

BIRDING HOTSPOTS of Jackson County

Waterloo State Recreational Area

Become a real trailblazer by visiting the largest park in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. With over 20,000 acres, 47 miles of trails and 21 lakes, the Waterloo State Recreation Area contains an impressive number of different bird species to bring you a new bird watching experience with every visit.



Portage Lake State Park

Along with the Jackson County Park just across the lake, Portage Lake State Park is a great area to view a multitude of waterfowl species during the cooler months of spring and fall. Also, nearly every species of warbler (except Kirtland's) can be found here, making it one of the best warbler watching areas in the state!



Glenn Road

This long stretch of road in the Waterloo State Recreation Area gives you the best chance for spotting Cerulean Warblers, who prefer to nest in the upper canopy of mature deciduous forests. Your ears will also do some bird watching of their own, as they can enjoy the beautiful melodies of songbirds like the Wood Thrush and Ovenbird.

Reithmiller Road

An extensive and diverse collection of bird species call the area surrounding Reithmiller Road their home. From reclusive species, like the American Bittern and Henslow's Sparrow, to colorful standouts like the



Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary

The Haehnle Sanctuary is well-known throughout Michigan as THE staging area for Sandhill Cranes. Every autumn, thousands of these birds gather here in preparation for their southern migration. The 954-acre Michigan Audubon Society sanctuary has a variety of habitats, making it possible to see over 200 species of birds and plants, including the Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Shrike during the winter months.



Thorn Lake

Often touted as the 'waterfowl hotspot' of Jackson County, Thorn Lake provides birders the opportunity to view a number of great water bird species, including the Great Egret, Canvasback (over 1,000 in March and October) and Ruddy Duck. The undeveloped nature of Thorn Lake also attracts rare birds, like eagles, on occasion.



Dahlem Center

The Dahlem Center serves as a natural history education center for kids, but it is also known around the state and country for having one of the largest bluebird trails. Birders can capture the songs of Eastern Bluebirds along this well maintained trail, as well as the harmonies of other migratory songbirds.

Cascades Park

This metropolitan park is actually a hidden gem for birders. Many waterfowl, like the brilliantly colored Wood Duck, frequent the various ponds scattered across the 465-acre park. Birders can play a round of 18 holes and enjoy the company of nesting Pine Warblers along the course.



Ella Sharp Park

Set outside of the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History, the park's 570 acres span a multitude of habitats, like mature forests, open grasslands and emergent wetlands, which are home to all different species of birds.



Grand River Environmental Action Team Canoe Trips

Though a lot of good birding is done near the water, the best birding is done ON the water! GREAT Canoe Trips are held once a month, and take birders into most wild and undeveloped areas of Jackson County's many scenic waterways, where rarely seen birds are shone under a whole new light.



Falling Waters

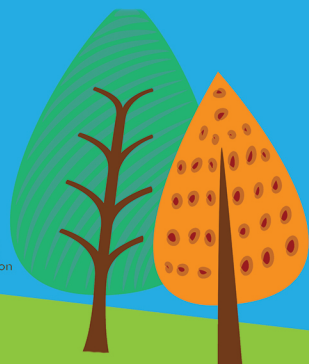
This marvel development is a 10.5 mile linear stretch of paved, non-motorized trail that runs through woodlands, into marshes and across lakes. It runs from the village of Concord to the northwest corner of Weatherwax Rd. There is no better way to view an eclectic collection of birds and scenery together than on the Falling Waters

MacCready Reserve

The MacCready Reserve is a 408-acre property that is designated for education, research and outreach programs in wildlife and forestry management. The lush environment includes rolling terrain, towering hardwoods, natural springs and colorful wildflowers, creating a diverse habitat for numerous species of birds.

Kate Palmer Sanctuary

An oasis of diversity—the Kate Palmer Sanctuary, though small in size (53 acres), serves as an escape from the on-going drudgeries of every day suburban life. Because it is located amid a patchwork of suburbs and shopping malls, the sanctuary allows birders to enjoy the natural, unspoiled beauty of Michigan without having to



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Provided by Tom Hodgson

