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## BIRD FINDING GUIDE

# Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge

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The term, Meredosia came from the French "Marais d'Osier" meaning willow swamp. And within a huge "willow swamp" called the Meredosia National Wildlife Refuge (Meredosia Refuge) in southwestern Illinois, birders have catalogued more than 240 avian species. Rare plants and butterflies also thrive in this 4,485-acre refuge located nine miles south of Beardstown and immediately north of Meredosia, Illinois. Portions of

the Refuge are in both Cass and Morgan Counties.

Established in 1973, Meredosia Refuge lies within the Mississippi Flyway along the Illinois River floodplain. Much of the Refuge is characterized by bottomland forest and shallow water marsh. Meredosia Lake cuts through the center and northern portions of the Refuge. This lake is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Meredosia Island lies to the west of the lake and

