

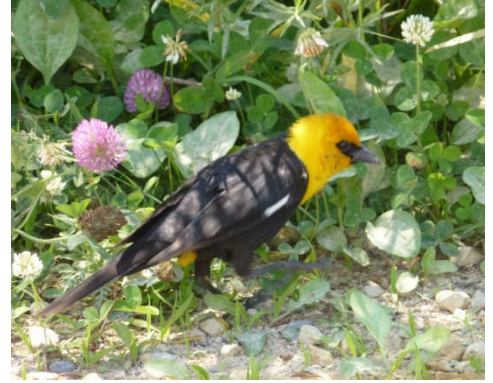
7. 180th Street Marsh

If you are hoping for a rare sighting, this location is a great place to keep an eye on. Over the years local birding experts have learned to survey this wetland as often as they can. You never know when a Common Gallinule, American Bittern, Cattle Egret or Long-tailed Duck might show up.

This is one of the few surviving wetlands in this agricultural area of the county. Portions of the wetland have deep water where diving ducks find a place to feed during migration. The numbers of individuals using the wetland are astounding. Spring and fall times really are when you can count hundreds and hundreds of migrating birds. Native vegetation has been preserved on much of the site so a place for breeding birds exists. Sora and Virginia Rails, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-headed Blackbirds all nest at the marsh.

Access to the marsh is off Goodwin Avenue where you go west on 180th Street. This is a gravel road which narrows as you come to the marsh. The land is all private so please be respectful of the land owners. Off road parking is not provided so keep this in mind and be as safe as you can when you make your visit. Good birding can be found on both sides of the road and there are really 4 separate areas to scan for birds. The larger and deeper body of water is best seen using a scope.

As you drive to and from this wetland be sure to keep a look out for other special birds. Fischer Avenue, going south from 180th Street is a regular place to find Loggerhead Shrike. Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting are possible along the surrounding country roads. The town of Vermillion is located just to the south and you can find Eurasian-collared Dove at any time of the year there.



Yellow-Headed Blackbird

Photo by Kevin D. Smith



Loggerhead Shrike

Photo by Kevin D. Smith



180th Street Marsh

Photo by Kevin D. Smith