowned Kinglet		u	u	r	Hoary Redpoll				r
Peregrine Falcon		u	u	u	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		c	c	c	Pine Siskin		u	u	u
Gray Partridge*		u	u	u	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*		c	c	u	American Goldfinch*		a	a	c
Ring-necked Pheasant*		u	u	u	Eastern Bluebird*		c	c	c	Evening Grosbeak				r
Ruffed Grouse*		c	c	c	Veery*		u	r	u	House Sparrow*		a	a	a
Wild Turkey*		u	u	u	Gray-cheeked Thrush		c		u					
Northern Bobwhite*		u	u	u	Swainson's Thrush		u		u					
King Rail*		r	r		Hermit Thrush		u		u					
Virginia Rail*		c	c	c	Wood Thrush*		c	u	u					
Sora*		c	c	u	American Robin*		a	a	a					
Common Moorhen*		u	u	u	Gray Catbird*		c	c	c					
American Coot*		a	r	a	Northern Mockingbird		r	u	r					
Sandhill Crane*		u	u	u	Brown Thrasher*		c	c	c					
Black-bellied Plover		u	u	u	American Pipit		r	r						
Am. Golden-Plover		u	u	u	Bohemian Waxwing				r					
Semipalmated Plover		u	u	u	Cedar Waxwing*		c	c	c					
Killdeer*		c	c	c	Northern Shrike		u	u	u					
American Avocet		r	r	r	Loggerhead Shrike*		r	r	r					
Greater Yellowlegs		u	u	u	European Starling*		a	a	a					
Lesser Yellowlegs		c	c	c	White-eyed Vireo		r	r						
Solitary Sandpiper		u	u	u	Bell's Vireo*		u	u	u					
Willet		c	c	c	Blue-headed Vireo		u	u	u					
Spotted Sandpiper*		c	c	c	Yellow-throated Vireo*		u	u	u					
Upland Sandpiper*		r	r		Warbling Vireo*		a	a	a					
Hudsonian Godwit		r			Philadelphia Vireo		u	u	u					
Marbled Godwit		r			Red-eyed Vireo*		a	a	a					
Ruddy Turnstone		u	r	w	Blue-winged Warbler*		u	u						
Sanderling		u	u	u	Golden-winged Warbler		u	u	u					
Semipalmated Sandpiper		c	c	c	Tennessee Warbler		c	c						
Least Sandpiper		c	c	c	Orange-crowned Warbler		r	u						
White-rumped Sandpiper		u	u	u	Nashville Warbler		c	c						
Baird's Sandpiper		r			Northern Parula		r	u						
Pectoral Sandpiper		c	c	c	Yellow Warbler*		a	a	u					
Dunlin		u	u	u	Yellow-throated Warbler*		r	r						
Stilt Sandpiper		u	u	u	Chestnut-sided Warbler		c	u						
Short-billed Dowitcher		u	u	u	Magnolia Warbler		c	u						
Long-billed Dowitcher		u		r	Cape May Warbler		u	u						
Common Snipe		c	u	c	Black-throated Blue Warbler		r	r						
American Woodcock*		u	u	u	Yellow-rumped Warbler		a	a						
Wilson's Phalarope		u	u	r	Black-throated Green Warbler		u	u						
Red-necked Phalarope		r			Blackburnian Warbler		c	c						
Franklin's Gull		u	u		Pine Warbler		r	u						
Bonaparte's Gull		u	u		Palm Warbler		c	c						
Ring-billed Gull		c	c	c	Bay-breasted Warbler		r							

