

Birds of the Upper Mississippi River

Follow the Great River Road to Great Birding!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Success Stories

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

Species of Concern

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

Connecting People to the Mississippi River

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

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

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

Birds of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge Checklist

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

Season:

Spring - March through May
Summer - June through August
Fall - September through November
Winter - December through February

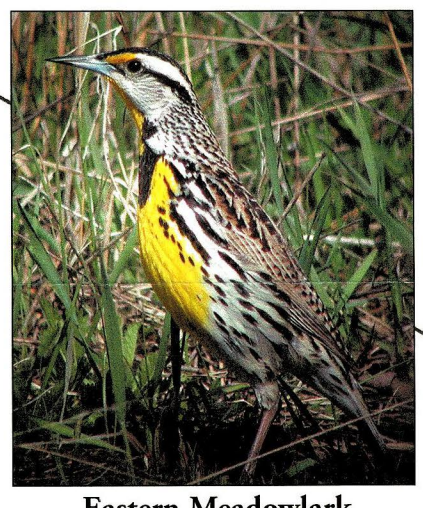
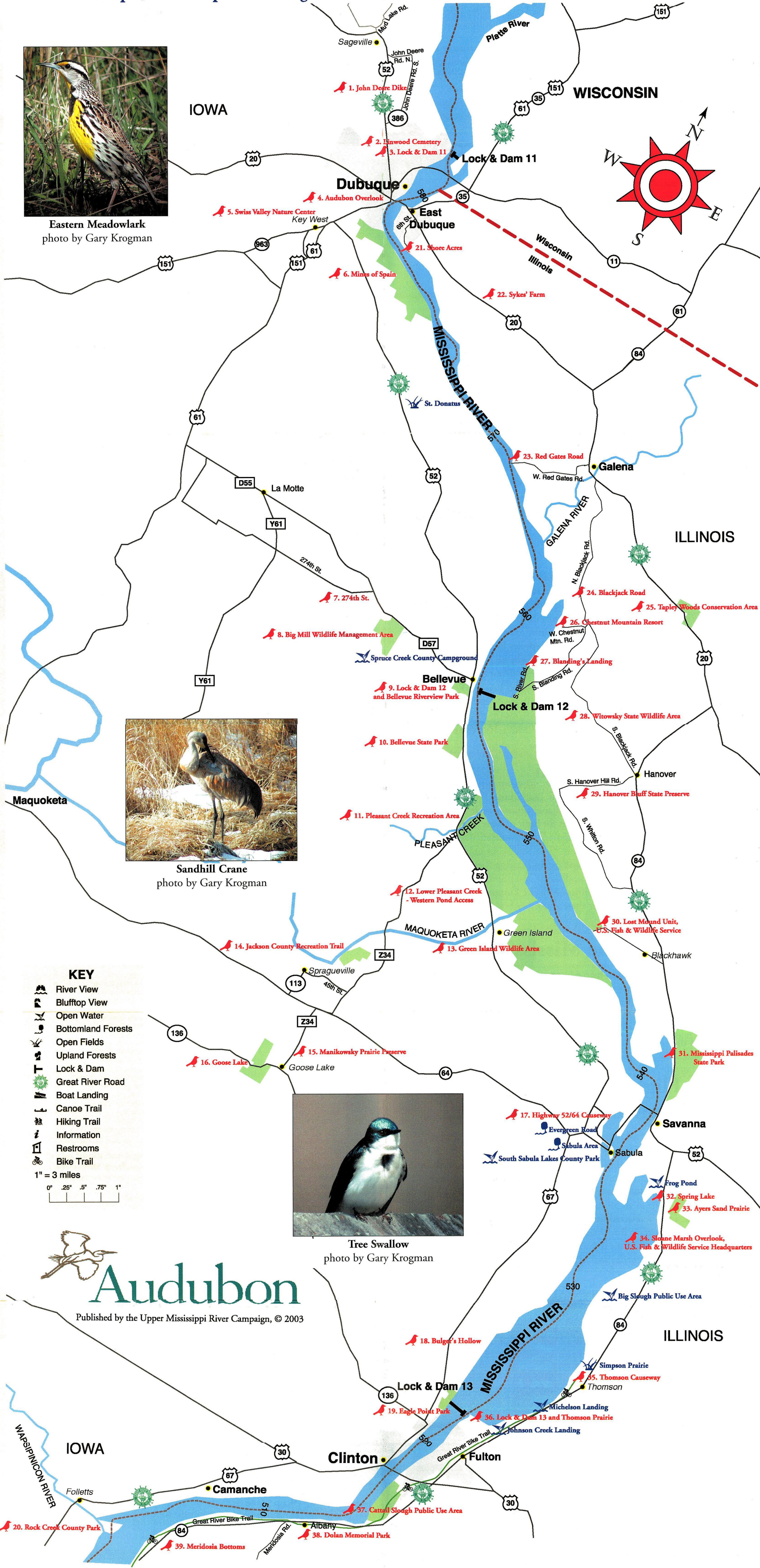
Abundance and Nesting Status:

