

THE CHICAGO REGION

BIRDING TRAIL GUIDE



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Photography by
Jerry Kumery.

Top left: Prothonotary
Warbler, Bottom left:
Northern Saw-whet
Owl, Bottom right:
Scarlet Tanager



ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.

WELCOME



Welcome to the Chicago Region Birding Trail

The Chicago region is one of the country's premier inland birding locations. Our climate and topography allow for a wide range of habitat types, from extensive grasslands to forests to marshes and lakes. The region's proximity to the southern end of Lake Michigan, the Chicago River and large amounts of protected land in public ownership allow easy access for birders.

As stewards of our natural environment, the City of Chicago is pleased to share this guide with residents and visitors. We hope that you enjoy good birding on the region's public lands.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Daley".

Richard M. Daley, Mayor
City of Chicago

To help make birding experiences in the Chicago area rewarding for you, we offer the following suggestions:

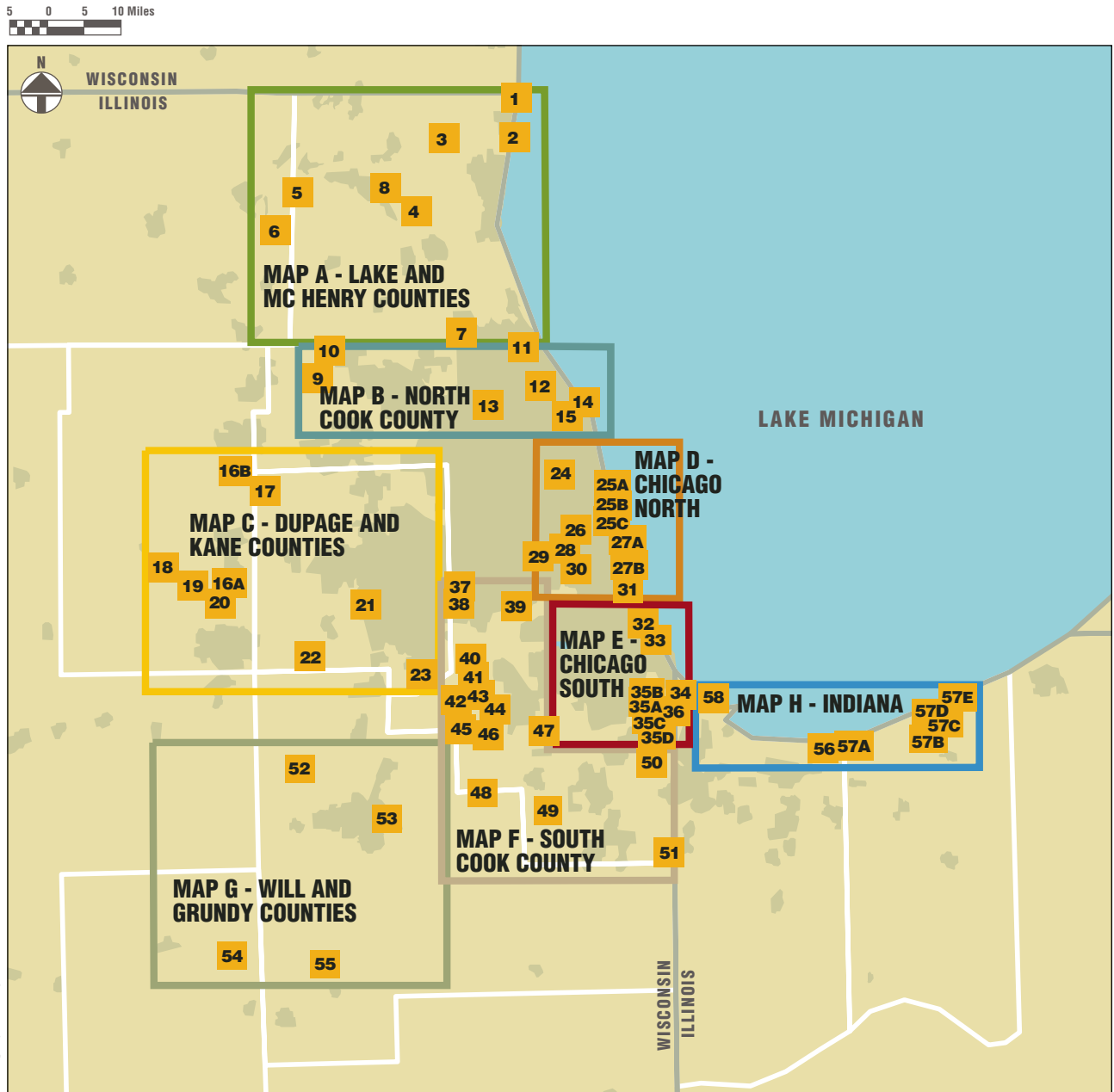
1. Early morning is generally the optimal time to see birds. This is probably most important during the summer, when songbird activity subsides as temperatures rise. See the listings for the best months and seasons.
2. We ask that you stay on the trails and follow the rules established by landowners to ensure that their property remains healthy for many years to come. Despite the protection afforded to most sites in this trail guide, all of the sites are vulnerable to misuse by some of the people who visit every year.
3. Birders should use common-sense safety precautions, such as minimizing the valuables they take on the trails and making sure that vehicles are locked.

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Visitors to the area can call 877-CHICAGO for Chicagoland travel advice and hotel reservations.

CHICAGO REGION BIRDING TRAIL GUIDE



GIS maps by Ed Madaj/TTEMI

Red-eyed Vireo



Indigo Bunting



Using the Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide

This guide focuses on birding sites in the Northeastern Illinois counties closest to Chicago and includes a few spots in nearby Indiana counties that offer great birding opportunities. Even though the guide highlights specific sites, (several of which are designated as Illinois Important Bird Areas [IBA]*), during migration season many places can provide excellent birding on any given day. Also, the sites highlighted here represent only a small percentage of potentially good birding locations in the Chicago area.

This guide divides the region's birding resources into seven geographic sections. Each section has a map showing the locations, and each entry has written directions to the site. Addresses with an asterisk (*) are approximate addresses and could be made more specific by Internet map searches. Phone numbers and web sites are listed so that guide users can obtain additional information on the sites. Birders should call or check a location's web site before visiting. Restroom availability might be seasonal and vary during the week. Accessibility information is included for people with disabilities. For further information on the birds and natural history of the Chicago area, we recommend the following publications.

A Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region. Carpenter, Lynne and Joel Greenberg. 1999. DeKalb [IL]: Northern Illinois University Press.

Birding Illinois. DeVore, Sheryl. 2000. Helena [MT]: Falcon Publishing.

Birds of the Indiana Dunes. Brock, Kenneth. 1997. Michigan City [IN]: Shirley Heinze Foundation.

"Chicago Lakefront Birding Trail Brochure". Chicago Park District, (312) 742-PLAY.

This guide was prepared by the City of Chicago Department of Environment, www.cityofchicago.org/environment, and the Bird Conservation Network, www.bcnbirds.org, with additional funding provided by Chicago Wilderness and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism.

* IBAs are sites that provide essential habitat for one or more species of bird. The National Audubon Society collaborates with local stewards to designate sites.

Special acknowledgement
to photographer Jerry Kumery
for the excellent images
throughout this guide.

wood duck



Common Yellowthroat

Northern Cardinal



MAP A LAKE AND MC HENRY COUNTIES



1 NORTH POINT MARINA

This large marina owned and operated by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has one of the largest concentrations of wintering gulls in the area. Rarer gulls such as Lesser Black-backed, Great Black-backed, Glaucous and Iceland are often mixed in with the common Ring-billed and Herring. Many species of waterfowl, including scoters, Canvasbacks and Long-tailed Ducks, also use the waters of the marina and lake.

ADDRESS: 701 North Point Drive, Winthrop Harbor, 60096

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 41 or I-94, exit east on Route 173 and proceed to Sheridan Road. Turn left (north) to 7th Street and then right (east); the marina is less than a mile from that point. Bird from the northeast or southeast sides.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (847) 746-2845

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: November through March.

ACCESSIBILITY: Lake and harbor can be accessed from roads.

2 ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK SOUTH UNIT (IBA)

This park, with its alternating dunes and swales, supports a variety of flora and fauna unsurpassed anywhere else in the state. The diversity of habitat and its location on Lake Michigan make Illinois Beach a birder's paradise throughout the year. Ducks, gulls and Northern Shrikes linger through the winter; migrants of all kinds appear in spring and fall (the fall also offers outstanding hawk flights); and breeders such as Virginia Rail, Whip-poor-will, Yellow-breasted Chat and Brewer's Blackbird spend the summer.

ADDRESS: Lake Front Drive, Zion, 60099

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 41 at the north end of Lake County, turn east on Wadsworth Road, past Sheridan Road, into the Park's South Unit. Park at the Nature Center parking lot and walk the trails to the south.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset, all year.

TELEPHONE: (847) 662-4811

WEBSITE: www.dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March through early June and mid-August through late November are best, but any time of year can be productive.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Occasional field trips—check with the nature center.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some lakefront and other habitat adjacent to parking lots and roads are accessible.

AMENITIES: Full-service hotel and nature center. (open from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00pm to 3:00pm)

3 WADSWORTH WETLANDS DEMONSTRATION AREA

A mix of marshes, woods, grasslands and ponds, this portion of the Lake County Forest Preserve District is located on the Des Plaines River. Commensurate with the diversity of habitat, many species of birds use the site during migration and the

Prothonotary Warbler

Tufted Titmouse

Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Addresses with an asterisk (*) are approximate addresses to be used for internet map searches

breeding period. Herons, ducks, shorebirds, warblers and sparrows move through in spring and fall, while Least Bitterns, Sandhill Cranes, Common Moorhens and American Woodcock have all nested here.

ADDRESS: Des Plaines River Trail, Wadsworth, 60083

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 41, turn east on Wadsworth Road for a short distance to the first parking lot on right. Alternatively, continue on Wadsworth Road past the river and park.

HOURS: Dawn until dusk.

TELEPHONE: (847) 367-6640

WEBSITE: www.lcfpd.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through September.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Check with forest preserve district.

ACCESSIBILITY: Gravel and dirt trails allow access to some habitat.

4 ALMOND MARSH

This Lake County Forest Preserve District property offers an excellent variety of breeding and migrant waterbirds. It supports a large Great Blue Heron rookery (which often hosts an interloping Great Horned Owl), as well as breeding Soras, Virginia Rails and Pied-billed Grebes, among others.

ADDRESS: *32492 North Almond Road, Libertyville, 60030

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 41 or I-94, exit west at Route 120. Proceed to Almond Road and turn left (south). The entrance is less than 0.5 mile on the right. The marsh is a short distance north of the parking lot.

HOURS: Weekdays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; closed weekends, although the marsh can be observed from Almond Road.

TELEPHONE: (847) 367-6640

WEBSITE: www.lcfpd.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through August.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Check with the forest preserve district.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some habitat is visible from parking lot and road.

5 VOLO BOG STATE NATURAL AREA

As the only open-water tamarack bog in Illinois, this wetland is a botanist's dream. Several kinds of orchids, pitcher plants and Indian pipe can be observed from the sturdy boardwalk that provides easy access into this unique site. It would be a mistake, however, not to raise your eyes, for many species of songbirds linger here during migration. Summer is also a good time for such species as Sandhill Crane.

ADDRESS: 28478 West Brandenburg Road, Ingleside, 60041

DIRECTIONS: From Rand Road (U.S. 12), go west on Brandenburg Road, travel 1.25 miles to the park entrance.

HOURS: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (815) 344-1294

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Late April through late September.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Bird walks are offered monthly; call for current schedule.

ACCESSIBILITY: The nature center is fully accessible, and trails can accommodate non-mechanized wheelchairs.

AMENITIES: Nature center (call for hours); loaner binoculars.