### American Birding Association Code of Ethics

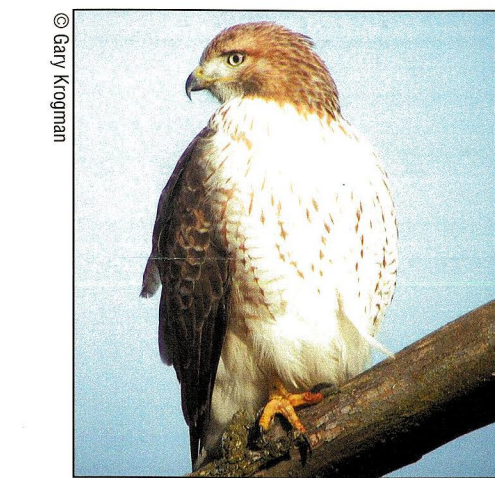
- Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.**
  - Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
  - Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
  - Use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds sparingly.
  - Keep an appropriate distance from nest and nesting colonies.
  - Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.
- Birders should do their best to not cause harm to the natural environment.**
  - Whenever possible, stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways to avoid disturbing fragile habitat. Leave all habitat as found.
- Birders must always respect the right of others.**
  - Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
  - Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
  - Practice common courtesy in contacts with others.
  - Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.



Cerulean Warbler



Bald Eagle



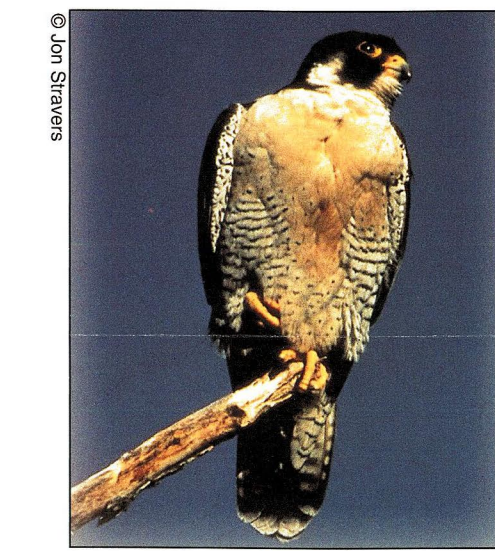
Red-tailed Hawk



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Vesper Sparrow



Peregrine Falcon



Trumpeter Swans



Follow the Great River Road to Great Birding Along the Upper Mississippi River





# Great River Birding Trail

Prairie du Chien, Wis., Map — from New Albin, Iowa, to Sageville, Iowa (River Mile 674 to 586)

## 1. Minnesota/Iowa State Line Marker

**Where:** Hwy. 26 at the State Line area on the north edge of New Albin.

**Birds:** Eastern Bluebirds and waterfowl during spring migration with a Sandhill Crane and Bald Eagle nesting area to the east. Drive about 300 yards straight east by crossing the railroad tracks via a gravel road (just to the north).

## 2. Pool Slough Access

**Where:** About 0.3 of a mile south of the state-line marker on Hwy. 26 turn east on the street across from the new Community Center. Continue east through town on Elm St. to Army Rd., which will take you onto the Mississippi River floodplain.

**Birds:** Marsh Wrens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Prothonotary Warblers, Rails, wading birds, waterfowl, shorebirds and a variety of passerines. Warblers and sparrows frequent the shrub areas, and both Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls utilize the grasslands. Look for Sandhill Cranes in the area 0.2 of a mile east of New Albin. Bald Eagles have nested north of this road. Rough-legged Hawks in winter, Ospreys during warmer months and Red-tailed Hawks in any season.

## 3. Bakewell's Pond

**Where:** One mile south of Blackhawk Point on Hwy. 26. **Birds:** Waterfowl during migration, Sandhill Cranes, egrets, Bald Eagles, Nesting Moorhens and a large nesting colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

**Note:** Off-highway parking is safest at the far south end of the marsh, on the east side of highway.

## 4. Fish Farm Mounds State Preserve

**Where:** Go 1.3 miles south of Blackhawk Point on Hwy. 26. **Birds:** American Woodcocks during spring, Whip-poor-wills, Barred and Great-horned Owls, Wild Turkeys, a variety of warblers, vireos and other song birds.

**Note:** Indian Burial Mounds from the Oncoata Culture and unique mosses, lichens and wildflowers. IDNR area, 576 acres.

## 5. Lansing Wildlife Management Area

**Where:** Four miles north of Lansing follow Spring Valley Rd. to west, use small road to left at 0.25 mile, or continue to parking lot at the top of the hill.

