



HOTSPOTS

I. Armin O. Schwengel WPA – At 278 acres, the Schwengel WPA is the best grassland habitat in Ozaukee County. Located at the junction of Six Mile and Jay Roads, the property is named for local conservationist Armin Schwengel, who was instrumental in the construction of the grassland and wetland restorations on the property and numerous private lands throughout Ozaukee County. As a result, Bobolinks and meadowlarks fill the spring air with song, and shorebirds, marsh birds, and ducks can be found on the ponds and wetlands. Short-eared Owls are frequent winter visitors.

A. Mequon Nature Preserve is a long-term forest and wetland restoration project aimed at restoring the 550-acre property to the hardwood forest of maple, basswood, oak, and beech trees that existed before European settlement. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows tend their young from nest boxes that skirt the trail from Stauss Woods to the observation tower, where one can view the shorebirds and waterfowl returning to the recent wetland restorations. A series of trails will soon be completed to offer a variety of passive recreational activities including biking, hiking and birding.



Sandhill Crane

Typical Bird Species:

- Horned Lark
- Killdeer
- Lapland Longspur
- Northern Harrier
- Northern Shrike
- Red-tailed Hawk
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Sandhill Crane
- Savannah Sparrow
- Sedge and Marsh Wren
- Short-eared Owl
- Snow Bunting
- Upland Sandpiper
- Vesper Sparrow
- Wild Turkey
- Yellow-headed Blackbird



Bobolink

Prairies once covered 2 million acres in southern Wisconsin. While these open, fertile grasslands were converted to croplands, early agricultural practices that interspersed crop fields with fallow lands and hedgerows provided sufficient habitat for grassland birds. Many grassland birds have suffered steep declines in recent years due to increasingly mechanized and chemical intensive farming practices. The early and frequent mowing of alfalfa, for example, leaves no interval long enough for ground nests and broods to succeed.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) offers cost-share assistance for landowners to remove environmentally sensitive lands from agricultural production and restore native vegetation, providing critical habitat for grassland nesting species such as Bobolinks.

Typical Bird Species:

- American Kestrel
- American Goldfinch
- Barn and Tree Swallow
- Bobolink
- Brewer's Blackbird
- Common Yellowthroat
- Dickcissel
- Eastern Bluebird
- Eastern Meadowlark
- Field Sparrow
- Gray Partridge
- Henslow's Sparrow



Eastern Bluebird