6 MORAIN HILLS STATE PARK

Moraine Hills State Park (including McHenry Dam) is 1,690 acres of woods, wetlands, grasslands and open water. Migrants use the diverse habitat in large numbers, as do many of the region's most sought after breeding birds, including Least Bittern, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Black Tern, Prothonotary Warbler and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Open water at the dam (variable from year to year) and extensive conifer plantings also provide good winter birding. The park is closed for 7 days at the end of November and beginning of December for deer hunting.

ADDRESS: 1510 South River Road, McHenry, 60051

DIRECTIONS: From U.S. 12, exit west on Route 176. Just after the town of Island Lake, turn right on River Road; the main park entrance is 2 miles on the right. To reach McHenry Dam, continue on River Road for another mile and turn left at the sign.

HOURS: November through March—8:00 am to 6:00 pm; April through October—6:00 am to 8:00 pm; May through September—6:00 am to 9:00 pm.

TELEPHONE: (815) 385-1624

WEBSITE: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks>

Cedar Waxwing

Semipalmated Plover

Wood Duck



eastern bluebird

LAKE AND MC HENRY COUNTIES

MORAIN HILLS STATE PARK, CONTINUED

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November, but winter can be productive as well.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: May through September; check with the nature center naturalist or call.

ACCESSIBILITY: Handicapped access limited to the "Yellow Trail" (crushed limestone areas only) and the nature center.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center.

7 RYERSON WOODS

Flanking the east side of the Des Plaines River, this 550-acre tract holds some of the highest quality forest in the Lake County Forest Preserve District system. Decent birding can be had throughout the year, but it is outstanding during spring and fall for migrant land birds. Warblers are particularly common along the river.

ADDRESS: 21950 North Riverwoods Road, Deerfield, 60015

DIRECTIONS: From I-94 take Route 22 (Half Day Road) west to Riverwoods Road, turn left (south). The entrance is 1.5 miles on the right.

HOURS: 6:30 am to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (847) 968-3321

WEBSITE: www.ryersonwoods.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April though early June and mid-August through mid-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Mostly in May; check the website or call.

ACCESSIBILITY: Limited to habitat adjacent to parking lot.

AMENITIES: Well-staffed visitors center with a library and art exhibits.

8 ROLLINS SAVANNA [IBA]

Rollins Savanna is one of Lake County's largest forest preserves with 1,225 uninterrupted acres. Scattered groves of majestic oaks, open prairies teeming with wildflowers and native grasses and abundant wetlands provide critical habitat for both grassland and wetland birds and other wildlife.

ADDRESS: 20160 West Washington Street, Grayslake, 60030

DIRECTIONS: From U.S.-41 take Washington Street west; the entrance is 1 mile west of U.S.-45 on the right side of the road.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (847) 367-6640

WEBSITE: www.lcfdp.org/preserves/index

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: May through August.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Occasional; check the website.

ACCESSIBILITY: A 5.5-mile gravel trail is present.

AMENITIES: Check the website.

Henslow's Sparrow

This is a state threatened species and breeds in good numbers in Rollins Savanna since its complete restoration in 2001.



henslow's sparrow

Image courtesy of Illinois State Museum

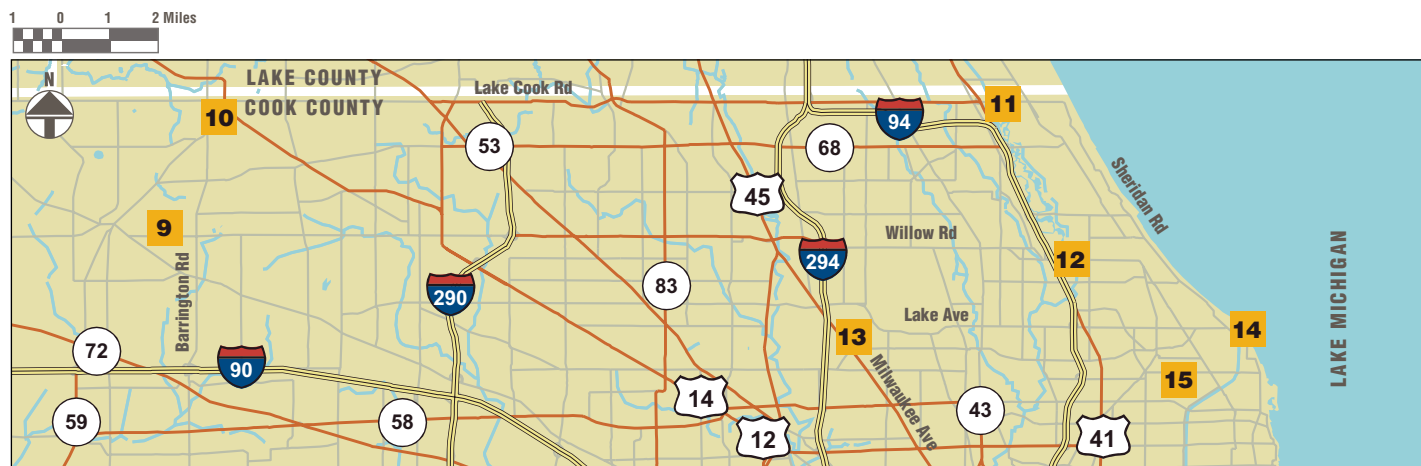
Scarlet Tanager

Worm-eating Warbler

Caspian Tern



MAP B NORTHERN COOK COUNTY



9 CRABTREE NATURE CENTER

A part of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, this 1,200-acre area of restored prairie, oak woods, marsh and open water is notable for migrating waterbirds and woodland songbirds.

ADDRESS: 3 Stover Road, Barrington, 60010

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, go west on Willow Road, which becomes Palatine Road. The nature center entrance is located on the north side of Palatine Road 1 mile west of Barrington Road and 0.5 mile east of Algonquin Road. From I-90, exit on Barrington Road north to Palatine Road. Turn left (west). Travel 1 mile to the nature center.

HOURS: Call for hours of operation.

TELEPHONE: (847) 381-6592

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through late May and mid-August through November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Check at nature center for schedule.

ACCESSIBILITY: All trails are covered with gravel; muddy areas are often present.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center (call for hours).

10 BAKER'S LAKE OVERLOOK

This 165-acre lake, owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, is home to one of the most important heron rookeries in the region. The small island in the center of the lake hosts nesting Black-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants. Also, a Great Horned Owl usually helps itself to a nest. The trees that once existed have died and been replaced with artificial nest structures. The lake is also excellent for migrating waterbirds such as loons, grebes, ducks and shorebirds (when mud flats are exposed).

ADDRESS: *800 East Hillside Avenue, Barrington, 60010

DIRECTIONS: From I-90, exit at Barrington Road. Go north 6 miles to Hillside Avenue; turn right (east) 1 mile to the parking lot on right, which is just before Route 14.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Lake can be seen from parking lot.

11 CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Garden consists of 350 acres of lagoons, oak woods, re-created prairie and many formal gardens. A very large variety of species, from Common Loons to Pine Siskins, has been reported at various times throughout the year. Favorite birding areas include Turnbull Woods, Marsh Island, Sensory Garden, the waterfall, Dwarf Conifer Garden, the feeders near the Education Center and the plant evaluation gardens.

ADDRESS: 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 60022

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, go east on Lake-Cook Road 0.5 mile to the main entrance on the right (south).

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (847) 835-5440

WEBSITE: www.chicago-botanic.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through early June and mid-August through early November. Feeders and open water can make for good winter birding as well.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: The Garden offers a limited number of guided bird walks for a fee.

ENTRANCE FEE: Call for current rate.

ACCESSIBILITY: A paved road (with limited vehicle access) encircles the garden, allowing good views of the lagoons. Many of the other trails are handicapped accessible.

Red-winged Blackbird



White-breasted Nuthatch



Northern Parula Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN, CONTINUED

AMENITIES: A host of excellent facilities including a restaurant and gift shop with a good selection of nature books.

12 SKOKIE LAGOONS

Once known as the Skokie Marsh, this area was converted into a chain of lagoons and islands extending from Willow Road north to Dundee Road. Each spring and fall virtually all of the warblers that regularly move through the region are reported in the lagoons. It is also a haven for migrating cuckoos, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes and other species. As the ice breaks up in early spring, the lagoons attract a good variety of waterbirds, including Common Loons, Canvasbacks and Bonaparte's Gulls. The property is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

ADDRESS: *1500 Willow Road, Northfield, 60093

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, exit east on Willow Road; park in first lot on the north side of Willow. From the lot, walk east; cross the bridle trail, ditch and bicycle path before entering the meadow. Bird north along the water's edge or (carefully) along the bike path. Or continue east on Willow Road to Forestway Drive; turn left (north) for good birding at the many parking lots next to the lagoons.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

ruby-throated
hummingbird



Baird's Sandpiper

House Wren

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April through late May and mid-August through mid-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: The Evanston North Shore Bird Club offers free bird walks during spring migration.

ACCESSIBILITY: It is easy to bird from the Willow Road parking lot and the bike path, but beware of speeding bikers. Good habitat can be easily reached from Forestway Drive.

13 THE GROVE

This 85-acre Village of Glenview park focuses on both natural and cultural history and provides some very good birding as well. The wet woods and ponds host numerous spring and fall migrants, while Red-shouldered Hawks, Great Crested Flycatchers and other species are seen in the summer.

ADDRESS: 1421 Milwaukee Avenue, Glenview, 60025

DIRECTIONS: From Lake Avenue, drive south on Milwaukee Avenue. Pass under I-294 and turn left (east) into the driveway marked with a large sign for The Grove. Park near the interpretive center. Several looping trails and boardwalks are on the property.

HOURS: Weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm; weekends 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (847) 299-6096

WEBSITE: www.GlenviewParkDist.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Late April through early June and mid-August through early October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: The Grove offers regular "trail walks," which deal with general natural history.

ACCESSIBILITY: The nature center and one short trail are wheelchair accessible.

AMENITIES: An interpretive center with live animals and many other displays relating to natural and cultural history.

14 GILLSON PARK

This Village of Wilmette park is an excellent place to observe fall migration along Lake Michigan. A harbor is at the

south end of the park, jetties project into the lake at the harbor's mouth—and a sandy beach stretches the length of the park. The beach pavilion at the north end of the park is a good location to scan the lake. Loons, grebes, scoters, Short-eared Owls and Snow Buntings are among the many species that a patient observer might spot.

ADDRESS: Harbor Drive, Wilmette, 60091

DIRECTIONS: From northbound Sheridan Road, enter the park just north of the Bahai Temple and the bridge over the North Shore Channel. Follow the drive north, and park at the beach pavilion. During the summer, parking is restricted to village residents, so then park on Michigan Avenue just west of the park.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (847) 256-9640

WEBSITE: www.wilmettepark.org/gillson.cfm

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: September through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: The lake is easily observed from the parking lot.

15 PERKINS WOOD

This virgin wood, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, is a surprise find in central Evanston. The 7.5-acre site is particularly good in spring with its excellent display of woodland wildflowers and large variety of migrant songbirds.