A - abundant
C - common
U - uncommon
R - rare
* - Nests on the refuge

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

Great River Birding Trail

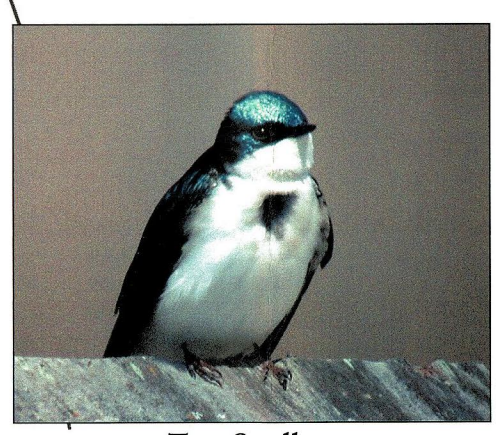
Dubuque, Iowa Map — from Sageville, Iowa, to Clinton, Iowa (River Mile 586 to 507)



Eastern Meadowlark
photo by Gary Krogman



Sandhill Crane
photo by Gary Krogman



Tree Swallow
photo by Gary Krogman

- 1. John Deere Dike**

Where: East of U.S. Highway 52 on the north end of Dubuque. Take Hwy. 386 (John Deere Rd.) north and park in the lot by the heating plant.
Birds: Views from the top of the dike include a chance to view rails, Marsh Wrens and nesting Bald Eagles, as well as migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, including Canvasbacks. Also Common Mergansers during winter.
- 2. Linwood Cemetery**

Where: Turn east on 22nd St. from Central Ave. (Hwy. 52) then turn north on Windsor Ave. (2nd stoplight). The cemetery is a mile on the right.
Birds: Good for winter finches, especially Pine Siskin.
- 3. Lock & Dam 11**

Where: Take Kerper Blvd. or Rhombert to Hawthorne. Go east toward the river.
Birds: Excellent Bald Eagle viewing in winter, also winter gulls and waterfowl.
- 4. Audubon Overlook**

Where: Turn on 14th St. from Central and then turn right at the sign across from the Farmland Packing Plant.
Birds: This area is particularly good for close looks at migrating waterfowl in November and March, and shorebirds in August.
- 5. Swiss Valley Nature Center**

Where: Take Hwy. 20 west from Dubuque and look for brown signs. Just west of the IOCO truck stop, turn south on Swiss Valley Rd. and follow the signs for 1.5 miles.
Birds: A variety of woodland and riparian habitats. Look for Eastern Bluebirds, Woodcocks at dusk in April, Pileated Woodpeckers, Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Bobolinks and Acadian Flycatchers.
- 6. Mines of Spain**

Where: South of Dubuque, follow signs from Hwy. 52.
Birds: Extensive trails through a variety of habitats. Cerulean Warblers, Broad-winged Hawks. Good views of the river from the bluff tops. Interpretive center on the southwest portion of the park.
- 7. 274th St.**

Where: Between Cty. Rd. D57 and Cty. Rd. Y61 east of Bellevue. Excellent drive through a hillside forest.
Birds: Wood Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, warblers and vireos.
- 8. Big Mill Wildlife Management Area**

Where: Three miles east of Bellevue on Cty. Rd. D57.
Birds: Waterfowl, Belted Kingfishers and Common Yellow-throats. Good for warblers during migration.
- 9. Lock & Dam 12 and Bellevue Riverview Park**

Where: City park in Bellevue at Lock & Dam 12.
Birds: Excellent eagle watching during the winter, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak, Loggerhead Shrike
Note: Call (815) 273-3184 for more information.
- 10. Bellevue State Park**

Where: Just south of Bellevue.
Birds: Paved roads to the blufftop with great views of the river, an interpretive center, trails through the upland forest and butterfly gardens. Excellent for upland forest birds. Carolina Wren, Yellow-throated Warbler.
- 11. Pleasant Creek Recreation Area**

Where: Three miles south of Bellevue on Hwy. 52.
Birds: Pileated Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmouse, American Redstarts, Great Blue Herons, Common Yellowthroats, waterfowl and shorebirds during migration and an excellent variety of songbirds. Also a good location for eagle and vulture viewing.
- 12. Lower Pleasant Creek-Western Pond Access**

