



## **IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Hancock County**

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### **Crystal Hills WMA (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.2331179,-93.7638511

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** Pure natural area. Only the east-most pond is accessible to the public.

**Habitat:** 320 acres of upland grassland with several prairie potholes.

**Directions:** Just east of the city of Crystal Lake.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Parking |

### **Crystal Lake (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.2281944988348,-93.7926864624023

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** Rural lake habitat with boat access, family park, and facilities on east side.

**Habitat:** Shallow lake with edge habitat on north and west sides.

**Directions:** On the north side of the city of Crystal Lake.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Camping |

### **Eagle Lake WMA (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.119011,-93.729269

**Has Site Guide**

**Ownership:** County

**Description:** Mixed use site, with park, picnic area, trails, canoeing, hunting.

**Habitat:** Large marshy lake edged on west by extensive woodlands.

**Directions:** Between Britt and Garner, turn north off U.S. 18 onto Lake. Access is about 1 mile north.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Parking | Trails | Camping |

### **East Twin Lake (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 42.9282740177691,-93.7092590332031

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** Primarily hunting and fishing area, with access to Iowa River.

**Habitat:** Shallow lake with marshy edge and some broken woodlands on the east side.

**Directions:** Four miles west of U.S. 69 at Goodell, three miles east of Kanawha.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Parking |

### **Forest City Settling Pond (eBird Hotspot)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.2423266648852,-93.6515808105469

**Ownership:** City

**Description:** Drive-in access to two city settling ponds.

**Habitat:** Two large settling ponds.

**Directions:** On the southwest edge of Forest City. Take Quail Avenue south off B14.

**Amenities:**

### **Pilot Knob SP (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.2515398,-93.5584647

**Has Site Guide**

**Ownership:** State

**Description:** Multi-use State Park with shelters, camping, electric hook-ups, restrooms with showers. Lakes, woodlands, trails and stone observation tower.

**Habitat:** 700 acres of primarily woodland habitat with several lakes including Iowa's only floating sphagnum bog.

**Directions:** From Interstate 35, take the Highway 9 exit (Manly/Forest City) and turn west. Take highway 9 to 210th Ave. and turn south. There are signs to guide you.

**Amenities:** Restrooms | Drinking Water | Parking | Trails | Camping |

### **Ventura Marsh WMA (Hancock Co.)**

**GPS Coordinates:** 43.1190289813977,-93.5056686401367

**Ownership:** None listed

**Description:** Pure natural area. Primarily used for hunting and fishing.

**Habitat:** Cattail marsh wetland.

**Directions:** East end is in Cerro Gordo County in the town of Ventura. West end is in Hancock County - take 250th Street from Ventura west about 1.5 miles to the parking area.

**Public Hunting Area**

**Amenities:** Parking |