ADDRESS: *2800 Colfax Street, Evanston, 60201

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, exit eastbound onto Old Orchard Road and drive to Crawford Avenue. Turn right (south), drive 1 block and then turn left (east) onto Colfax Street. Drive east for 9 blocks and park near the intersection of Colfax Street and Ewing Avenue.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

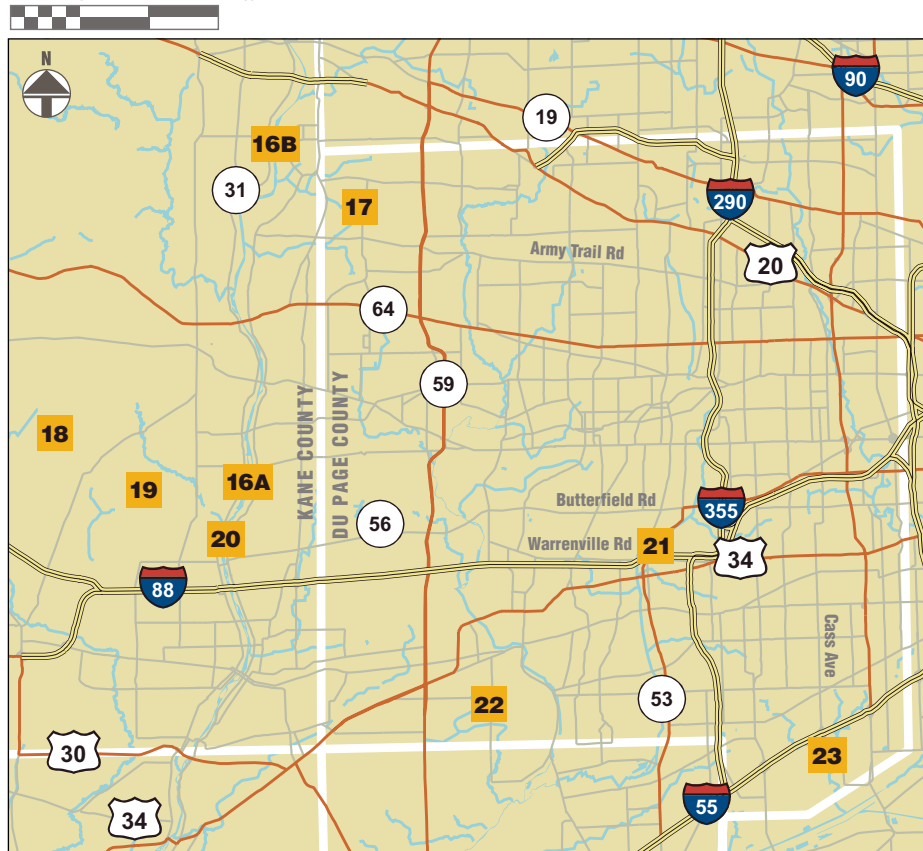
WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April and May.

ACCESSIBILITY: Paved paths crisscross the site and meet in the center.

MAP C KANE AND DUPAGE COUNTIES

2 0 2 4 Miles



16 FOX RIVER BIKE TRAIL

This wooded trail runs the length of Kane County and passes through excellent habitat for migrant land birds and waterfowl. Two particularly good places to bird are the portions south of the South Elgin bridge and south of downtown Batavia.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 232-5980

WEBSITE: www.co.kane.il.us/Forest/index.htm

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-April through late May and mid-August through early October. However, water-

fowl, gulls and occasionally eagles are present along this stretch of the river even during the coldest winter weather.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact the Kane County Audubon Society about scheduled walks throughout the year.

ACCESSIBILITY: Paved trails provide easy access.

16 A. SOUTH ELGIN BRANCH

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Routes 64 and 31, travel north on Route 31 to Spring Street in South Elgin (stop light). Turn right (east) on Spring Street and turn right (south) on the first street past the fire station (do not cross the river). Continue south to the parking lot. Walk to the trail next to the river.

16 B. BATAVIA BRANCH

DIRECTIONS: From intersection of Routes 64 and 31, travel south on Route 31 until reaching Batavia (about 4 miles). Continue through Batavia to Union Avenue. Turn left (east) to just beyond Quarry Park. Continue driving into the overflow parking lot until it ends. Take the bike path, walking south.

17 PRATT'S WAYNE WOODS [IBA]

Pratt's Wayne Woods is the largest holding of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, with over 3,000 acres of grassland, marsh, woods and open water. Waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds use the property during migration. Summer offers such rare species as Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Moorhen and Sandhill Crane. Wintering birds have included Short-eared Owls and Northern Shrikes.

ADDRESS: Powis Road, Wayne, 60184

DIRECTIONS: From Army Trail Road and Powis Road, travel north on Powis Road to the Preserve parking lots. The entrance to the east lot is a gravel road that leads to a culvert under the railroad tracks. Just beyond the tracks and to the left is the parking lot. Walk south from the lot along the marsh and into the dog run area to view the large marsh on the north side. To view the marshes west of Powis, park in the Prairie Path lot on the north side of Army Trail Road, just east of Powis Road. Walk northwest on the path.

HOURS: 1 hour after sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 933-7200

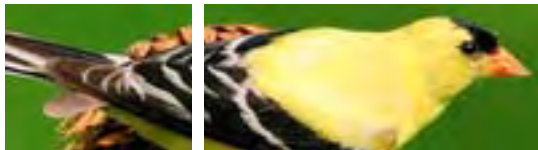
WEBSITE: www.dupageforest.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: May through August.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Check with the Forest Preserve District and DuPage Birding Club.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some habitat is accessible from parking lot.

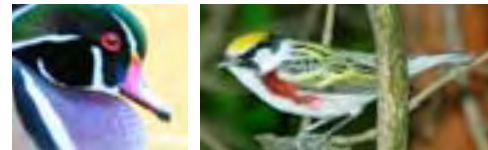
American Goldfinch



Wood Duck



Chestnut-sided Warbler



KANE AND DUPAGE COUNTIES

JOHNSON'S MOUND FOREST

18 PRESERVE

Johnson's Mound, a part of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, is the highest spot in the county. In addition to elevation, its attributes include 185 acres of woods and grassland and a host of migrating and breeding birds. Summering species have included Barred Owl, Dickcissel and Tufted Titmouse.

ADDRESS: Hughes Road, Elburn, 60119

DIRECTIONS: From I-88, go north on Kirk Drive/Farnsworth Avenue for 5 miles to Fabyan Parkway; turn left (southwest) to Hughes Road and then right (west) 2 miles past Bunker Road to entrance on right (north).

HOURS: 8:00 am to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 232-5980

WEBSITE: www.co.kane.il.us/forest

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April through late May and mid-August through mid-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Kane County Audubon Society and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County have scheduled walks throughout the year.

ACCESSIBILITY: Limited.

DICK YOUNG FOREST PRESERVE

19 (NELSON'S LAKE MARSH)

Dick Young Forest Preserve (Nelson's Lake Marsh) is an Illinois Nature Preserve owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Open water, several kinds of wetlands, shrubland and woods combine to attract a large variety of birds. White Pelicans have shared the lake with numerous waterfowl in the spring, while terrestrial habitats harbor warblers, sparrows and other songbirds during periods of migration. Summering species have included Virginia Rails and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Brown Thrasher (juv)



Canada Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler



ADDRESS: Nelson Lake Road, Batavia, 60510

DIRECTIONS: From downtown Batavia, take Main Street west to Nelson Lake Road (about 3 miles). Turn south on Nelson Lake Road and travel about 0.5 mile until you reach the parking lot on the right (look for large silo next to the parking lot).

HOURS: 8:00 am to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 232-5980

WEBSITE: www.co.kane.il.us/forest

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March through early June and mid-August through November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Kane County Audubon Society and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County have scheduled walks throughout the year.

ACCESSIBILITY: Limited; trails are bark and dirt.

20 RED OAK NATURE CENTER

This facility is part of the Fox Valley Park District. The 40 acres of woods stretch along the east bank of the Fox River for more than a mile. It is used heavily by migrant songbirds, particularly warblers. It also affords excellent views of the river, and thus many species of waterfowl can be observed. The Fox River Trail goes through the property.

ADDRESS: North River Road, North Aurora, 60542

DIRECTIONS: On west side of Route 25, 1 mile north of Butterfield Road (Route 56) and 3 miles south of Wilson Avenue in Batavia.

HOURS: Weekdays 9:00 am to 4:30 pm; weekends 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (630) 897-1808

WEBSITE: www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April though late May and mid-August through mid-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact Kane County Audubon Society.

ACCESSIBILITY: Limited to a portion of bike path.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center (call for hours).

21 MORTON ARBORETUM

The Morton Arboretum encompasses 1,700 acres of diverse habitat, including restored prairie, deciduous woods and evergreen plantations. Several lakes dot the property, and two creeks meander through it. It is a wonderful place to view migrant songbirds in spring and fall, and Yellow-throated Warblers have stayed to nest in recent years. The extensive conifer plantings often attract Pine Siskins or crossbills and usually a Northern Saw-whet Owl or two.

ADDRESS: 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, 60532

DIRECTIONS: From I-88 going west, north on Route 53 to entrance on right (east). From I-88 going east, exit at Naperville Road, go south to Warrenville Road. Turn left (east) to Route 53; turn left (north) to entrance.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm CST and 7:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT

TELEPHONE: (630) 968-0074

WEBSITE: www.mortonarb.org

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-April through late May and September through February.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Call (630) 719-2468 or check website.

ENTRANCE FEE: Call for per-person fee.

ACCESSIBILITY: Facilities and some paved trails are handicapped accessible.

AMENITIES: Excellent facilities including a visitor center, restaurant, library and museum store.

Addresses with an asterisk (*) are approximate addresses to be used for internet map searches

22 SPRINGBROOK PRAIRIE

Of all the holdings within the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Springbrook Prairie is probably the best area to view such breeding grassland species as Sedge Wrens, Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels and Bobolinks. Migrant land birds forage in the woods along Springbrook Creek, while Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls patrol the fields in winter.

ADDRESS: *82nd Place, Naperville, 60565 (Plainfield-Naperville Road, one-quarter mile south of 75th Street)

DIRECTIONS: From I-88, take Route 59 south; turn left (east) on 75th Street to Naperville-Plainfield Road; then south to main parking lot on west side of road.

HOURS: 1 hour after sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 933-7200

WEBSITE: www.dupageforest.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: May through September, although winter can also be productive.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Field trips run by the DuPage Birding Club.

ACCESSIBILITY: Crushed limestone trail can be reached from parking lot.

23 WATERFALL GLEN FOREST PRESERVE

Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve, surrounded by Argonne National Laboratory, is one of the most diverse and scenic forest preserves in DuPage County. Spring and fall are excellent times to view significant numbers of migrant songbirds, especially along Sawmill Creek. The Des Plaines River runs along the south border, and the associated bottomland forest may host breeding Barred Owls and Prothonotary Warblers. A 9.5-mile crushed limestone, multi-purpose trail encircles the preserve.

(The preserve is named for a former county commissioner, Bud Waterfall, so don't expect any Niagaras!)

ADDRESS: *9100 South Cass Avenue, Darien, 60561 (Cass Avenue, south of I-55)

DIRECTIONS: From I-55, exit south on Cass Avenue. The main parking is off Northgate Road on the west side of Cass Avenue. To access the Sawmill Creek area, continue south on Cass Avenue and park at the junction of Cass Avenue and Old Bluff Road.

HOURS: 1 hour after sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

TELEPHONE: (630) 933-7200

WEBSITE: www.dupageforest.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April through early June and mid-August through late October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Field trips run by DuPage Birding Club.

ACCESSIBILITY: Although hilly, a crushed limestone trail is accessible from the main parking lot.

Cerulean Warbler

This striking warbler migrates from South America to nest in mature oak forests in the central and northern U.S. Its population has shown a continuing decline primarily through habitat loss and is now listed as state threatened and is a candidate for federal listing as well. Waterfall Glen is one of the best places in the area to observe it in migration.

