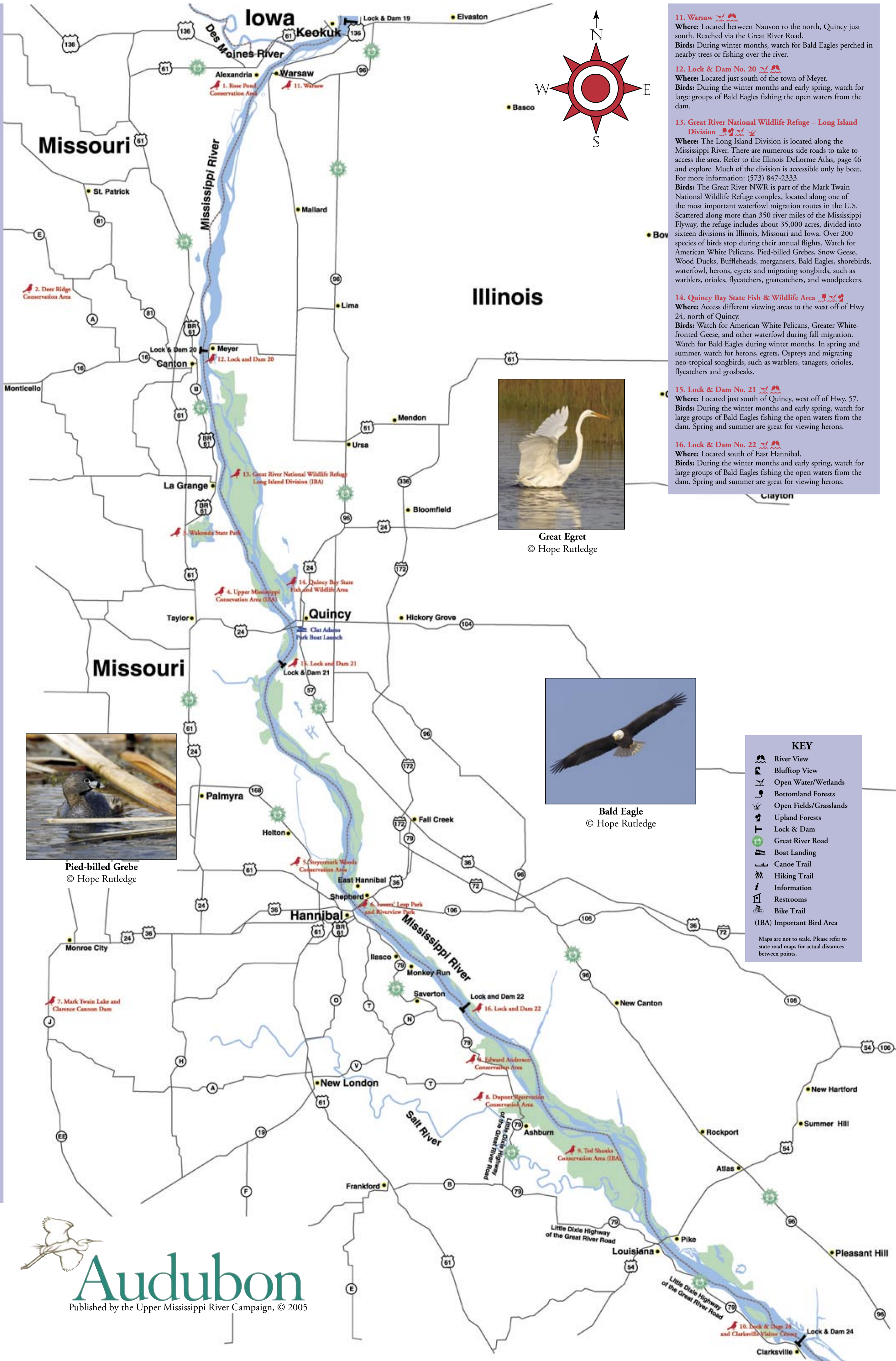


Great River Birding Trail

Quincy, IL Map — Warsaw, IL to Clarksville, MO (River Mile 361 to 274)



1. Rose Pond Conservation Area

Where: This 382-acre area is located approximately 1.3 miles southwest of Alexandria. Access by taking Route 61 northeast of Wayland 5 miles to a gravel road on the south. Travel 2.5 miles south on the gravel road to the parking area on the left.