**Birds:** Thrushes, flycatchers, warblers and vireos.

**Note:** Iowa DNR, 1,955 acres.

## 6. Mt. Hosmer City Park

**Where:** In Lansing on Main St., 4 blocks west of the main intersection in town. Turn north on 6th St.

**Birds:** Warblers, vireos and thrushes.

**Note:** A great view of the river, open April to October.

## 7. Columbus Road & Village Creek Loop

**Where:** West on Cty. X42 for 2.5 miles until you cross Village Creek, then turn left (east) on Columbus Rd. and follow Village Creek back to Cty. X52.

**Birds:** Belted Kingfishers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, woodpeckers, warblers, flycatchers and other song birds.

## 8. Alliant Power Plant

**Where:** Two miles south of Lansing on Cty. X52.

**Birds:** A Peregrine Falcon nest box is attached to the bluff just south of the power plant. Birds can be seen in the spring and summer. During the winter, Bald Eagles and waterfowl utilize the warm water discharge near the highway, on the north side of the power plant.

## 9. Lafayette Ridge Road

**Where:** Approximately 4.5 miles south of Lansing on Cty. X52.

Turn east on the gravel road and stay right at the fork at about 1.8 miles and continue to River View Rd., which parallels the Mississippi, then dead ends.

**Birds:** Great view of the river and islands constructed to provide resting areas for White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, gulls and other birds. Tundra Swans, Canvasbacks and other diving ducks in November.

## 10. Wexford Creek

**Where:** Off of Cty. X52, north of Harpers Ferry.

**Birds:** A trout stream where Orchard Orioles are usually found.

**11. Yellow River State Forest**  
**Where:** Several entrances. One is approximately 0.3 of a mile south of the Paint Creek bridge on Hwy. 364. Turn right onto a gravel road. Another entrance is north off of Hwy. 76, approximately 5 miles west of the intersection with Hwy. 364.

**Birds:** Excellent variety of songbirds, Whip-poor-wills, American Woodcocks and woodpeckers. Good area for nesting hawks and owls.

**Note:** Administered by the IDNR. For maps and information on camping, hiking, etc., phone (563) 586-2548. Several thousand acres of hardwood timber, blufftop vistas and trout streams.

**12. Noble's Island**  
**Where:** Go 2.3 miles south of Harpers Ferry on Hwy. 364.

**Birds:** Shorebirds may be on the mudflats and herons and egrets in the shallows. Turkey Vultures roost and nest on this bluff.

## 13. Railroad Trail - Paint Creek Unit, Yellow River Forest

**Where:** At Waukon Junction on the north side of the bridge, a nice walking trail maintained by the IDNR leads to the west. Park just off Hwy. 364 and hike upstream (west) to enjoy a trail that was once a thriving railroad.

**Birds:** Red-shouldered Hawks, Northern and Louisiana Water Thrushes, Prothonotary Warblers and a variety of other songbirds.

## 14. Effigy Mounds National Monument

**Where:** Two miles north of Marquette on Hwy. 76.

**Birds:** Excellent birding for warblers, vireos and other forest birds. Waterfowl can be found in the backwater ponds.

**Note:** Special events include HawkWatch Weekend in late September. Call (563) 873-3491 for information.

## 15. Pike's Peak State Park

**Where:** One mile south of McGregor on Cty. X56.

**Birds:** Broad-winged Hawks, Barred Owls, Bald Eagles, American Redstarts and a variety of woodpeckers, vireos, warblers and thrushes.

**Note:** One of the best views of the Mississippi River and a boardwalk trail that leads to a waterfall.

## 16. Sny Magill Unit, Effigy Mounds Nat. Monument

**Where:** Two miles south of Pike's Peak.

**Birds:** Red-shouldered Hawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Prothonotary Warblers and American Redstarts.

**Note:** Native American burial mounds within the Sny Magill Unit.

## 17. Turkey River Mounds State Preserve

**Where:** Turn east on gravel road 1 mile north of Millville and 0.4 miles north of the Turkey River.

**Birds:** Vireos, warblers and a variety of songbirds.

**Note:** A steep hike and an excellent view of the Mississippi River.

## 18. White Pine Hollow State Preserve

**Where:** Two entrances, one west of Hwy. 52 and one north of Hwy. 3.

**Birds:** Pileated Woodpeckers, Cooper's Hawks, Wood Thrushes, Ovenbirds, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler, Winter Wren, Ruffed Grouse and an excellent variety of warblers, vireos and other songbirds.

