
































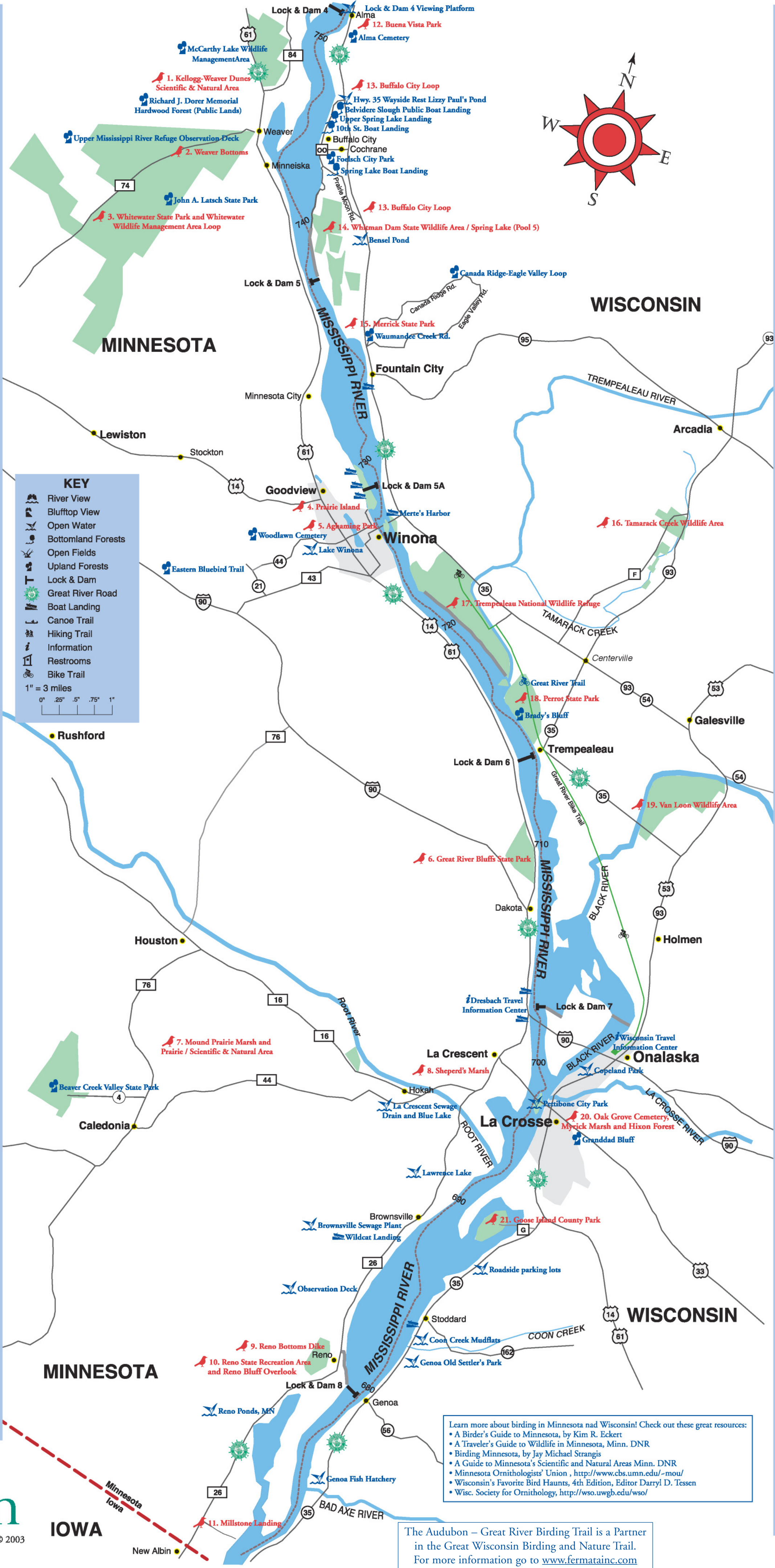








































# Great River Birding Trail

La Crosse, Wis., Map — from Kellogg, Minn., to New Albin, Iowa (River Mile 755 to 674)

- 1. Kellogg-Weaver Dunes Scientific & Natural Area**    
**Where:** This SNA consists of both a northern and southern tract. From Kellogg, take Cty. Rd. 84 south. The northern tract has a sign and limited parking off of CR 84, 4.3 miles south of Kellogg. The southern tract has a parking area at the end of Township Rd. 141, which intersects with CR 84, 5.5 miles south of Kellogg. The southern end of CR 84 intersects with Hwy. 61 two miles north of Weaver.  
**Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, Bell's Vireos, Red-eyed Vireos, warblers, Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Orchard Orioles, Lark Sparrows and Grasshopper Sparrows.  
**Note:** Watch for the rare Blanding's Turtle, which uses this habitat. A side road leads to a public water access.
- 2. Weaver Bottoms**    
**Where:** Located 7 miles south of Kellogg, below the town of Weaver and north of Lock & Dam 5. There is a public parking lot, boat landing and kiosk at Weaver where you can scout for birds. To get a view from up high, drive roughly 2 miles south of Weaver on Hwy. 61. Just before the cemetery, turn right and take a second right that goes up the hill to a good observation point. You can also view the area from the roadside along Hwy. 61 below Weaver.  
**Birds:** Almost all duck species, Bald Eagles, American White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Tundra Swans, gulls, Forster's Terns and Black Terns. In late fall, this is a major staging area for Tundra Swans.
- 3. Whitewater State Park and Whitewater Wildlife Management Area Loop**      
**Where:** At Weaver, follow Hwy. 74 to Whitewater State Park. Follow Hwy. 74 to St. Charles and turn left on Hwy. 14 to return to Winona.  
**Birds:** Geese, ducks and other waterfowl, nesting Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles in winter, Wild Turkeys, Barn Swallows, Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Ruffed Grouse, Whip-poor-wills, Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Thrushes and the Louisiana Water-thrush. Great variety of warblers during migration (including the Blue-winged Warbler).  
**Note:** A wonderful side trip from the Great River Road. There is an excellent interpretive center with displays at Whitewater State Park, as well as camping and cabins. Great place to watch birdfeeders from indoors in winter. Easily accessible. Most of Hwy. 74 is unpaved, but in good condition and well maintained all year.
- 4. Prairie Island**     
**Where:** Follow Huff St. to the river, where it curves sharply to the left and becomes Riverview Drive. Continue 1.5 miles and turn right on Prairie Island Rd. Follow to park entrance on the left.  
**Birds:** Thrushes, warblers, Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, woodpeckers, nuthatches, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and vireos.  
**Note:** The road leading into Prairie Island Park has fantastic views of bottomland forest and marshlands. Thousands of ducks use the area above the spillway.
- 5. Aghaming Park**      
**Where:** From Winona, cross the Hwy. 54 bridge to Wisconsin. Turn right directly after bridge onto Latsch Island. Follow the left fork at the "Y". Park in front of the old concrete wagon bridge and walk across to Aghaming Park.  
**Birds:** Excellent for spring warblers, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Prothonotary Warblers, Cerulean Warblers, geese, ducks, rails, Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks, Ospreys, cuckoos, woodpeckers, flycatchers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.  
**Note:** This park is undeveloped and accessible only on foot or by boat from the Minnesota side, although the park is in Wisconsin. Bottomland forest habitat. Duck hunting in fall.
- 6. Great River Bluffs State Park**      
**Where:** Follow signs off of I-90/Hwy. 61.  
**Birds:** Wild Turkeys, Whip-poor-wills, Henslow's Sparrows, Bell's Vireos, Blue-winged Warblers. Watch for nesting Peregrine Falcons on the cliffs.  
**Note:** Goat prairie habitat, high wooded bluffs and great views of the Mississippi River Valley and Driftless Area.
- 7. Mound Prairie Marsh Scientific & Natural Area**    
**Where:** From Hokah, take Hwy. 16 west about 4 miles. Park on gravel forest road on the north side of the highway.  
**Birds:** Sandhill Cranes, Common Moorhen, Least Bittern and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.  
**Note:** This SNA contains goat prairies, oak forests and steep rocky ravines of ancient stream beds. The Root River flows by on its way to the Mississippi. Spectacular views from climbing the SNA prairie.