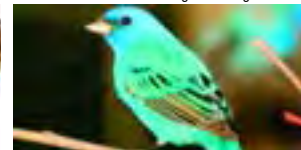


cerulean warbler

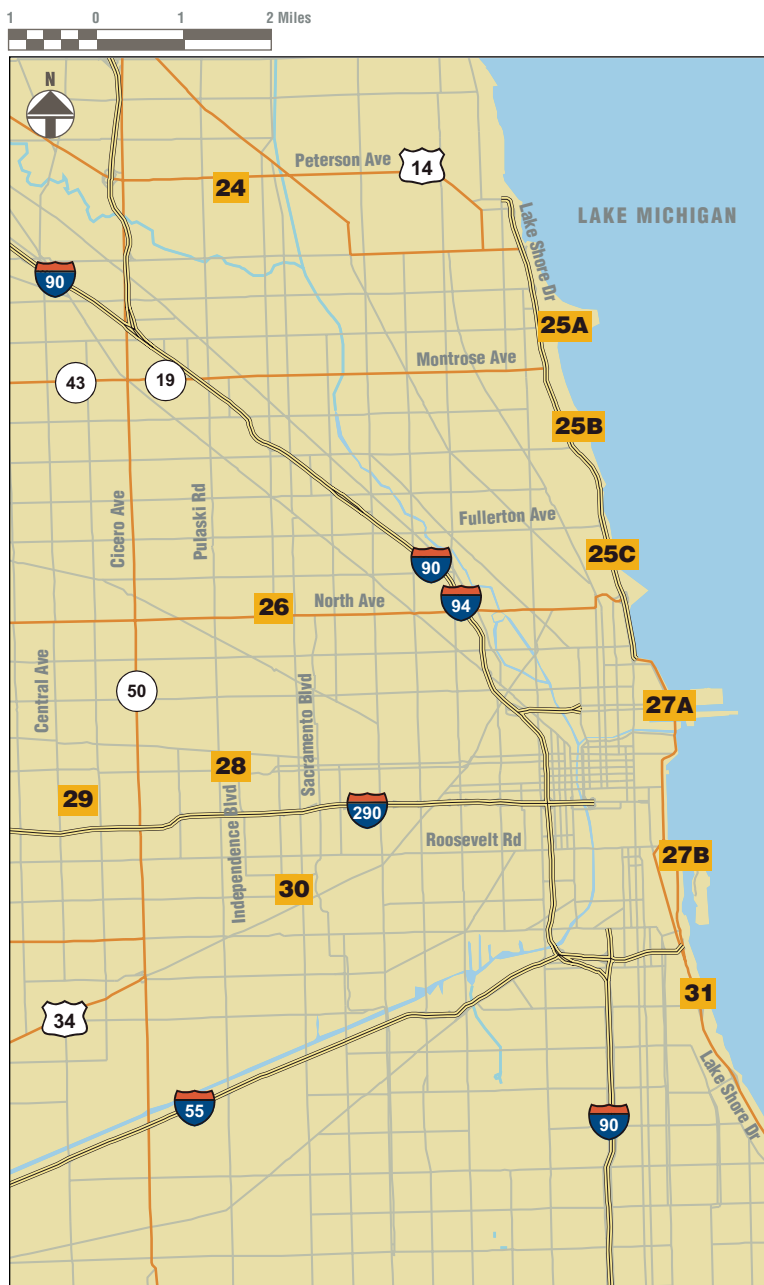
Black-capped Chickadee

Carolina Wren

Indigo Bunting



MAP D CHICAGO NORTH



NORTH PARK VILLAGE

24 NATURE CENTER

Originally a tuberculosis sanitarium, this Chicago Park District nature preserve contains 46 acres of woodlands, wetlands and grassland. Numerous migrants stopover here during spring and fall. Cooper's Hawks and Great Blue Herons can be seen in summer.

ADDRESS: 5801 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, 60646

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, travel east on Peterson Avenue to Pulaski Road; go south. Watch for the entrance on the left (east) side of the road. Once inside the gate, follow the signs to the Nature Center at the northeast corner of the facility.

HOURS: Daily 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 744-5472

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April-May and late August-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Chicago Audubon Society offers guided bird walks during migration. The Nature Center staff conducts owl prowls for Screech and Great-horned Owls periodically throughout the winter.

ACCESSIBILITY: No paved trails, but the main trail is compacted, crushed granite.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center with live animals and displays on natural history.

25 LINCOLN PARK

This 1,208-acre park, property of Chicago Park District, encompasses many excellent areas for birding along the city's northern shoreline. The site is located along the Chicago Lakefront from Ardmore Avenue to Ohio Street.

ADDRESS: *2045 Lincoln Park West, Chicago, 60610

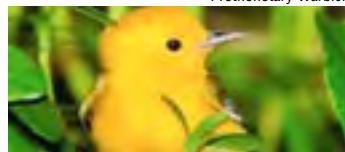
HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

Common Loon



Prothonotary Warbler



Scarlet Tanager



WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through late May and late August through early November. Winter can also be productive for ducks, gulls and owls.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Most Chicago-area birding clubs schedule trips during migration times.

ACCESSIBILITY: Portions of sites are adjacent to paved areas or are otherwise accessible.

25 A. MONTROSE POINT BIRD SANCTUARY & MONTROSE DUNE

These promontory and adjacent dune habitats contain what is probably the region's most heavily birded site: the famous "Magic Hedge." Migrants of all kinds flock to this 15-acre sanctuary containing grassland, wildflowers, trees, shrubs and native Great Lakes dune/swale plants. Well over 300 bird species have been seen here. It is particularly good for migrant flycatchers, warblers and sparrows, and few other birding destinations offer easier looks at such skulkers as the Connecticut Warbler, Le Conte's Sparrow and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The nearby harbor and adjoining beach, with its 3-acre dune restoration and "fish hook pier," attract a wide assortment of migrant waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, including Snowy Owls and Peregrine Falcons. Both Montrose Point and Montrose Dune are astounding places for rarities, which have included Black Rail, Kirtland's Warbler and Grace's Warbler, Groove-billed Ani, the federally endangered Piping Plover, Bewick's Wren, Say's Phoebe and Hudsonian Godwit.

DIRECTIONS: From Lake Shore Drive (U.S. 41), go east on Montrose Avenue (along the harbor). Make the first right turn and continue a short distance until you see the sign for "The Magic Hedge" on the left. Park on either side of the driveway. Montrose Dune is located at the east end of Montrose Beach, just north of Montrose Point.

Red-winged Blackbird



25 B. BILL JARVIS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY & BELMONT HARBOR

Birders walk the edge of this 6.5-acre fenced sanctuary in Lincoln Park to see and hear the large variety of migrants that use this wooded oasis. Black-crowned Night-Herons often roost here as well. On the east side is a wheelchair-accessible viewing stand with benches. Walk a short distance south to the jetty at the mouth of Belmont Harbor for close-up views of waterbirds such as Common Loon, Horned Grebe and Common Goldeneye.

DIRECTIONS: From Lake Shore Drive (U.S. 41), exit at Irving Park Road. Turn east and follow Recreation Drive south for 0.5 mile past the tennis courts to the parking lot. The sanctuary is located just east of the totem pole.

25 C. NORTH POND NATURE SANCTUARY

Located next to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park, North Pond is a 12-acre nature sanctuary that attracts many land and waterbirds during migration seasons. Over 160 species have been spotted throughout the year.

DIRECTIONS: Exit Lake Shore Drive (U.S. 41) west at Fullerton Avenue and turn right (north) on the first or second street (Cannon & Stockton Drives). Park along one of the drives or in a nearby parking lot.

ORGANIZED WALKS: The Chicago Ornithological Society sponsors walks every Wednesday at 7:00 am during migration season. Meet at the north end near the restaurant.

snowy owl



26 HUMBOLDT PARK

This is one of Chicago's large inland parks with extensive open water and areas of marsh, shrubs and wildflowers. This combination results in heavy use by a wide range of migrating birds from ducks and shorebirds to warblers and sparrows. The historic rose garden attracts many butterflies and dragonflies in late summer and early fall.

ADDRESS: 1440 N. Sacramento Avenue, Chicago, 60622 (field house)

DIRECTIONS: Exit I-94 at North Avenue; go west to Humboldt Boulevard. Turn left (south) and park in one of two parking lots: a smaller lot near the field house on the right and a larger one near the "Boat House" on the left after crossing a bridge.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

CHICAGO NORTH

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March to late May and early September through mid-November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact Chicago Audubon Society for scheduled field trips and walks.

ACCESSIBILITY: The park has a number of paved paths.

AMENITIES: Field house.

27 DOWNTOWN LAKEFRONT

If you are staying in or near the Loop and are in the mood for a hike, the downtown lakefront provides excellent opportunities to see gulls, ducks and land birds.

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April through late May and late August through mid-November for migrants; winter for gulls, ducks and Snowy Owls on shoreline or offshore.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: Chicago Park District (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact Chicago Ornithological Society for scheduled field trips.

ACCESSIBILITY: These areas feature paved walkways and parking garages, and limited street parking is available.

A. MILTON LEE OLIVE PARK/ 27 NAVY PIER

Navy Pier, a mile-long entertainment corridor jutting into Lake Michigan, is a great vantage point for spotting migrant and wintering loons, grebes and ducks (including Long-tailed Duck); during winter, look for Snowy Owls along the jetties to the south. Immediately north of Navy Pier is Milton Lee Olive Park, a small green peninsula with a paved walk adjacent to a water filtration plant. With its rows of shrubs, it has become a popular site to

find a variety of migrant thrushes, warblers and sparrows.

ADDRESS: 600 East Grand Avenue, Chicago, 60611

DIRECTIONS: Navy Pier is immediately east of Lake Shore Drive (U.S. 41) at Grand Avenue. Drive or walk east on Grand to the Pier's gateway entrance on Lake Michigan. To get to Milton Lee Olive Park, follow the lakefront walkway north from the Pier. Pay parking is available. City buses and free trolleys stop regularly at Navy Pier.

TELEPHONE: Navy Pier (312) 595-7437

WEBSITE: www.navypier.com

B. GRANT PARK/ 27 NORTHERLY ISLAND

Grant Park stretches along the Lake Michigan shoreline for about 1.5 miles between the Loop and the Museum Campus. Although it doesn't hold birds for extended periods, the area is loaded with thrushes, warblers, sparrows and other migrants during periods of heavy migration in spring and fall. South of Grant Park is Northerly Island, a 91-acre peninsula that juts into Lake Michigan. Long known as the best single location in Illinois for Snowy Owls, this site holds promise for becoming a migrant hotspot once a restoration program is completed.

ADDRESS: Grant Park—331 E. Randolph St., Chicago, 60601; Northerly Island—1400 S. Lynn White Dr., Chicago, 60605

DIRECTIONS: From Lake Shore Drive, exit east on McFetridge Drive and proceed to East Solidarity Drive. Turn left (north) to South Lynn White Drive and turn right (east). From the Loop, walk east toward the lake on any of the streets coming off Michigan Avenue south of Randolph Street. Head south through Grant Park or walk south along the shoreline to the Museum Campus area. Northerly Island is located on South Lynn White Drive south of the Adler Planetarium.

28 GARFIELD PARK

This park has one lagoon with marshy borders and an island, as well as upland shrubby areas. The best place for birding is on the west side, but during migration a wide assortment of species can be seen wherever habitat exists. A wildflower garden is south of the lagoon, and the famous Garfield Park Conservatory is 2 blocks north on Central Park Boulevard.

ADDRESS: 100 North Central Park Avenue, Chicago, 60624 (field house)

DIRECTIONS: From I-290, go north on Independence Boulevard about 1 mile to Madison Street. Turn right (east) and go 1 block to Central Park Boulevard; turn left (north, past Washington Street) and park on the side of the road or in lots north or south of the field house on the left.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March through late May and early September through mid-November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact the Chicago Audubon Society for scheduled field trips.

ACCESSIBILITY: Paved paths weave around the lagoons.

AMENITIES: Field house.

29 COLUMBUS PARK

Columbus Park is a National Historic Landmark and is considered the masterpiece of Jens Jensen, now known as dean of Prairie-style landscape architecture. Included within its large area are a winding lagoon, a small woodland, two waterfalls, stratified stonework and a marsh. These varied features draw a good variety of migrants, including Virginia Rails, numerous warblers (including Prothonotary and Mourning) and sparrows. A particularly good place to see birds is along the small stream at the back of the island.