## 19. Blackhawk Memorial Park

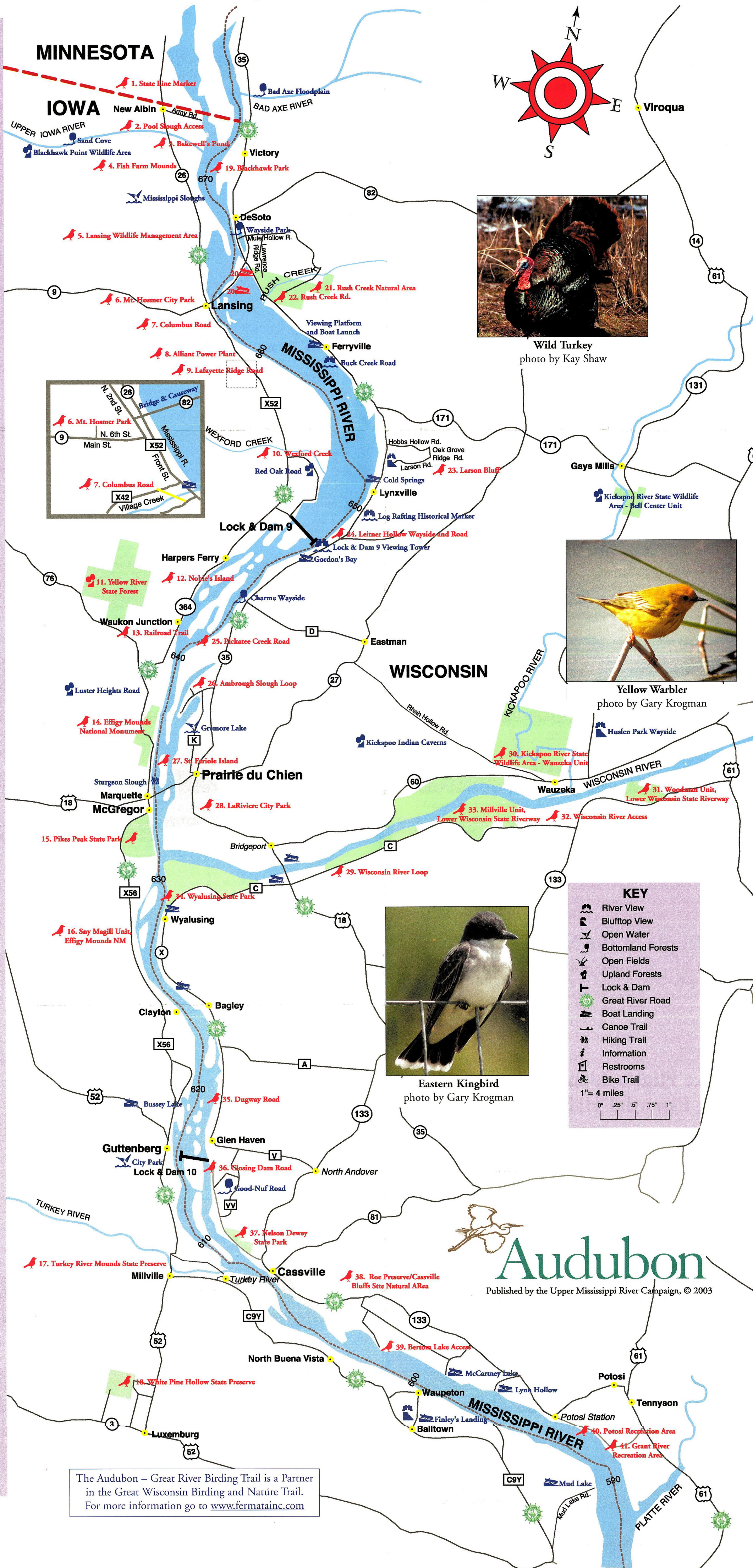
**Where:** One mile south of the town of Victory. Turn off of Hwy 35.