- 8. Shepherd's Marsh**    
**Where:** In La Crescent, take the old highway (Main St.) along the east side of Highways 14/61. Turn east at the car wash on Main Street. Cross the tracks and drive to the marsh.  
**Birds:** Waterfowl, marsh birds, Common Yellowthroats, swallows and Belted Kingfishers.
- 9. Reno Bottoms Dike**     
**Where:** Entrance and parking located just north of Reno on the east side of Hwy. 26. Drive or walk down to the access. Walk the long dike that extends into the east river bottom.  
**Birds:** Look for wading birds, waterfowl, woodpeckers and warblers.
- 10. Reno State Recreation Area and Reno Bluff Overlook**      
**Where:** From Reno, turn west off of Hwy. 26 on the gravel road and follow signs for Reno Recreation Area. About 0.3 miles pass entrance on left for primitive campground and continue about one mile. Watch for gate and trail on right, and park in the small parking lot. Follow trail up for about 0.3 miles, hold to the right when trail forks. Take the trail to old quarry and follow along rim. Panoramic views of river.  
**Birds:** This is one of the best hawk-watching sites in Minnesota south of Duluth. In late September to late October watch for Cooper's, Broad-wings, Northern Harriers, Red-tails, Peregrines, Goshawks, Kestrels, Red-shoulders, Merlins and Turkey Vultures. In the bluff edge trees watch for warblers, vireos, gnatcatchers and kinglets. Also watch for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Orchard Orioles, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Towhees, Wood Thrushes, Scarlet Tanagers, Wild Turkeys, owls and woodpeckers. In fall look for migrating Monarch butterflies.
- 11. Millstone Landing**     
**Where:** Hwy. 26, 3 miles north of New Albin.  
**Birds:** Watch for warblers in spring and woodland raptors.



- 12. Buena Vista Park**    
**Where:** In Alma, turn off of Hwy. 35 onto Cty. Rd. E. Follow signs for the park.  
**Birds:** One of the best public raptor migration viewing areas in Wisconsin. Watch for Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks, Peregrine Falcons and Broad-winged Hawks (Aug.-Sept.). In fall, watch for Merlins, American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks and Coopers Hawks. Open water below Lock & Dam 4 makes this a great spot to watch Bald Eagles fish in winter. Also watch for Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrushes, Hairy Woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse.
- 13. Buffalo City Loop**      
**Where:** From the south, turn left onto Prairie Moon Rd. 5 miles north of Fountain City. From the north, turn right on Cty. Rd. OO north of Cochrane at the sign. Buffalo City is rich in excellent birding areas, which are noted in blue on the map.  
**Birds:** River backwaters and marshes offer an extensive diversity of diving ducks and dabblers, three species of loons, rails, herons, Great Egrets, Sandhill Cranes, Ospreys and White Pelicans. In woodland and field habitats, watch for hawks, migrating warblers, cuckoos, vireos, gnatcatchers, thrushes and orioles.
- 14. Whitman Dam State Wildlife Area / Spring Lake (Pool 5)**     
**Where:** Exit Hwy. 35 on Cty. Rd. O near Cochrane, then travel south on OO to the parking lot at the east end of the Whitman Dam Dike. Park here and walk the dike to look for birds.  
**Birds:** Warbling Vireos, Prothonotary Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, Hooded Mergansers and Tundra Swans. Look for Pileated Woodpeckers and Red-shouldered Hawks.  
**Note:** Great place to walk through bottomland forest without getting your feet wet or trampling fragile vegetation. This road is not plowed in winter, but is accessible with skis or snowshoes. The 2-mile hike on the dike to Lock & Dam 5 during spring migration in May might be good for warblers, and in early November for waterfowl. (4-mile roundtrip walk)
- 15. Merrick State Park**      
**Where:** Three miles north of Fountain City on Hwy. 35.  
**Birds:** In summer, watch for Great-Crested Flycatchers, Common Yellowthroats, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Prothonotary Warblers. Look and listen for Barred Owls, Northern Saw Whet Owls, Eastern Screech Owls and the Great Horned Owl. Resident Cerulean Warblers recorded here. The pine trees to the left of the bridge as you enter the park are home to hundreds of Turkey Vultures in March and April. Best viewing time is at dusk.