Bay-breasted Warbler



Virginia Rail



Hooded Warbler



Addresses with an asterisk (*) are approximate addresses to be used for internet map searches

ADDRESS: 5701 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, 60644 (refectory building)

DIRECTIONS: From I-290, go north on Central Avenue 0.25 mile to Jackson Blvd. Turn left (west) and enter the park on the left, just past the field house. Continue straight, past the small golf shack, and park either in the large golf course parking lot or along the edge of the drive.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March to late May and early September through mid-November

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact the Chicago Audubon Society for scheduled field trips.

ACCESSIBILITY: A paved path encircles the lagoons.

AMENITIES: Field house

30 DOUGLAS PARK

Two lagoons (complete with an island), marsh, shrubs and wildflowers make this park an attractive stopover for many migrants. Ducks, bitterns, rails, sandpipers and numerous songbirds have all been found here.

ADDRESS: 1401 South Sacramento Avenue, Chicago, 60623 (field house)

DIRECTIONS: From I-290, go south on Sacramento Boulevard 0.5 mile just past Roosevelt Road. Turn left (east) into the park; take the first right and follow it to the mid-sized parking lot by the field house.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March to late May and late August through mid-November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact the Chicago Audubon Society for scheduled field trips.

ACCESSIBILITY: A paved path encircles the eastern lagoon.

AMENITIES: Field house.

McCORMICK PLACE

31 BIRD SANCTUARY

Chicago's newest lakefront preserve for migratory birds occupies the top of the underground parking garage of the City's main convention center. A 3-acre fenced area for prairie grasses and wildflowers has an observation platform on the east side, and an additional 3-acre prairie and trail to the south are open for general birding. In addition, the site boasts a stone water feature to attract even more birds.

ADDRESS: *2301 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, 60616

DIRECTIONS: From Lake Shore Drive, exit at 31st Street and take the frontage road (Fort Dearborn Drive) on the lake side to reach the convention center parking garage (which charges a fee). The sanctuary is located on the south end of the lakeside building. Free parking is available at 31st Street and the lake. Walk 0.8 mile north on the lakefront trail.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March through late May and late August through mid-November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Observation platform and paths can accommodate wheelchairs.

AMENITIES: The convention center buildings are open every day. A wide variety of services are available, including cafes and restaurants, during business hours.



northern cardinal

Red-breasted Nuthatch

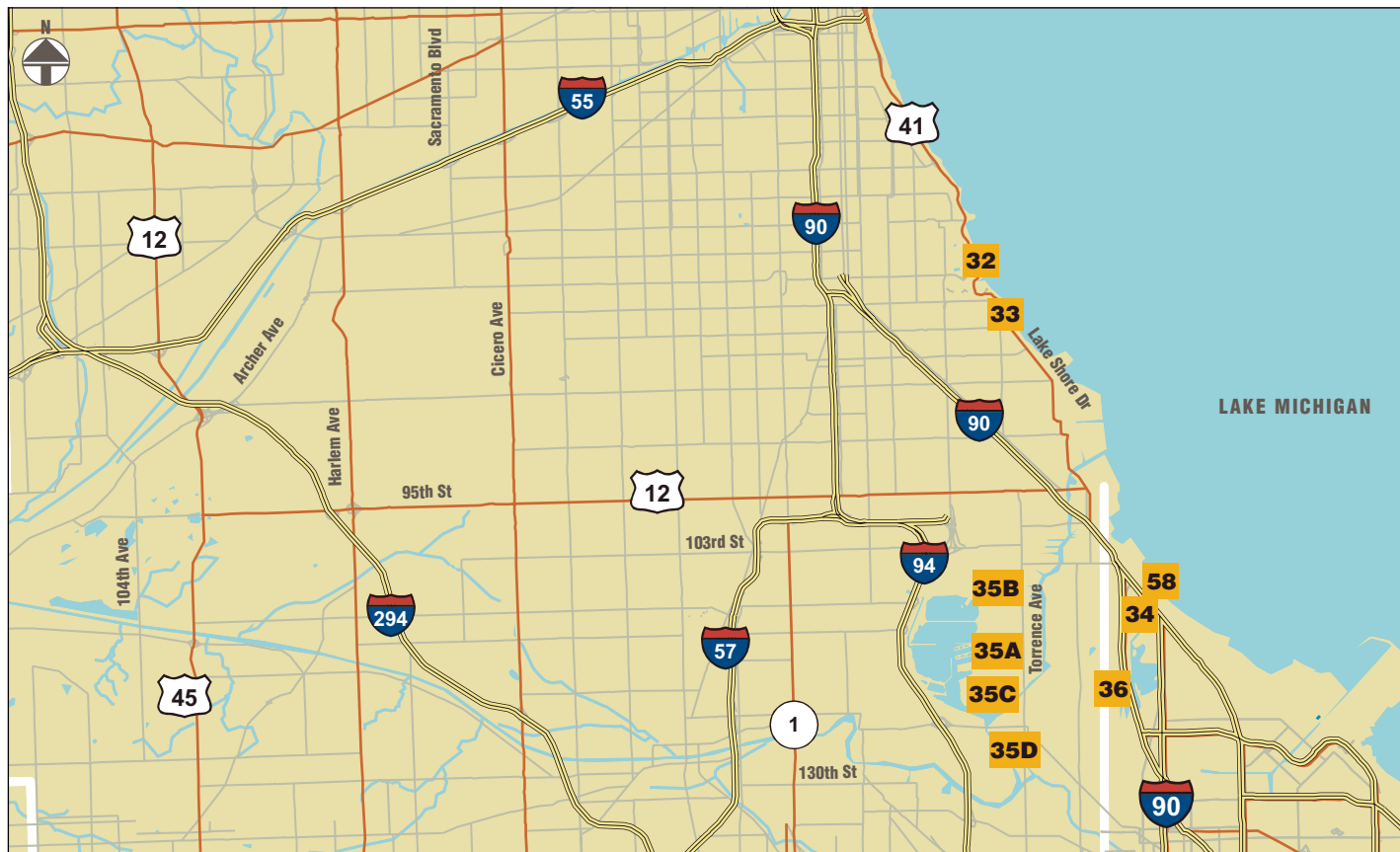


Red Knot (juv.)



MAP E CHICAGO SOUTH

1 0 1 2 Miles



32 JACKSON PARK

Created for the Columbian exposition of 1893, this 543-acre unit of the Chicago Park District provides a mosaic of lakefront, open water, marsh, grassland and woods. Migrants of all kinds are abundant during spring and fall migration seasons. One observer recorded 34 species of warblers on a single day in May. Jackson Park also has more than its share of rarities, including Black Rail, Townsend's Warbler and Brewer's Sparrow. The region's largest

population of the introduced Monk Parakeet resides in the park and adjacent neighborhoods. Virtually anywhere in the park can yield good birding, but birders concentrate at the Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary (Wooded Island) and the nearby Bobolink Meadow.

ADDRESS: *5800 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, 60637

DIRECTIONS: The main parking lot is located on the south side of the Museum of Science and Industry. From Lake Shore Drive (U.S. 41), turn west onto Science Drive (at approximately 5800 South Lake Shore Drive), then turn

south into the parking lot. Turn right (west) into the park. To reach Wooded Island, walk across the Darrow Bridge at the northwest corner of the lot and turn left. To reach the Bobolink Meadow from the parking lot, walk south along the lagoon shoreline.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through June and mid-August through November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: The Chicago Audubon Society sponsors walks Wednesdays at 7 am and Saturdays at

Savannah Sparrow



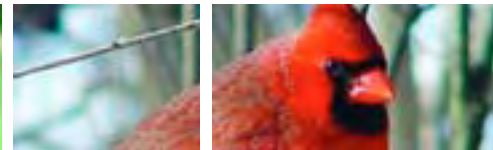
Worm-eating Warbler



Cooper's Hawk



Northern Cardinal



8 am from late March through New Year's Day. Most area bird clubs hold many field trips during migration.

ACCESSIBILITY: Walkways paved on Wooded Island.

33 SOUTH SHORE NATURE SANCTUARY

South Shore Cultural Center, a 65-acre park that originally was a private golf and country club, is owned by the Chicago Park District. A 3-acre nature sanctuary was added along the shoreline in 2002 specifically to attract birds. Given its varied plantings and location, the site hosts numerous migrants and wintering ducks.

ADDRESS: 7059 S. South Shore Drive, Chicago, 60649

DIRECTIONS: From South Shore Drive (U.S. 41, which is Lake Shore Drive to the north), enter the park at 71st Street. Park in the north parking lot and walk south along the beach. The South Shore train station for Metra's University Park line is directly across from the main entrance to the park.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (312) 742-7529

WEBSITE: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Mid-March through late May and early September through mid-November. Winter is good for ducks and gulls.

ACCESSIBILITY: Trail system with boardwalk and benches.

AMENITIES: Cultural Center building (open year-round except holidays).

34 EGGERS GROVE

The Calumet region of Chicago's southeast side was once a biologically significant treasure comprised of over 22,000 acres of wetland, prairie and oak woods. Only a small amount of its former glory persists, but among the better-preserved examples is Eggers Grove. The 250 acres of primarily marsh and oaks support a host of migrants (from ducks to warblers and

sparrows), while such uncommon species as Virginia Rail and Yellow-headed Blackbird have nested here.

ADDRESS: *11200 South Avenue E, Chicago, 60617

DIRECTIONS: From I-94 travel east on 103rd Street; at Torrence Avenue turn right (south); go to 106th Street; turn left (east) to Avenue O; turn right (south) to 112th Street; turn left (east) to the parking lot. Take the looping trail that goes between woods and marsh, which is on east edge of preserve.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: No paved trails.

35 LAKE CALUMET [IBA]

Nineteenth-century accounts describe a Lake Calumet covered with waterfowl, which, upon rising, circled overhead, blotting out the sun. Such visions are today the stuff of history, but a few small sites still offer refuge to a surprisingly large variety of birds, of which 100 species nest. From year to year, all of these locations experience significant variations in water level and hence the birds that use them.

ADDRESS: *13000 South Torrence Avenue, Chicago, 60633

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, turn east on 130th Street to Torrence Avenue. Directions to the following sites are from that point.

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through November.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

35 A. INDIAN RIDGE MARSH

The right season can yield a wealth of interesting species. Great Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants and Little Blue Herons fly over from nearby rookeries (largely in accessible), while Pied-billed Grebes, Black-crowned Night Herons, Common Moorhens and Yellow-headed Blackbirds have nested in the marsh itself.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left (north) on Torrence and then left (west) on 122nd Street. Park just east of the railroad tracks.

ACCESSIBILITY: Large water bodies are visible from the road.

35 B. BIG MARSH

At almost 300 acres, this wetland, owned by the Waste Management Corporation, is the best birding spot in the Calumet region. Its open water attracts a myriad of waterfowl, and the marshy portions have provided nesting habitat for Pied-billed Grebes, Least Bitterns and Common Moorhens. Sandpipers and herons of numerous species can be easily observed foraging on mudflats exposed by low water levels. For several years, the state's largest



pine siskin

Downy Woodpecker (male)

Plover's Black-bellied (left) and American Golden (right)

Red-bellied Woodpecker



CHICAGO SOUTH

BIG MARSH, CONTINUED

Black-crowned Night Heron colony inhabited the marsh; given the nomadic nature of the species and changing environmental conditions, they may locate here again.

DIRECTIONS: **TURN** left (north) on Torrence Avenue to 122nd Street; turn left (west) to Stony Island Avenue; turn right (north) for about a mile where the marsh begins on the right. Park along the road.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some habitat is visible from the road.

