

a Mennonite Church here. Turn left (south) on Cottage and get in the left lane. Follow the curve to the right (you will then be headed west), and you'll see the lake on the left (south) side of the road. There is a parking lot here.

7. DR. M. L. KING, JR. DRIVE GRAVEL PIT (West-Central)

Key species: Waterfowl, sparrows.

Rating: 2.

A medium-sized lake surrounded by old field habitat. Often, birds flushed off of White Oak Lake can be relocated here. Even though the signs say "No trespassing except for fishing," it's OK to bird here.

Directions: From White Oak Lake, continue west (as if you weren't going to stop at White Oak Lake). There is a stop sign and a set of RR tracks soon. Go straight and cross the intersection w/ Old U.S.-150, and the road curves back left (south). Get in the left lane. As you get around the curve, there's a strip mall-type complex on the left (east) side of the road. After that, you'll see an entrance to the gravel pit. Or, from the intersection of Market Street (IL-9) and Interstate 55-74, go east on Market into town and turn left (north) on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Go north on King, and the pit's on your right.

8. HIDDEN CREEK NATURAL WAYSIDE (North-Central)

Key species: Migrating passerines, Broad-winged Hawk, Carolina Wren, Eastern Screech-Owl

Rating: 4.

A small park including a brushy woods. Good for land birds in general, especially thrushes and vireos during migration. Broad-winged Hawks roost here in spring. One of the nestboxes often contains an

active Eastern Screech-Owl nest.

Directions: From the corner of Main St. and College Ave. in Normal, take Main Street north to Willow Street (just north of Redbird Arena). Turn right (east) on Willow. Turn left (north) on Fell Street. Turn right (east) on Sycamore Street. After one block, the park is a grove of trees on the left (north) side of Sycamore where the road dead ends at Constitution Trail.

9. NORMAL AVENUE (North-Central)

Key species: White-winged Crossbill, miscellaneous winter birds

Rating: 2.

Along this street and the surrounding neighborhood, you will find numerous spruce and hemlock trees, which have produced White-winged Crossbills in invasion years. The area has also produced locally good Christmas Count birds like White-throated Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Brown Creeper. It is also in this area that a Mississippi Kite took up residence in summer 1996. This is a residential neighborhood, so use common sense when birding here. Stay on the public sidewalks.

Directions: From the corner of Main Street and College Avenue in Normal, take Main Street north to Willow Street (just north of Redbird Arena). Turn right (east) on Willow. Then turn north(left) on Normal Avenue. You may bird the entire stretch of this street until it dead ends in about a mile. Look for the spruces and hemlocks.

10. IRONWOOD PONDS (Northeast Edge)

Key species: Waterfowl, especial-

Rating: 3.

Two small lakes offering a surprisingly good diversity of waterfowl. Richardson's Canada Goose (small, distinctive race easily told from the typical, Giant Canada Goose) and Greater White-fronted Goose are regular here in numbers (especially the latter) between October and April.

Directions: From the intersection of Main Street (Business US-51) and Interstate 55, drive north on Main to NorthTown Road. Turn right (east). After a mile or so, you'll see nothing but fields on the left (north) side of the road. The first pond is on the south side of the road. To get to the second pond, proceed east across Towanda Avenue You'll notice an embankment (or hill) on the right (south) side of the road. Walk up this slope to get a view of the pond. You must park on the side of the road as the ponds are private property.

Additional Information:

People visiting the Bloomington-Normal area are welcome to contact me with any questions; they are also encouraged to contact me with their results! In particular, please report any unusual birds. You may find additional information on birding in McLean County, including a more extensive site guide, updated bird reports, and a checklist including species occurrence rates at <http://www.iwu.edu/~mretter/McLean.html>.

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