**Birds:** Prothonotary Warblers, American Redstarts, Warbling Vireos, Tree Swallows, Great Blue Herons, Egrets, Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfishers and migrating waterfowl.

## 20. Highway 35 & 82 Bridge and Causeway

**Where:** Two landings between bridge spans just east of Lansing.

**Birds:** Heron rookery just south of the highway, also Bald Eagles, warblers, vireos and water birds.



Wild Turkey  
photo by Kay Shaw



Yellow Warbler  
photo by Gary Krogman



Eastern Kingbird  
photo by Gary Krogman

KEY	
	River View
	Blufftop View
	Open Water
	Bottomland Forests
	Open Fields
	Upland Forests
	Lock & Dam
	Boat Landing
	Canoe Trail
	Hiking Trail
	Information
	Restrooms
	Bike Trail
1" = 4 miles	

Audubon  
Published by the Upper Mississippi River Campaign, © 2003

## 21. Rush Creek State Natural Area

**Where:** Two miles south of the intersection of 35 and 82 and 2.4 miles north of Ferryville.

**Birds:** Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Ruffed Grouse, Scarlet Tanagers, warblers, thrushes and vireos. A strenuous hike leads to the blufftop prairie, which affords excellent views of migrating raptors and the Mississippi River.

## 22. Rush Creek Road - Upper Unit

**Where:** East on Rush Creek Rd. (gravel) 2.5 miles south of the Hwy. 35/82 bridge and 1.7 miles north of Ferryville, with several parking spots along the road.

**Birds:** Waterfowl, marsh birds, Common Yellowthroats, swallows, Belted Kingfishers, warblers, thrushes and vireos.

## 23. Larson Bluff Loop

**Where:** East on Hobbs Hollow Rd., go to the hilltop, turn right on Oak Grove Ridge Rd., drive 0.5 of a mile, turn right on Lucky Ln., go to the end of the road for a spectacular view of Pool 9 from the blufftop.

**Birds:** Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds, Meadowlarks and Wild Turkeys.

**Note:** The land along the road is privately owned.

## 24. Leitner Hollow Road

**Where:** Two miles south of Lynxville and north of Lock & Dam 9.

**Birds:** Wild Turkey, Eastern Bluebird, cuckoos, warblers, vireos and an excellent variety of woodland birds.

**Note:** This narrow, 2-mile, dead-end road is not recommended for winter travel, but excellent for walking.

## 25. Picatee Creek Road and Hwy 35

**Where:** Picatee Creek Rd. is approximately 5 miles north of Prairie du Chien on Hwy. 35. Cross the railroad tracks (fast trains, double tracks) and follow the paths.

**Birds:** Waterfowl during spring migration, Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Swamp Sparrows and Red-shouldered Hawks.

## 26. Ambrough Slough Loop

**Where:** North on Cty. K then follow Ambrough Rd. along sloughs and backwaters for 2 miles.

**Birds:** In spring, migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, Sandhill Cranes, Egrets, herons, Pileated Woodpeckers, American Redstarts, Prothonotary Warblers and Warbling Vireos.

## 27. St. Feriolo Island

**Where:** West of downtown Prairie du Chien, on Blackhawk Ave.

**Birds:** Warblers, Snow Buntings in winter, vireos, gulls, shorebirds, Wood Ducks, Bald Eagles, Great Blue Herons and Savannah Sparrows.

## 28. LaRiviere City Park

**Where:** At the south edge of Prairie du Chien turn east on Vineyard Rd. (across from Walmart) and go 1 mile.

**Birds:** Resident warblers include Blue-wings, Ceruleans, Common Yellowthroats, Ovenbirds and American Redstarts. Also Wood Thrushes, Rufous-sided Towhees, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Scarlet Tanagers and Carolina Wrens. On Toboggan Slope and Dan LaRiviere Trails look for species such as: Lark Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Wild Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, Ring-necked Pheasants and several species of woodpeckers.