35 C. DEADSTICK POND

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District owns this low flat area where water levels vary throughout the season. While waterfowl gather when water levels are high, shorebirds concentrate on the exposed mudflats that make this spot so important to local birders. In addition to the many common species that regularly appear, such rarities as Marbled Godwit, Red Knot and Long-billed Dowitcher have also been observed in recent years. The marshy borders also have been home to such nesters as Pied-billed Grebes and King Rails.

DIRECTIONS: Turn left (north) onto Torrence Avenue to 122nd Street; turn left (west) to Stony Island Avenue; turn left (south). The habitat is beyond a cyclone fence on the left.

ACCESSIBILITY: Most of the site is easily viewed from the road.

35 D. HEGEWISCH MARSH

Situated on the banks of the Calumet River, this site features woods that are excellent for migrating songbirds and a sizable marsh that has hosted nesting Moorhens, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Marsh Wrens and other wetland birds. In the near future, it will

also be home to the City of Chicago's Ford Calumet Environmental Center.

DIRECTIONS: Turn right (south) onto Torrence Avenue and cross the railroad tracks. Pull over to side of road near the low, inconspicuous entrance gate on the right. Walk east along the elevated railroad tracks until you come to the marsh on left.

ACCESSIBILITY: No habitat is visible from the road.

WILLIAM W. POWERS 36 CONSERVATION AREA

This state-owned facility, the only state park in the City of Chicago, protects a portion of Wolf Lake, one of the five shallow lakes that once graced the Calumet area (two are now completely or mostly filled in). During spring, fall and winter (if the lake remains unfrozen), large numbers of waterbirds appear on the lake. These include Common Loons, Horned Grebes, swans (Mutes are residents; Tundras are less common) and many ducks. The woods on the northeast side can be very productive for migrant songbirds.

ADDRESS: 12949 Avenue O, Chicago, 60633

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, take 103rd Street east to Torrence Avenue; turn right (south) to 106th Street; turn left (east) to Avenue O; turn right (south) to entrance on left side. Open water can be covered from numerous points; for woods, go north after entering the park to the lot on the east side.

HOURS: Daily 6:00 am to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (773) 646-3270

WEBSITE: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks/>

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: February through May and mid-August through freeze-up.

ACCESSIBILITY: The lake can be easily viewed from vehicles.

AMENITIES: Staffed office.



red-bellied
woodpecker

Great Blue Heron

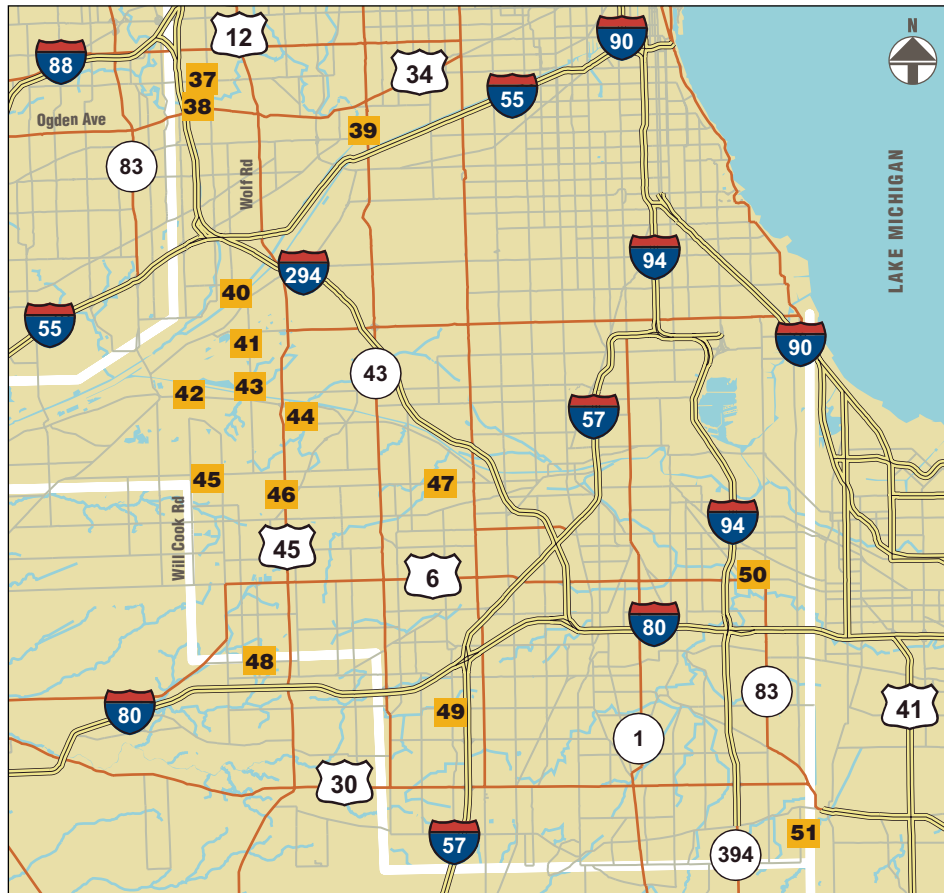


Wood Duck (female)



MAP F SOUTH COOK COUNTY

1 0 1 2 Miles



37 WOLF ROAD WOODS

This black soil prairie with oak woods and marsh still has the sidewalks poured by an early 20th century developer. On spring evenings, American Woodcocks are easily seen performing their mating displays. Numerous songbirds use the area during migration, and breeding birds have included Eastern Bluebird and Yellow-breasted Chat. This site is owned by the Forest

Preserve District of Cook County and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

ADDRESS: *11500 31st Street, Westchester, 60154

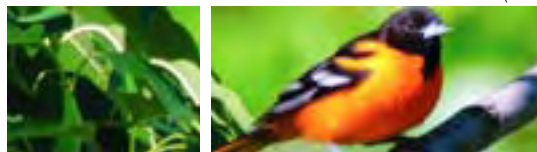
DIRECTIONS: From I-290 westbound, take the Wolf Road exit (exit 16). Turn left (south) and go 3 miles to 31st Street. Turn right. From I-294, take Ogden Avenue east to Wolf Road. Turn left (north) to 31st Street. Turn left (west). The preserve is on the right (north) side. Park in one of the three pull-off areas.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

Snowy Egret



Baltimore Oriole (male)



Redhead duck



TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through early June and late August through mid-October.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Chicago Audubon Society and DuPage Birding Club hold regular Woodcock walks in the spring.

ACCESSIBILITY: The sidewalks are overgrown but passable.

38 BEMIS WOODS SOUTH

A large variety of migrant songbirds, as well as cuckoos, veeries and other breeding species, use this 400-acre wooded area on Salt Creek.

ADDRESS: *11500 Ogden Avenue, Western Springs, 60558

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, exit east at Ogden Avenue to the preserve's entrance on the left (north) side of the road. Once in the preserve, take the road on the left to a parking lot near the Salt Creek Bicycle Path.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Early April to early June and mid-August to late October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Paved bicycle path.

39 OTTAWA WOODS

This wooded area on the east side of the Des Plaines River can be excellent in spring and fall for migrating thrushes, warblers and other land birds. Five species of woodpeckers and two species of cuckoos have summered here.

AVENUE: *4099 South Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, 60402

DIRECTIONS: From I-290, exit at Harlem Avenue; go south about 4 miles. The area starts right after 41st Street. Parking lots are available off Joliet Road, Harlem Avenue and 47th Street.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

SOUTH COOK COUNTY

OTTAWA WOODS, CONTINUED

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through early June and mid-August through mid October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some productive areas are adjacent to the road.

AMENITIES: Canoe launch on river.

COLUMBIA WOODS

40 FOREST PRESERVE

This small plot of woods along the Des Plaines River usually has a good selection of migrants in the appropriate season.

ADDRESS: *Forest Woods Drive, Willow Springs, 60480

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take the 75th Street/Willow Springs Road exit. Turn left (south) on Willow Springs Road and go 1.25 miles, passing German Church Road, to Corcoran Road, a small road on the right immediately before the railroad overpass. Turn right and then immediately left to go under the overpass to reach the forest preserve entrance.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through May and mid-August through early October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Habitat is easily seen from the road.

AMENITIES: Canoe launch for Des Plaines River.

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE NATURE

41 CENTER/LONG JOHN SLOUGH

Overlooking Long John Slough, this facility of the Cook County Forest Preserve District is surrounded by excellent habitat easily reached on foot. Numerous land and waterbirds migrate through the area, and over 80 species are known to breed here.

ADDRESS: 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs, 60480

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take the 75th Street/Willow Springs Road exit and turn left (south) onto Willow Springs Road (which is also Flavin Road and 104th Avenue) for 3.5 miles. The nature center entrance is on the right, soon after 95th Street.

HOURS: Call for hours of operation.

TELEPHONE: (708) 839-6897

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Contact Nature Center for schedule of events.

ACCESSIBILITY: Nature center and some parts of trails are wheelchair accessible.

AMENITIES: Nature center (call for hours).

42 CAMP SAGAWAU

Camp Sagawau is an environmental education center open only for scheduled programs, which include regular weekday and weekend bird walks. Over 100 species of resident and migrating songbirds have been identified, including breeding Louisiana Waterthrushes. The site and activities are well worth a call for current event information. This site is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

ADDRESS: 12545 West 111th Street, Lemont, 60439

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take the 75th Street/Willow Springs Road exit to Willow Springs Road. Turn left (south) and go 5.25 miles to Cal-Sag Road/111th Street; turn right; the camp entrance is 2 miles ahead on the right. From I-55, exit Route 83 and go south for 4 miles. Cross the Des Plaines River and two canals, following Route 83 as it turns left (east). Turn left at 111th and Main Streets (at the stop light). The camp entrance is immediately on the left.

HOURS: Limited.

TELEPHONE: (630) 257-2045

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through June.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Bird walks regularly scheduled during migration; call nature center for schedule.

ACCESSIBILITY: Not wheelchair accessible. The area includes many rock canyons and ravines that can be slippery.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center.

43 SAGANASHKE SLOUGH

This large deep lake has attracted most of the duck species known to occur in Illinois. Other waterbirds (Common Loon, grebes, Bald Eagles, Ospreys) are also excellent possibilities. This site is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

ADDRESS: *10700 South 104th Avenue, Palos Park, 60464

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take the 75th Street/Willow Springs Road exit and go south on Willow Springs Road (which changes to 104th Avenue) for 4.5 miles. The lake starts south of 107th Street. One parking lot is on 104th Avenue and two are on 107th Street about 2.5 miles west of 104th Avenue. From the far western lot you can take a trail around part of the lake.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

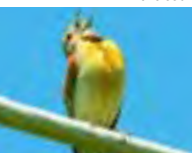
BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through April and October through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Portions of lake are visible from parking lots.

44 McCLAUGHRY SPRINGS WOODS

Enriched by the creek that meanders through it, this scenic preserve is a migration hotspot, with over 120 species having been recorded. It is particularly good for warblers in May, including the locally uncommon Louisiana Waterthrush. Nesters include Barred Owl and Tufted Titmouse.

Dickcissel



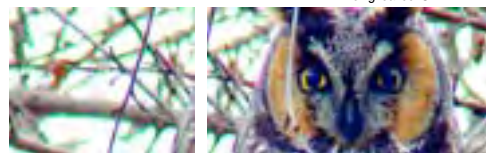
Blackburnian Warbler



White-breasted Nuthatch



Long-eared Owl



Addresses with an asterisk (*) are approximate addresses to be used for internet map searches

ADDRESS: *11200 S. Kean Avenue, Palos Park, 60464

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take the 95th Street exit west 1.5 miles to LaGrange Road (Route 45). Turn left (south) for 2.5 miles. Cross the Cal-Sag Channel and turn left (east) onto Calumet-Sag Road (Route 83). Go 0.75 mile to Kean Avenue; turn right. The parking lot is 0.25 mile on the right.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through June and late August through early October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some habitat is adjacent to the parking lot.

