

THE CHICAGO REGION

BIRDING  
TRAIL  
GUIDE

# WELCOME

## Welcome to the Chicago Region Birding Trail

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

For more information, visit [www.chicagobirdingtrail.org](http://www.chicagobirdingtrail.org).

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

For more information, visit [www.chicagobirdingtrail.org](http://www.chicagobirdingtrail.org).

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

The Chicago Region Birding Trail is a collection of birding sites in the Chicago region that are accessible to all. The trail is designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes. The trail is also designed to provide a variety of birding experiences, from easy walks to challenging hikes.

## Table of Contents

Welcome .....	1
Overview Map .....	2
Using the Guide .....	3
Map A: Lake and McHenry Counties .....	4
Map B: Northern Cook County .....	7
Map C: Kane and DuPage Counties .....	9
Map D: Chicago North .....	12
Map E: Chicago South .....	16
Map F: Southern Cook County .....	19
Map G: Will and Grundy Counties .....	23
Map H: Indiana .....	25
Landowner Information.....	27
Acknowledgements .....	27

Chicago Region Birding Trail  
A Project of the Chicago Audubon Society  
© 2014 Chicago Audubon Society  
All rights reserved.

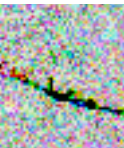




## Using the Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide

Chicago's birding trails are a great way to explore the city's diverse natural areas. The Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide is a comprehensive resource for birders of all levels. It provides detailed information on the location, history, and bird life of each trail. The guide is organized into sections based on the type of habitat, such as wetlands, forests, and urban areas. Each section includes a list of trails, a map, and a list of birds that are commonly seen at each location. The guide is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to learn more about the birds of Chicago and the best places to see them.


The Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide is a comprehensive resource for birders of all levels. It provides detailed information on the location, history, and bird life of each trail. The guide is organized into sections based on the type of habitat, such as wetlands, forests, and urban areas. Each section includes a list of trails, a map, and a list of birds that are commonly seen at each location. The guide is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to learn more about the birds of Chicago and the best places to see them.



**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 un0 9 3985Y1-





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.lcfd.org](http://www.lcfd.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.

### 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:**

### 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/](http://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.



### MORAINE 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.

### 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](http://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.

### 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:**

Grayslake, 60030

# MAP B NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

## 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](http://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).

## 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](http://www.fpdcc.com)

**BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING:** March through November.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Lake can be seen from parking lot.

## 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

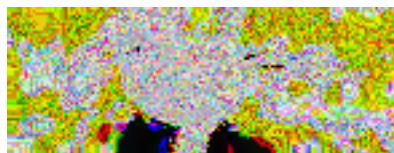
**WEBSITE:** [www.chicago-botanic.org](http://www.chicago-botanic.org)

**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.

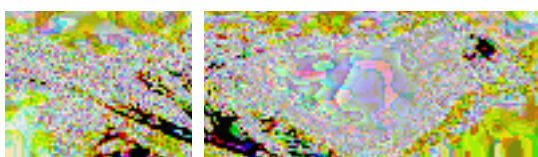
**ACCESSIBILITY:** A paved road (with limited vehicle access) encircles the garden, allowing good views of the lagoons. Many of the other trails are handicapped accessible.







# MAP C KANE AND DUPAGE COUNTIES









**WEBSITE:** [www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://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.

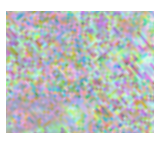
### **A. MONTROSE POINT BIRD SANCTUARY & MONTROSE DUNE**

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.

