



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION - Birding Sites in Howard County

Printed on 2/15/2026

Hayden Prairie State Preserve (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 43.4379631,-92.3819733

Has Site Guide

Ownership: State

Description:

Habitat:

Directions:

Amenities:

Heart Pond WA

GPS Coordinates: 43.2389742176296,-92.4588489549933

Ownership: County

Description: 249 acres pure natural area with small pond.

Habitat: Open prairie leads to a small wooded area with an 8-acre lake.

Directions: Southwest of city of Elma. Access is off B17 on the west edge of town.

Amenities: Parking |

Lake Hendricks (eBird Hotspot)

GPS Coordinates: 43.3694564053372,-92.548280954361

Has Site Guide

Ownership: County

Description: 234 acres including lake, woodland, stream and edge habitat.

Habitat: Upland streams drain into L Hendricks from the north, passing through forested woodlands and restored prairie-pothole habitat.

Directions: Less than 1 mile north of Riceville, on the Howard County side of Addison Avenue (T68).

Public Hunting Area

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

Lylah's Marsh (eBird Hotspot) (Important Bird Area)

GPS Coordinates: 43.2863475059266,-92.4678683280945

Ownership: None listed

Description: 155 acres. Shallow lake with adjacent picnic area.

Habitat: Primarily shallow lake with rushes and low edge habitat on north side. Scrubby evergreen habitat exists on the other three sides, shielding the property from surrounding agricultural fields. The start of the Wapsipinicon River is here.

Directions: Northwest of city of Elma. Access is off 170th Street, 1 mile west of V18.

Amenities: Restrooms | Parking | Trails |

Mullen WA

GPS Coordinates: 43.36,-92.21

Ownership: County

Description: 141 acres of pure wildlife area.

Habitat: Diverse. Semi-open brushy habitat adjacent to small lake extends to prairie on northeast side, and also on far southwest side.

Directions: SE corner of Hiway 9 and V46.

Public Hunting Area

Amenities: Parking | Trails |