45 TAMPIER LAKE

This popular fishing lake, a Cook County Forest Preserve property, is also a great place to find waterfowl during spring and fall migration.

ADDRESS: *13100 South Wolf Road, Palos Park, 60464

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take 95th Street west. Turn left (south) onto Willow Springs Road for about 9 miles to 131st Street. Turn right (west) and go 2.5 miles to Tampier Lake, which starts west of Wolf Road. A parking lot is on the left at the Boating Center. To reach the parking on the west side of the lake, turn south on Will-Cook Road; the lot is on the left.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through April and October through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Habitat can be accessed from parking lot.

AMENITIES: Boat launch; canoe and boat rental in summer.

46 MCGINNIS SLOUGH

Except when frozen in winter, this slough is a regional mecca for migrants of all kinds. Thousands of waterbirds cover its surface in early spring and late fall, while waders and shorebirds forage on summer mudflats. Bald Eagles, Ospreys and other raptors also make frequent appearances, and the woods around the slough attract their share of songbirds. Nesting birds have included Pied-billed Grebe and Least Bittern. This site is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

ADDRESS: *13600 South LaGrange Road, Orland Park, 60462

DIRECTIONS: From I-294 take the 95th Street exit west 1.5 miles to LaGrange Road (Route 45). Turn left (south) for 5 miles. The slough is south of 135th Street. The parking lot is on the right.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Some of the lake can be seen from the parking lot.

47 ELIZABETH A. CONKEY WOODS

These woods along Tinley Creek are a favorite for spring and fall songbird migrants. Conkey Woods has also hosted summering Broad-winged Hawks and Yellow-throated Vireos.

ADDRESS: *6200 West 135th Street, Palos Heights, 60463

DIRECTIONS: From I-294, take Cicero Avenue south 1 mile to 135th Street. Turn right (west) and travel 1 mile to the preserve. After passing Central Avenue, watch for the parking lot on the right.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through early June and mid-August through late October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Not handicapped accessible.

48 ORLAND GRASSLAND

Formerly known as Orland Hills Forest Preserve, this large tract of grassland, shrubland, open woods and marshes is used by a variety of birds throughout the year. Long-eared and Short-eared Owls have been seen here in winter, Alder Flycatchers and Bell's Vireos in spring and Bobolinks, Henslow's Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows during the summer. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County has a long-term restoration program underway to improve the habitat for grassland birds.

ADDRESS: *10400 West 179th Street, Orland Park, 60467

tufted titmouse



Tufted Titmouse



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



SOUTH COOK COUNTY

ORLAND GRASSLAND, CONTINUED

DIRECTIONS: From I-80, take 96th Avenue/LaGrange Road (Route 45) north 1 mile to 179th Street. Turn left (west); go to 104th Avenue; turn right (north) and park along the road.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: May through July.

ACCESSIBILITY: Not handicapped accessible.

49 BARTEL GRASSLANDS [IBA]

The 585 acres of grassland, marsh, scattered evergreens and deciduous trees that comprise this site draw a good selection of species throughout the year. Besides a mix of migrants during spring and fall, other highlights include hawks and owls in winter and such breeding species as Sedge Wren, Bobolink and Henslow's Sparrow. The property is owned by Forest Preserve District of Cook County, which has a long-term restoration program underway to improve the grassland bird habitat.

ADDRESS: *5600 Vollmer Road, Matteson, 60443

DIRECTIONS: From I-57, exit westbound at Vollmer Road and continue to Central Avenue. Turn right (north) and park along road. For an off-street parking lot, continue north and turn left (west) at Flossmoor Road.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through July and September through October; winter can also be productive.

ACCESSIBILITY: Not handicapped accessible.

50 SAND RIDGE NATURE CENTER

This Cook County Forest Preserve District nature center consists of 70 acres of prairies, wetlands and woodlands. Start with the feeders at the nature center (good for winter birds and hummingbirds in summer and fall) and then take one of the trails to look for migrants (flycatchers, thrushes, warblers) and summer nesters (including Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Brown Creepers).

ADDRESS: 15890 Paxton Avenue, South Holland, 60473

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, take 159th Street (Route 6) east for 1 mile to Paxton Avenue. Turn left (north); the parking lot entrance is on the right.

HOURS: March through October—8:00 am to 4:00 pm; November through February—8:00 am to 5:00 pm

TELEPHONE: (708) 868-0606

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through September.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Call nature center for schedule of seasonal walks.

ACCESSIBILITY: Only nature center and feeders are wheelchair accessible.

AMENITIES: Nature center (call for hours).

51 PLUM CREEK PLAY MEADOW

Located in the southeastermost part of Cook County, this large and diverse forest preserve harbors a wide variety of birds, including such species of southern affinity as Bobwhite, Barred Owl and Acadian Flycatcher. Check the creek that runs just south of the parking lot for woodland birds and the fields across Burnham Avenue 0.5 mile south of the parking lot for sparrows, Dickcissels and other grassland species.

ADDRESS: *22400 Burnham Avenue, Sauk Village, 60411

DIRECTIONS: From I-94, exit south on Route 394 for about 6 miles to Sauk Trail; turn left (east). Go to Burnham Avenue; turn right (south). The entrance to the parking lot is 0.75 mile on the left across from Katz Corner Road.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: (800) 870-3666

WEBSITE: www.fpdcc.com

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through mid-October.

ACCESSIBILITY: Not handicapped accessible.

indigo
bunting



Mute Swan



Common Yellowthroat Warbler

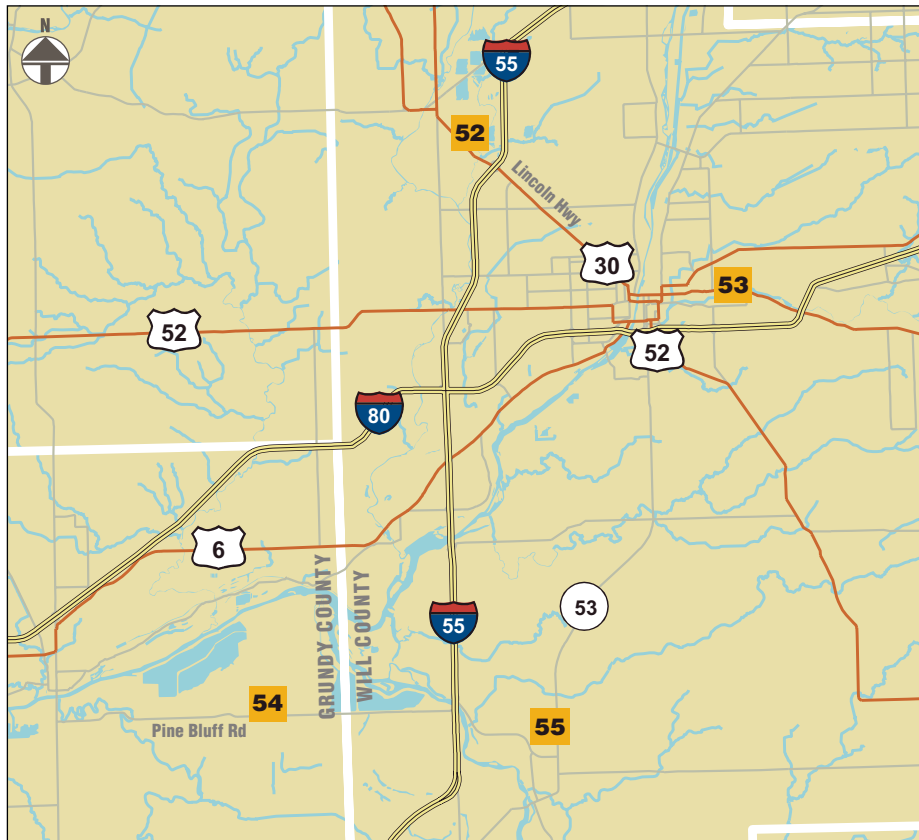


Red-bellied Woodpecker



MAP G WILL AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

1 0 1 2 Miles



LAKE RENWICK HERON ROOKERY

52 NATURE PRESERVE

Lake Renwick is one of the principal heron rookeries in the region. The preserve includes a 200-acre lake with several small islands. Nesting birds include Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants. Cattle Egrets have nested sporadically. Other birds such as ducks, American White Pelicans, gulls and terns use the site during migration.

ADDRESS: 23144 West Renwick Road, Plainfield, 60544

DIRECTIONS: From I-55, take Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30) northwest toward Aurora. Either turn right at Renwick Road to reach the visitors center or continue on Route 30 to a parking area that provides a view of the rookery.

HOURS: Parking open sunrise to sunset year-round. Access to the preserve varies based on season; call for hours of operation.

TELEPHONE: (815) 727-8700

WEBSITE: www.fpdwc.org/renwick.cfm

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: March through November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Weekly walks available; call for the schedule.

ACCESSIBILITY: Handicapped accessible. The trail to the rookery-viewing platform is 0.5 mile.

AMENITIES: Staffed visitors center with spotting scopes; call for hours of operation.

53 PILCHER PARK

Situated on the northern bank of Hickory Creek in Joliet, Pilcher Park's extensive forest is an excellent place for many kinds of migrants. This habitat also draws such breeders as Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatcher. In winter, the visitors center's bird feeding station attracts Tufted Titmouse and winter finches.

ADDRESS: 2501 Highland Park Drive, Joliet, 60432

DIRECTIONS: From I-80, exit Briggs Street and travel north. Turn right (east) at Cass Street (Route 30) and continue to Highland Park Drive; turn left (north). Look for signs for the nature center.

TELEPHONE: (815) 741-7277

WEBSITE: www.jolietpark.org/facilities/pilcherpark.shtml

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through September.

ACCESSIBILITY: Handicapped accessible nature center and 1 mile of trail.

AMENITIES: Staffed nature center with bird feeding station and live animal exhibits.

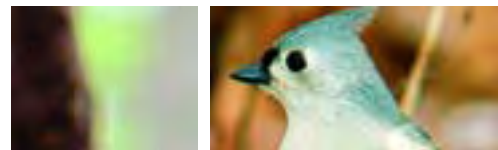
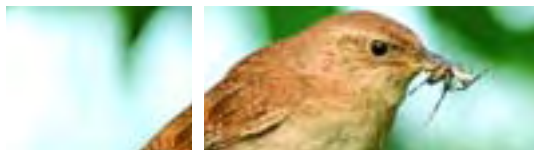
54 GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE (IBA)

Goose Lake Prairie is the largest tall-grass prairie east of the Mississippi River and supports large populations of grassland birds. Perhaps foremost among these is the Henslow's Sparrow, conspicuous in summer throughout the main trail system. Neighbors have included American Bittern, Northern Harrier, King Rail and Grasshopper Sparrow. Heidecke Lake borders the prairie on the northwest and can hold waterfowl, hawks, eagles, gulls and terns in migration and winter.

House Wren

Prothonotary Warbler

Tufted Titmouse



WILL AND GRUNDY COUNTIES

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

Because of its size and variety of habitats, Midwin not only has breeding populations of the more common Great Blue Heron, including a rookery with many nests and breeding pairs, but a visitor can also observe Upland Sandpipers and Loggerhead Shrikes, both very difficult to see elsewhere in northeastern Illinois.

GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE, CONTINUED

ADDRESS: 5010 North Jugtown Road, Morris, 60450

DIRECTIONS: From I-55, travel west on Lorenzo Road/ Pine Bluff Road for 7.5 miles. Turn right (north) on Jugtown Road to park headquarters. Heidecke Lake can be viewed in the winter by taking Dresden Road north from Lorenzo Road, approximately 4 miles east of I-55.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset; visitors center 10 am to 4 pm daily; closed in winter during weekends. Specific areas closed during deer hunting season (certain days in Nov-Jan).

TELEPHONE: (815) 942-2899

WEBSITE: dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgt/parks

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through November.

ACCESSIBILITY: Handicapped accessible nature center and one trail.