- 16. Tamarack Creek Wildlife Area**     
**Where:** Drive west from Centerville on Hwy. 35/54 to Cty. Rd. F. Drive 7.5 miles north on F to the parking lot for the wildlife area. To return to Hwy. 35/54, head south on Hwy. 93 to Centerville. Or reverse this route, starting on Hwy. 93.  
**Birds:** In this tamarack bog habitat watch for hawks, owls, warblers, vireos, thrushes, flycatchers, sparrows, Northern Harriers, Sandhill Cranes, Willow Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, Sedge Wrens, Marsh Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, American Redstarts, Indigo Buntings, Swamp Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks.
- 17. Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge**      
**Where:** Drive 3.25 miles west on Hwy. 35/54 from Centerville. Turn south at the sign for the refuge and follow 1 mile to the entrance.  
**Birds:** Diverse habitat in this refuge attracts a wonderful diversity of bird species. Chances are good to see more than 29 warbler species and 100 bird species at the height of migration. In prairie and woodland habitat watch for Grasshopper, Lark, Savannah, and Field Sparrows, cuckoos, Sandhill Cranes, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, Northern Shrike, Pileated Woodpeckers, American Woodcocks, Northern Harriers, hawks, accipiters and owls. In open water and slough areas watch for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Tundra Swans, White Pelicans, Forster's Terns, Sora and Virginia Rails and cormorants, as well as mergansers and dabblers in spring and fall.  
**Note:** Don't miss the 4-mile Wildlife Drive, Keip's Island, Nature Trail to Pine Creek Dike, interpretation center and observation deck. Maps of the refuge are available at the headquarters and kiosks.
- 18. Perrot State Park**        
**Where:** Access from the south via Hwy. 93 through the village of Trempealeau. In Trempealeau, follow signs for the park. You can follow South Prairie Rd. from the park to get to Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge.  
**Birds:** Excellent birding during spring and fall migrations. Along the river and backwaters, watch for Bald Eagles and Tundra Swans, waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and terns. In the upland forests watch for Pileated Woodpeckers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Black-billed Cuckoos, American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, Wood Thrushes, migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers, woodpeckers, hawks and owls.  
**Note:** Ancient Indian burial mounds and petroglyphs are preserved throughout the park.
- 19. Van Loon Wildlife Area**      
**Where:** On Hwy. 35/54, watch for sign and parking at the bridge, which crosses the Black River. Also accessible by driving east on Hwy. 35 from the town of Trempealeau for about 3-4 miles.  
**Birds:** Red-shouldered Hawks, Baltimore Orioles and Redstarts.  
**Note:** Borders the Black River with mixed hardwood forest and marshlands.
- 20. Oak Grove Cemetery, Myrick Marsh and Hixon Forest**      
**Where:** Oak Grove Cemetery is on La Crosse St. or Hwy. 16 north of U.W. La Crosse. Bordering the cemetery to the north and east is Myrick Marsh. Hixon Forest can be reached from Hwy. 16 by turning east at the north end of the railroad overpass on Bluff Pass, or by trail from Myrick Park.  
**Birds:** At Oak Grove watch for warblers and thrushes. While hiking through Myrick Marsh watch for Great Egrets, Green-backed Herons, a wide variety of waterfowl, Common Moorhens, terns, rails and wrens. Hixon forest is great for woodpeckers, warblers and migrants in spring and fall.  
**Note:** These sites are known as the best birding spots within La Crosse. Myrick Marsh has an elevated foot path through the marsh called the "RABBIT" Trail (River and Bluffs Bicentennial Intracity Trail). This trail branches off and you can follow it into Hixon Forest or Riverside Park on the Mississippi River. Hixon Nature Center offers Sunday afternoon programs.
- 21. Goose Island County Park**      
**Where:** Located 2 miles south of the junction of Hwys. 35 & 14/61.  
**Birds:** Watch for migrant warblers in early May, waterfowl and Bald Eagles in fall and winter. Look for an active Cliff Swallow nesting colony at the entrance bridge (May-July).  
**Note:** Watch for Upper Mississippi River Refuge walking trails when driving the entrance road into the park. Hunting is permitted in certain areas.