

are otherwise pretty narrow, and there aren't many other places to get completely off of the road.

Please note: the private farm lanes are completely off limits to birders, and the property is posted.

Central Sod Farms, Kendall County, Illinois

Central Sod Farms is a good location for American Golden-Plover as well as Buff-breasted and Upland Sandpipers. Killdeer and Horned Larks are abundant. This location, like others, can be hit or miss. Early mornings or evenings seem to be the best times to visit. These sod fields seem to be expanding every year so the potential for other "grasspipers" is great.

Directions: Take I-80 to Route 47 (The town of Morris is at IL Route 47 and I-80). Drive 8 miles north of the town of Morris. The farm is between the towns of Morris and Yorkville. It is on IL Route 47, on the west side at the junction of Newark Road and IL Route 47.

Wheeler Road Sod Farm, Kendall County, Illinois

Another productive sod farm in Kendall County, and quite large, is near Route 126 and Wheeler Road. The 2-mile long stretch produced American Golden-Plovers and Killdeer in the fall of 2001 and 2002. Western Meadowlarks and Savannah Sparrows have been seen there in June, and on 31 August 2002, Darrell Shambaugh saw seven American Kestrels along Wheeler Road.

Directions: Take Route 126 east from Yorkville or west from Plainfield to Schlapp Road. Turn south. The sod farm is along Wheeler Road about one mile south of Route 126.

Will County Sod Fields, Illinois

One of the highest counts for the state of 44 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was recorded at this location on 30 August 1983. As this area gets built up with sub-division developments, particularly east of Route 59, it has become less attractive for "grasspipers." However, as of this writing, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Killdeer continue to be seen at and near the school at the northwest corner of Route 59 and 103rd Street. The Naperville Polo Club farther south has hosted both American Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper.

Directions: From Ogden Avenue, drive south on Route 59 and watch for sod fields between 91st Street and 127th Street on either side of Route 59.

Get off Route 59 and travel some back roads that parallel this busy road, too.

Momence Sod Fields, Illinois

As of late for many Illinois birders—this area off the beaten path, discovered by David Mandell, —and near the Kankakee River – the Momence Sod Fields has been very attractive for Buff-breasted Sandpipers and American Golden-Plover. Flocks of 30 or more Buff-breasted Sandpipers and 100 or more American Golden-Plovers have been seen here. From late August through mid-September these "grasspipers" are virtually guaranteed here. Baird's Sandpiper also occur here regularly at about the same period in fall, but usually as singles or in very small groups. Rarities include Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, and Wilson's Phalarope after a thunderstorm fallout one fall season. This area can get quite hot and often "buffies" and plovers can be found under the sod sprinkling systems in pools of water. Horned Larks are abundant, and Western Meadowlarks can be heard or seen regularly. Upland Sandpipers often frequent these fields earlier in July and August. Buff-breasted Sandpiper has been recorded here as early as mid-July, too. You'll also find many Killdeer, Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel and Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Directions: From Momence drive east on Highway 114 and turn south on County Road 13400E. This road will jog east and then south again becoming 13500E, and 1750N will join this road (from the east). Continue to 1250N and turn west on this road covering north-south 12000E, 1000N and 11350 E, before you reach