### **B. BILL JARVIS MIGRATORY BIRD SANCTUARY & BELMONT HARBOR**

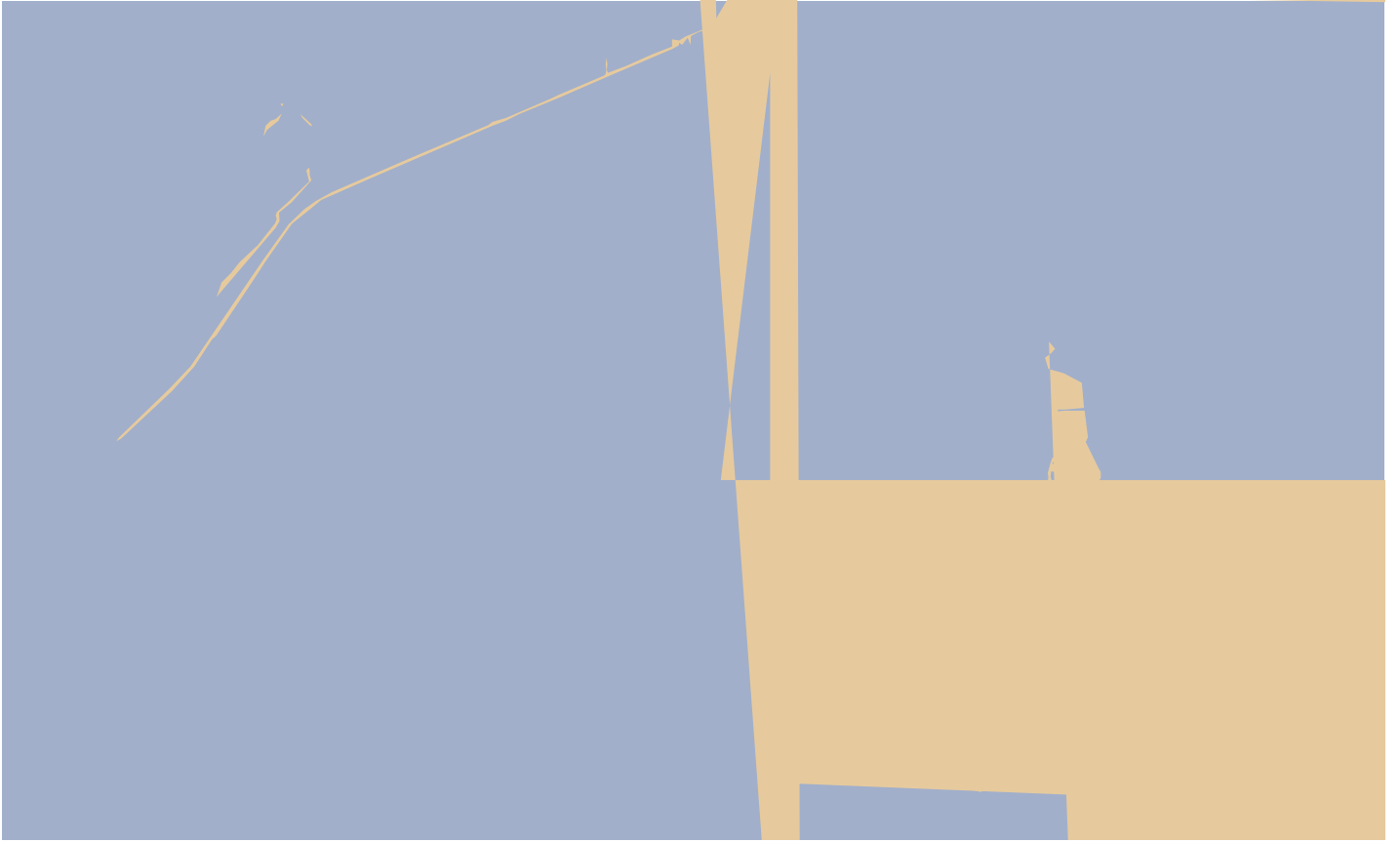
Birders walk the edge of this 6.5-acre fenced sanctuary in Lincoln Park to see and hear the large variety of migrants that use this wooded oasis. Black-crowned Night-Herons often roost here as well. On the east side is a wheelchair-accessible viewing stand with benches. Walk a short distance south to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











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.

## 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](http://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).

## 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.

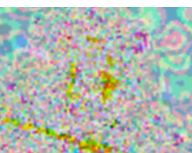
## B. BIG MARSH

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









**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

#### **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.ipdccc.com](http://www.ipdccc.com)

**BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING:** May through July.

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Not handicapped accessible.