AMENITIES: Staffed visitors center with exhibits.

MIDEWIN NATIONAL

55 TALLGRASS PRAIRIE [IBA]

Midwin, the first national tallgrass prairie, is the decommissioned Joliet Army Arsenal and, with 19,000 acres in all, the largest tract of publicly owned land in the Chicago area. While the restoration work continues, access may be limited but many trails are in place to provide birders with excellent viewing opportunities. Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Dickcissel and Upland Sandpiper are all conspicuous from the primary trails. Hunting for deer and turkey is allowed, but birders can still access the area during those times.

ADDRESS: 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, 60481

DIRECTIONS: From I-55, take Exit 241, Wilmington. At the top of the ramp (both northbound and southbound), turn left (east). Travel 3.5 miles on New River Road to the intersection with State Route 53. Turn left (north). Follow Route 53 for 1.0 mile to the Midwin Supervisor's Office on the right (east) side of the highway.

HOURS: Trails open sunrise to sunset; welcome center open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm weekdays year-round and summer weekends.

TELEPHONE: (815) 423-6370

WEBSITE: <http://www.fs.fed.us/mntp/>

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: April through September.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Check website or call for bird walk schedule.

ENTRANCE FEE: None for trails mentioned above. Small fee for tours.

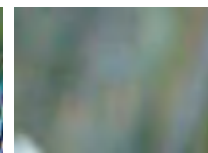
ACCESSIBILITY: Some areas can be birded from the road; all trails are grass or old roadways.

AMENITIES: U.S. Forest Service Headquarters welcome center with exhibits.



great blue heron

Red-bellied Woodpecker



MAP H INDIANA

1 0 1 2 Miles



56 MARQUETTE PARK, GARY

Marquette Park, the shoreline park in the City of Gary, is an outstanding place to bird during fall migration: any bird flying south on or along Lake Michigan runs out of water at the shoreline. This funnel effect concentrates loons, grebes, ducks, shorebirds, gulls, jaegers and many other species. Productivity tends to be weather dependent—aim for days with strong north winds. Best results require patient scanning of the lake. A scope is essential to avoid great frustration.

ADDRESS: *800 North Lake Street, Gary, IN, 46403

DIRECTIONS: From the north end of I-65, exit eastbound to Route 12; travel east to Lake Street; turn left (north) through the community of Miller Beach. Lake Street ends at a large parking lot on the beach, which is often a good place for perched gulls. Most observers, however, view from the east end of the park. To get there, travel 3 blocks north on Lake Street; turn left onto Hemlock Avenue; turn left at Grand Boulevard and follow the road into the park. Look for birders near the concession stand.

HOURS: Only limitation is available daylight.

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: September through late November.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: Birders are usually present on fall weekends, and weekdays if weather is right.

ENTRANCE FEE: Entrance fee at Lake Avenue beach from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

ACCESSIBILITY: Easily accessible.

57 INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, located in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties, consists of more than 15,000 acres of lakefront, open water, wetlands, woods, prairie and dunes. It ranks near the top of all properties within the National Park System in its variety of plant life. This is a stunning place any time of the year. Birding opportunities are everywhere. Five of the more heavily birded areas are listed here.

ADDRESS: 1100 North Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN, 46304

DIRECTIONS: All of these sites are located north of Route 12. Directions assume you are heading east on Route 12.

HOURS: Sunrise to sunset.

TELEPHONE: Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore: (219) 926-7561; Indiana Dunes State Park: (219) 926-1952

WEBSITES: National Lakeshore: www.nps.gov/INDU or Indiana Dunes State Park: www.in.gov/dnr/parklake

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: The greatest richness of species can be observed during spring and fall migrations. Spring migration runs from mid-April through May, and fall migration species diversity peaks during September. However, all seasons present birding opportunities. Even winter can be productive when many “snowbirds” migrate from the north to spend the winter at the Dunes.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS: A variety of natural history walks are offered by the state park and national lakeshore. Call for specific information.

ENTRANCE FEE: There is entrance fee for West Beach (during summer) and the Indiana Dunes State Park.

Pectoral Sandpiper



Hooded Warbler



Northern Saw-whet Owl



INDIANA

ACCESSIBILITY: Vehicle access is good; most of the area can be reached only by foot trails, which are numerous. Trails that ascend and descend dunes can be quite arduous.

AMENITIES: The Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center (Route 12 and Kemil Road, 3 miles east of Route 49), with exhibits, maps, and staff; state park nature center with maps and other information; camping

57 A. LONG LAKE/WEST BEACH

Long Lake, a large interdunal lake in the National Lakeshore, attracts a good variety of open water and marsh birds from spring through fall. West Beach features an unusual type of wetland known as a panne (a small pond located between the dunes that is fed by ground water), great views of Lake Michigan and a boardwalk trail that leads over the dunes and into an area of white pines.

DIRECTIONS: Entrance sign off of Route 12, just east of Lake County-Porter County line.

ENTRANCE FEE: Fee is charged in summer.

57 B. COWLES BOG

This famous botanical area is also excellent for birds from spring through fall. A variety of habitats including woods, scrub and marsh attract numerous migrant and breeding species.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 12, turn left (north) onto Mineral Springs Road toward Dune Acres. Birders may park in the lot immediately north of the South Shore railroad tracks and walk westward. The path leads to a dike between the bog and a utility company settling pond. Most birding is done along this dike. Another option is to continue past railroad tracks and then turn right immediately before reaching the guard station. Drive about 100 yards to a parking lot.

57 C. INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK

This site consists of over 2,000 acres managed by the Indiana Department of

Natural Resources. More than 30 species of warblers have been recorded here, including such breeders as Hooded, Prothonotary, Prairie (only local nesting colony), Cerulean and Louisiana Waterthrush. Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker and Summer Tanager are among the many other locally unusual species that might be encountered. Best trails are numbers 2, 9 and 10.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 12, go north on Route 49 into the state park.

HOURS: 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: The greatest richness of species can be observed during spring and fall migrations.

ENTRANCE FEE: Fee is charged.

57 D. JOHNSON'S (PORTER) BEACH

Birders gather here on a dune top from March through May to witness the spring hawk flights. Most of the hawks are Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned and Broad-winged, but numerous other species are represented including Bald Eagle and Red-shouldered.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 12, turn left (north) on Waverly Road; turn left at Roskin Road; right on Wabash Avenue; right on Duneland Drive; go to end of road.

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING:

April is by far the best month.

57 E. BEVERLY DRIVE

Beverly Drive runs through the town of Beverly Shores in the eastern half of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. At the west end of this nearly 10-mile east-west road, cattail marsh, swamp forest and sedge meadow habitats occur within a short distance of each other and provide good birding for rails, ducks, swallows, woodpeckers and warblers. Forest and foredune commu-

nities are present 0.5 mile north and offer many other warbler species during migration.

DIRECTIONS: From the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore visitor center on Route 12 in Beverly Shores, proceed north approximately 1 mile on Kemil Road (East State Park Road) to the large Kemil Beach parking lot. Or, from the visitor center, continue east on Route 12 approximately 1.5 miles to the intersection of Broadway and Route 12. At the stop light, proceed north on Broadway about 0.5 mile to the intersection with Beverly Drive. Proceed west about 1.5 miles to just before the intersection with East State Park Road. A small parking area is on the south side of the road.

58 HAMMOND LAKEFRONT PARK AND BIRD SANCTUARY

This bird sanctuary is a narrow 16-acre strip on the shores of Lake Michigan where migrating species can find refuge over otherwise heavily urban or industrial areas. This unique place is filled with concrete slabs dumped there for lake fill. The vegetation attracts large concentrations of songbirds that can be seen at eye level. The west end of the woodlot has a wide paved path. Uneven trails occur on the ridge and near the fence separating it from the marina parking lot.

ADDRESS: 825 Empress Drive, Hammond, Indiana, 46320 (next to the Hammond Marina)

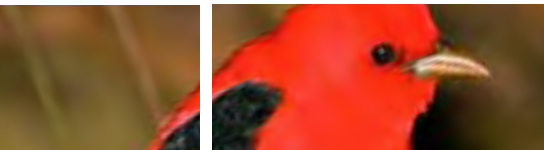
DIRECTIONS: From US 41, which parallels Lake Michigan, go south to Ewing Avenue. Cross the Calumet River Bridge; go under a railroad viaduct to 100th Avenue. Turn left (southeast) onto Indianapolis Boulevard and continue into Indiana. (Both the Chicago Skyway and Indiana Toll Road exit onto Indianapolis Boulevard) At the casino sign, turn right onto the casino overpass. At the bottom of the overpass, make a sharp right "U" turn and go under the overpass; park at either end of the fence to enter the open bird sanctuary.

BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING: Songbirds in late March to early June and late August to early October. From December through February, a variety of wintering ducks and gulls, such as the Glaucous and Great Black-backed, can be viewed from the marina fishing pier.

AMENITIES: Snack shop at the marina open weekdays.

Scarlet Tanager

Swainson's Thrush



LANDOWNER INFORMATION

Chicago Botanic Garden

1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe IL 60062
Telephone: (847) 835-5440
Website: www.chicagobotanic.org

Chicago Park District

541 N. Fairbanks Court, Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: (312) 742-7529
Website: www.chicagoparkdistrict.com

City of Chicago Department of Environment

30 N. LaSalle, Ste. 2500, Chicago, IL 60602
Telephone: (312) 744-7606
Website: www.cityofchicago.org/environment

DuPage County Forest Preserve District

P.O. Box 5000, Wheaton, IL 60189
Telephone: (630) 933-7200
Website: www.dupageforest.com

Forest Preserve District of Cook County

536 N Harlem Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305
Telephone in Chicago: (773) 261-8400,
Suburbs: (708) 366-9420
Website: www.fpdcc.com

Fox Valley Park District

712 S. River St., P.O. Box 818,
Aurora, IL 60507
Telephone: (630) 897-0516
Website: www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org

Gary Park District

City of Gary Parks & Recreation,
401 Broadway, Gary Indiana 46402
Telephone: (219) 886-7099
Website: www.gary.in.us

Glenview Park District

1930 Prairie Street, Glenview, IL 60025
Telephone: (847) 657-3215
Website: www.glenviewparkdistrict.org

Hammond Parks Foundation

Shepard Center
3031 Mahoney Drive,
Hammond, Indiana 46323
Telephone: (219) 554-0155

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

8916 Wilmot Rd.
Spring Grove, IL 60081
Telephone: (815) 675-2386
Website: www.dnr.state.il.us/

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Indiana Dunes State Park
1600 North 25 East, Chesterton, IN 46304
Telephone: (219) 926-1952 or 800-622-4931
Website: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/>

Joliet Park District

Pilcher Park
2501 Highland Drive,
Joliet, IL 60432
Telephone: (815) 741-7277
Website: www.jolietpark.org/facilities/pilcherpark.shtml

Kane County Forest Preserve District

719 S. Batavia Avenue, Geneva, IL 60134
Telephone: (630) 232-1242
Website: www.co.kane.il.us/forest/

Lake County Forest Preserve District

2000 N. Milwaukee Avenue,
Libertyville, IL 60048
Telephone: (847) 367-6640
Website: www.lcfpd.org

Morton Arboretum

4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532
Telephone: (630) 968-0074
Website: www.mortonarb.org

National Park Service

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304
Telephone: (219) 926-7561, x225
Website: www.nps.gov/indu/

US Forest Service

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S. State Route. 53, Wilmington, IL 60401
Telephone: (815) 423-6370
Website: www.fs.fed.us/mntp

Will County Forest Preserve District

17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet IL 60433
Telephone: (815) 727-8700
Website: www.fpdwc.org

Wilmette Park District

1200 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091
Telephone: (847) 256-6100
Website: www.wilmettepark.org



green heron

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Snow Bunting



Pine Siskin

Wood Duck (male)