Where: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service parking area 6 miles south of Bellevue on the east side of Hwy. 52.
Birds: Hiking trails through bottomland forest and along backwater ponds. Excellent for Prothonotary Warblers, Lark Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpeckers in winter, a variety of sparrows and other forest birds as well as herons, egrets and all types of waterfowl.
- 13. Green Island Wildlife Area**

Where: A 2500-acre wetland surrounded by upland and bottomland forest. East of Hwy. 52, 7 miles south of Bellevue and 6 miles north of Sabula.
Birds: Excellent for migrant shorebirds and waterfowl. Noteworthy breeders include Common Moorhens, Sandhill Cranes, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers and Red-shouldered Hawks.
- 14. Jackson County Recreation Trail**

Where: A 3.7-mile trail east of the town of Spragueville on 45th St. along the Maquoketa River to Cty. Rd. Z34.
Birds: Excellent birding trail along the river and forested hills with a variety of songbirds, woodpeckers and raptors. Search for Sandhill Cranes north of causeway.
- 15. Manikowsky Prairie Preserve**

Where: Two miles north of Goose Lake, just east of Cty. Rd. Z34.
Birds: Northern Mockingbirds, Sandhill Cranes and Lark Sparrows, Loggerhead Shrike.
- 16. Goose Lake**

Where: Northwest of Clinton on Hwy. 136.
Birds: Quality cattail marsh with the usual breeding marsh birds. Large numbers of migrant waterfowl, primarily puddle ducks, are present in season. Nesting Sandhill Cranes, American and Least Bitterns, Loggerhead Shrike, Trumpeter Swans and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.
- 17. Highway 52/64 Causeway to Bridge between Sabula and Savanna**

Where: Parking area on the big curve.
Birds: Barn, Cliff, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows. A heron colony is visible from the road.
- 18. Bulger's Hollow**

Where: East of Hwy. 62, sign on the highway.
Birds: Carolina Wrens, Belted Kingfishers and also excellent for waterfowl during migration and eagles during winter.
- 19. Eagle Point Park**

Where: City park on top of a bluff overlooking Lock & Dam 13, on the north side of Clinton.
Birds: The upland forest and pine plantings can be excellent for woodland migrants. Also, the tower is an excellent place to watch the raptor migration during the fall.
- 20. Rock Creek County Park**

Where: Two miles east of Folletts.
Birds: Great location for neotropical migrants and bottomland forest birds.
- 21. Shore Acres**

Where: Go east on U.S. 20 through East Dubuque, then turn south on 6th St. Turn left on Basten Rd. and then take Harbor Dr. Park at Bent Prop Marina.
Birds: Prothonotary Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Barred Owls and Wood Ducks.

- 22. Sykes' Farm**

Where: From U.S. 20, midway between East Dubuque and Galena, turn north onto Imbus Road. Then take the second left onto Rocky (only 200 yards from U.S. 20) and follow until road changes from blacktop to gravel.
Birds: There are 110 acres of oak / pine forest, prairie grasses and hiking trails here for exploring. Watch for upland song birds, hawks, wild turkeys, as well as herons and Kingfishers by the stream.
Note: This land is privately owned. The land owners will not be held liable for any persons visiting the property.
- 23. Red Gates Road**

Where: Across from McDonalds on the northwest side of Galena. Take the blacktop road to the railroad tracks along the Mississippi River to the "Y" at 2.3 miles (stay right). The road is narrow but traffic is usually light with good birding opportunities along the way, especially the last mile. There is a small parking area at the end of the road. Cross the tracks into the refuge.
Birds: Excellent bottomland birding, including Red-shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls, American Redstarts, Baltimore Orioles, Prothonotary Warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers and Yellow-throated Vireos.
- 24. Blackjack Road**

Where: From Galena turn off on Blackjack Rd. three blocks east of the Apple River bridge. Follow Blackjack as it winds through a hilly region all the way to Hanover. Or turn off approximately 4 miles south of Galena, where it intersects with S. Blanding Rd. Follow S. Blanding Rd. until it comes to the river.
Birds: Meadowlarks, Dickcissels, Wild Turkeys, Red-tailed Hawks, Indigo Buntings and a good variety of songbirds and excellent opportunities for raptors during fall migration.
Note: This narrow blacktop road offers few places to pull off to watch. However, traffic is often light.
- 25. Tapley Woods Conservation Area**

Where: Approximately 7 miles east of Galena on Hwy. 20.
Birds: The extensive upland forest tract includes an excellent diversity of birds, such as Scarlet Tanagers, American Redstarts, Pileated Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, Whip-poor-wills, Acadian Flycatchers and others. Excellent for migrating songbirds during spring and fall.
- 26. Chestnut Mountain Resort**