#### **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.

#### **PLUM CREEK PLAY MEADOW**

Located in the southeasternmost 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

# MAP G WILL AND GRUNDY COUNTIES



## **LAKE RENWICK HERON ROOKERY NATURE PRESERVE**

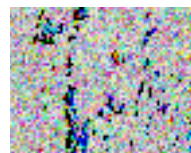
Lake Renwick is one of the principal heron rookeries in the region. The preserve includes a 200-acre lake with several small islands. Nesting birds include Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and Double-crested Cormorants. Cattle Egrets have nested sporadically. Other birds such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



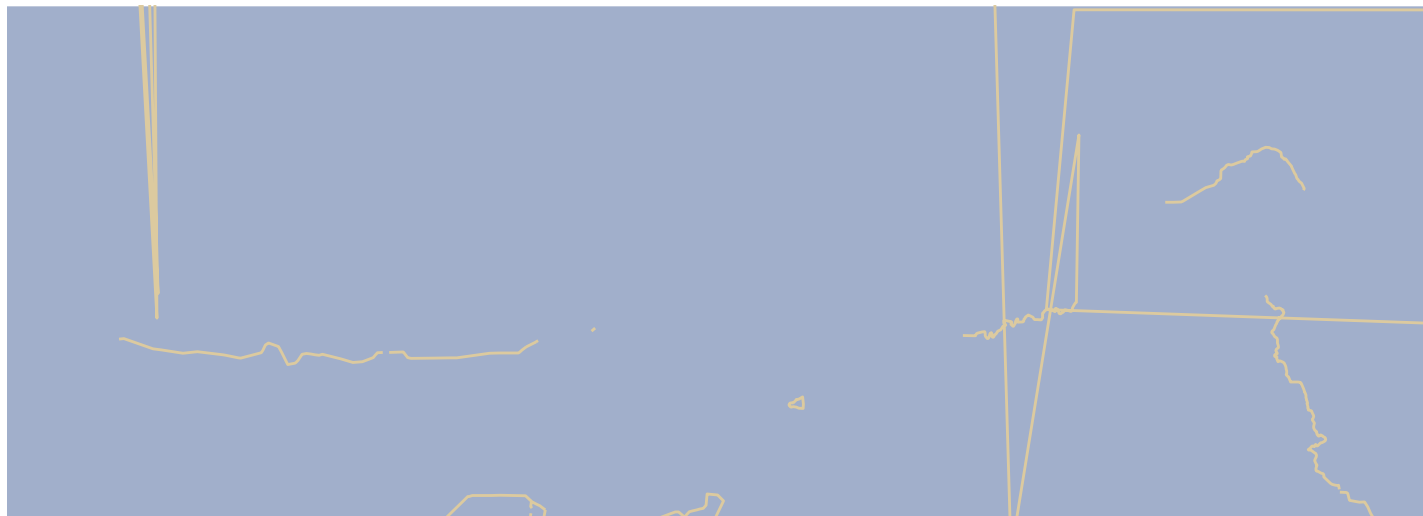


**GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE, CONTINUED****ADDRESS:** 5010 North Jugtown Road, Morris, 60450**DIRECTIONS:** From I-55, travel west on Lorenzo Road/ Pine Bluff Road for 7.5 miles. Turn right (north) on Jugtown Road to park headquarters. Heidecke Lake can be viewed in the winter by taking Dresden Road north from 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](http://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]**

Midewin, 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 Midewin 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.

# MAP H 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

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

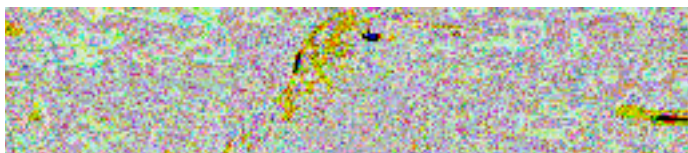
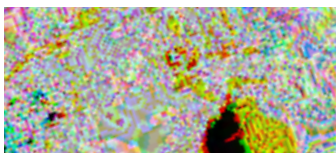
**BEST MONTHS FOR VIEWING:** The greatest richness of species can be observed during spring and fall migrations.

**ENTRANCE FEE:** Fee is charged.

### 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



# LANDOWNER INFORMATION

**Chicago Botanic Garden**

1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe IL 60062

Telephone: (847) 835-5440

Website: [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

**Chicago Park District**