

SUGAR RIVER FOREST PRESERVE

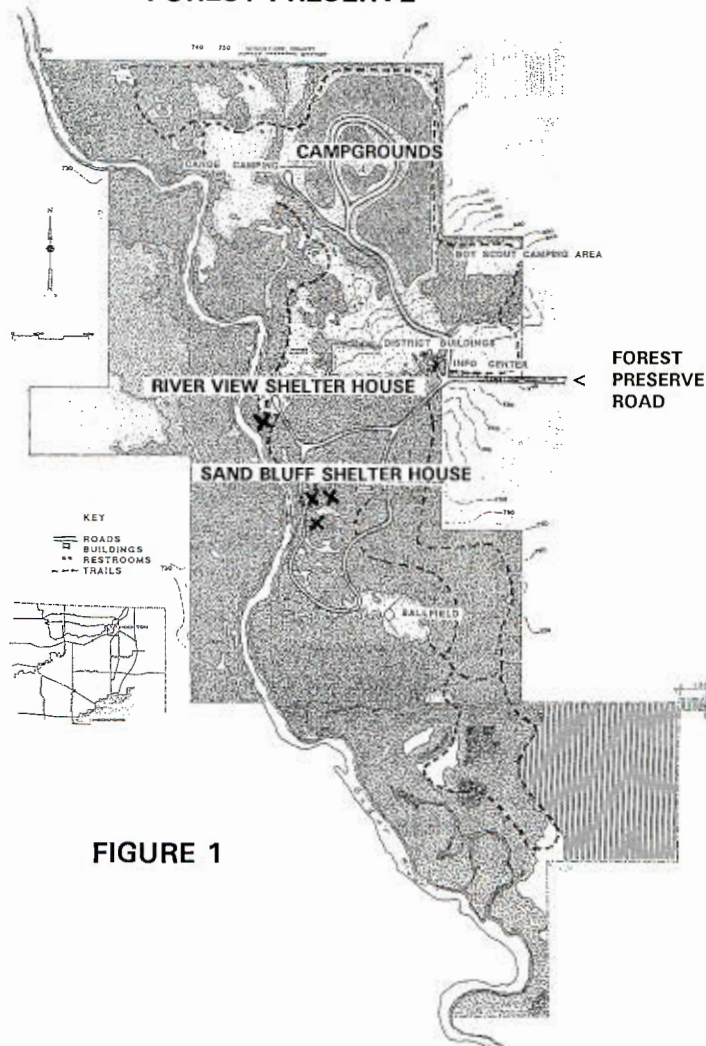


FIGURE 1

To find the Yellow-throated Warbler in Winnebago County, start at the Sugar River Forest Preserve. Enter the preserve by proceeding straight on Forest Preserve Road through the gate (Figure 1 - Map). Do not turn right toward the campground.

Within 500 feet, the road becomes a one-way loop. Follow the loop approximately 500 feet to the first right turn toward the River View shelter house. Park in the cul-de-sac at the shelter house and listen for the birds calling from this

location.

The site is on a bluff overlooking the river. A sycamore stands adjacent to the shelter and a pine stand borders the north and east sides of the cul-de-sac across the driveway. This is the location of the first nest, and frequently a place to both hear and see males. Eastern Phoebe have also nested near the shelter house for several years. Pileated Woodpeckers sometimes call from the woods across the river.

If you have no luck, walk back

down the driveway toward the loop road and follow it to the right, down the hill, and toward the picnic ground. On the left, just as the road begins to go downhill, you will find the Sand Bluff Shelter house and playground area. Observers saw the birds in this area in 1992 and heard the male call from the tall deciduous trees next to the pine stand. You may also hear or see other southern species here such as the Kentucky Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher. Also, look for Cerulean Warblers, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos, cuckoos, and Scarlet Tanagers. Occasionally Summer Tanagers pass through in mid-May.

Approximately one mile north of the River View shelter, Cooper's Hawks have bred. Barred Owls call intermittently throughout the day and evening, while Whip-poor-wills sing from the bluff after dark. Even if you do not find the Yellow-throated Warbler, you will enjoy bird watching at Sugar River Forest Preserve.

Directions to Sugar River Forest Preserve : Exit interstate 90 at Illinois 75, south of the Wisconsin state line. Proceed west on 75 toward Rockton. Upon entering Rockton, turn west at Union Street. Note the brown and white sign mentioning the forest preserve, which is approximately nine miles from this sign.

Follow Union Street across the Rock River, where Union Street changes to Rockton Road. Continue west on Rockton Road to Forest Preserve Road. Another sign marks this intersection. Turn right and follow Forest Preserve Road to its end at the entry of the preserve.

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