Where: South of Galena and west off of Blackjack Rd., to Chestnut Mountain Rd.
Birds: The great blufftop view of the river makes this an excellent spot to watch the raptor migration during the fall.
- 27. Blanding's Landing**

Where: At the intersection with Chestnut Mountain Rd. and S. Blanding Rd., take a right (south) and stay on S. Blanding Rd. At the intersection with S. River Rd., turn right (north) and take it to Blanding's Landing.
Birds: Great Blue Herons and a great spot for waterfowl during migration and eagles during winter. Potential for good shorebird activity during late summer and early autumn.
- 28. Witowsky State Wildlife Area**

Where: Along Blackjack Rd., about 6 miles south of Galena and 4 miles north of Hanover.
Birds: Wild Turkeys, Cooper's Hawks, Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Field Sparrows, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers and a variety of other songbirds.
Note: This 950 acres — about half wooded and half open fields and reconstructed prairie — is a public hunting area.
- 29. Hanover Bluff State Preserve**

Where: South and west of Hanover along South Whitton Rd.
Birds: Raptor migration and upland forest birds.
Note: Hogback ridge with a steep hike, but great views of the river and Savanna Army Depot.
- 30. Lost Mound Unit, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

Where: West of Hwy. 84, south and west of Hanover.
Birds: One of the best birding areas in the region. All types of waterbirds, warblers and songbirds and also grassland species, Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Orchard Oriole, Blue Grosbeak and Loggerhead Shrike.
Note: This area is currently in transition from being the Savanna Army Depot. Some points are currently accessible, but more access points are planned. Call (815) 273-3184 for more information.
- 31. Mississippi Palisades State Park**

Where: Just north of Savanna on Hwy. 64. There are paved roads through the upland forest with great blufftop views of the river.
Birds: Excellent variety of songbirds. Potential for Kentucky, Hooded and Yellow-throated Warblers, Carolina Wren, and Yellow-throated Warbler. Also great for raptors and thrushes during migration.
- 32. Spring Lake**

Where: Off Hwy. 84, 1 mile south of Savanna.
Birds: Fine vantage point for observing swans and other waterfowl, especially during the hunting season.
Note: Limited access between October 1 and mid-December.
- 33. Ayers Sand Prairie**

Where: Approximately 3 miles south of Savanna and 1 mile east of Hwy. 84 on Airport Rd.
Birds: Grasshopper Sparrows, Field Sparrows and Lark Sparrow.
- 34. Sloane Marsh Overlook, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters**

Where: Turn east off of Hwy. 84 approximately 5 miles south of Savanna and go 0.5 mile on Riverview Rd.
Birds: Waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, Sandhill Cranes, Grasshopper Sparrows and other prairie birds on the east side of the road.
Note: Includes visitor information and the Ingersoll Learning Center.
- 35. Thomson Causeway**

Where: Just west of Thomson.
Birds: Migrating waterfowl, Tree Swallows in summer, concentrations of migrating swallows in August and Horned and Eared Grebes during migration.
Note: An excellent view of the Mississippi River at an extremely wide point. Playgrounds and Indian Mounds. Search for Sandhill Cranes north of causeway.
- 36. Lock & Dam 13 and Thomson Prairie**

Where: Along the road to Lock & Dam 13 west of Thomson. Thomson Prairie is north of the access road.
Birds: Migrating waterfowl, Tree Swallows in summer and concentrations of migrating swallows in August. Check for the cormorant colony on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River.
Note: An excellent view of the Mississippi River at an extremely wide point.
- 37. Cattail Slough Public Use Area**

Where: South of Fulton and west of Hwy. 84 just south of the junction of 84 and 30.
Birds: Neotropical migrants and a good variety of songbirds, access to floodplain forest and a Mississippi River side channel.
- 38. Dolan Memorial Park**

Where: Just off Hwy. 84 on the south end of Albany.
Birds: Waterfowl, herons and Tree Swallows.
Note: The gravel parking area is small.
- 39. Meridiosa Bottoms**

Where: Along Hwy. 84, just south of Albany.
Birds: Waterfowl and shorebirds during migration.

- KEY**
- River View
 - Blufftop View
 - Open Water
 - Bottomland Forests
 - Open Fields
 - Upland Forests
 - Lock & Dam
 - Great River Road
 - Boat Landing
 - Canoe Trail
 - Hiking Trail
 - Information
 - Restrooms
 - Bike Trail
- 1" = 3 miles
- 0" 25" 50" 75" 1"

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