## 29. Wisconsin River Loop

**Where:** Begin at the intersection of Hwys. 18 and 60, 4 miles southeast of Prairie du Chien and continue east to Boscobel and return west and south on Hwy. 133 and Cty. C.

**Birds:** Excellent variety of wetland and upland habitats, egrets, Bald Eagles, songbirds, rails, herons, waterfowl and shorebirds (depending on the water levels and season).

## 30. Kickapoo River State Wildlife Area, Wauzeka Unit

**Where:** East and north of Wauzeka along Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 131.

**Birds:** Waterfowl, herons, egrets, warblers, vireos, thrushes and woodpeckers.

**Note:** 1,900 acres.

## 31. Woodman Unit, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

**Where:** North and east of Woodman.

**Birds:** Watch for Great Egrets, waterfowl, Grasshopper Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Black-billed Cuckoos, Tree Swallows, Catbirds and a good variety of other songbirds.

**Note:** Oxbows, native grass, pine plantations and reconstructed prairie.

## 32. Wisconsin River Access

**Where:** Go 2.3 miles west of Woodman on Hwy. 133.

**Birds:** American Redstarts and Tree Swallows.

## 33. Millville Unit, Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

**Where:** Three miles west of Hwy. 133 on Cty. C.

**Birds:** Songbirds, grassland birds, Catbirds, Rufous-sided Towhees, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Dickcissels and Wild Turkeys.

**Note:** 3,500 acres.

## 34. Wyalusing State Park

**Where:** Five miles west of Hwy. 18 on Cty. C and X.

**Birds:** Perhaps the best place in Wisconsin for Kentucky, Cerulean and Yellow-throated Warblers. Also Prothonotary Warblers, Bell's Vireos, Henslow's Sparrows, Wild Turkeys, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles.

**Note:** Vehicle admission sticker required. Stop at the park office for current birding information and directions to the Passenger Pigeon Monument. This park overlooks the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers through a variety of habitats.

## 35. Dugway Road

**Where:** On Cty. A, 2 miles south of Bagley, turn south on Dugway Rd. and follow it to Glen Haven.

**Birds:** Several good views of the river, including active Bald Eagle nests, waterfowl and herons.

**Note:** Not a good road for wide or tall vehicles.

## 36. Closing Dam Road

**Where:** West off of Cty. VV.

**Birds:** Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Prothonotary Warblers, Warbling Vireos, Pileated Woodpeckers and a variety of other songbirds and waterfowl during fall, winter and spring. Excellent site for spring warblers.

## 37. Nelson Dewey State Park

**Where:** Go 1.5 miles north of Cassville on Cty. VV.

**Birds:** Wide variety of warblers, vireos and other songbirds, with raptors during fall migration and Bald Eagles year round, but especially in winter.

**Note:** Vehicle admission sticker required.

## 38. Roe Preserve/Cassville Bluffs State Natural Area

**Where:** Located at the end of Sand Lake Road south of Cassville. Go south on Hwy 133, about two miles. Turn right onto Sandlake Rd and drive to the end at the gate. Park along the east side of Sandlake Rd.

**Birds:** Wide variety of warblers such as Nashville, Tennessee, Yellow-rumped, Magnolia, Cape May, Blue-winged and Golden-winged warbler; and several types of raptors, and bald eagles.

**Note:** Be aware that this preserve is actively hunted throughout the year (turkey, small game, deer) and is closed to hiking during gun deer season (usually late November/early December).

## 39. Bertom Lake Access

**Where:** South on Far Nuff Rd. off Hwy. 133, 3.5 miles east of Cassville.

**Birds:** American Redstarts, Warbling Vireos, Red-shouldered Hawks, Bald Eagles, waterfowl, warblers, vireos and other songbirds.

## 40. Potosi Recreation Area

**Where:** One mile south of Potosi, just off Hwy. 133.

**Birds:** Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, American Redstarts, shorebirds and waterfowl during migration.

## 41. Grant River Recreation Area

**Where:** Two miles east of Potosi along county river road.

**Birds:** Waterfowl during migration, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Baltimore Orioles and vireos.

The Audubon - Great River Birding Trail is a Partner in the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. For more information go to [www.fermatainc.com](http://www.fermatainc.com)