Birds: Habitat consists mainly of bottomlands associated with Honey Creek, which empties into the Mississippi River. Approximately 103 acres are marshland. For the best bird viewing, walk the sandy lane east from the parking area. The road crosses the center of the marsh. Late summer is the best time to see Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons and egrets wading in the marsh north of the lane. If you're patient, you may see Least Bitterns or Common Moorhens feeding in the bulrushes during the summer, and American Bitterns and rails during migration. Watch for turtles basking on logs.

2. Deer Ridge Conservation Area

Where: This area is located approximately 5.5 miles north of Lewistown on Route H, and 2 miles west on Route Y.

Birds: Habitat in this undeveloped 6,955-acre area includes river hills, forest, cropland, wetlands and river frontage on the two forks of the Fabius River. Look for upland, forest interior and river dwellers in appropriate sites.

3. Wakonda State Park

Where: This 1,050-acre area is located 3 miles south of LaGrange on the east side of U.S. 61.

Birds: Sand prairies, once common along the big rivers in Missouri, are being restored here; and six bottomland lakes provide a stopping and resting point for migrants. Eighty-seven bird species are listed for the park, including American White Pelicans, Dickcissels, and Lark and Field Sparrows. Bald Eagles are possible in winter, and Northern Harriers and bitterns can sometimes be found in small marsh areas during migration.

4. Upper Mississippi Conservation Area

Where: This area consists of over 14,000 acres in 87 tracts, located on or adjacent to the Mississippi River. Much is accessible only by boat, but there are some shore access points, including a scenic area between Clarksville and Louisiana. Managed by US Army Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Conservation. Contact 573-248-2530 for more information.

Birds: Watch for eagles and gulls in winter, waterfowl, shorebirds, wetland and other wetland and forest species at appropriate times of the year.

5. Steyermark Woods Conservation Area

Where: Located north of Hannibal on Highway 168, then 1 mile east on County Road 410.

Birds: This 76-acre area includes a one-mile hiking trail, highlighting river hills birding habitat and a place to look for forest and woodland species, especially during migration.

6. Lovers' Leap Park and Riverview Park

Where: Lover's Leap Park (City of Hannibal) is a small park at the southeast edge of Hannibal on Highway 79, with bluff overlook. Riverview Park is a similar city operated 240-acre site accessed of Highway 61 via the road to Hannibal-LaGrange College and following the signs.

Birds: Both of these parks have striking views of the Mississippi River. Both offer viewing of winter eagles and upland birds from the convenient parking areas.

7. Mark Twain Lake and Clarence Cannon Dam (Army Corps of Engineers)

Where: Located west of Hannibal on Highways 24/36 toward Monroe City, then south on Route J to Clarence Cannon Dam and the M. W. Boudreaux Visitor Center.

Birds: Besides the lake, this 54,000-acre area includes nine wetland units, restored prairie, oak/hickory forest, old fields, open grasslands, glades, savannas, small ponds, as well as flooded dead timber, making it a premier waterfowl stopover. The area also features migrating Osprey and pelicans as well as Great Blue Herons and egrets. Mississippi Kites and Fish Crows may be sighted and moorhens, American and Least Bitterns are possible in marshes. The 46.5 miles of hiking trails, 2 viewing blinds, public campgrounds, and public beach offer a variety of viewing opportunities.

8. Dupont Reservation Conservation Area & Edward Anderson Conservation Area

Where: These two CA's provide 1,320 acres of habitat adjacent to Highway 79 between Hannibal and Louisiana.

Birds: Level Mississippi River bottomland and very steep upland hills are both found on the area with over 95% of the area covered in forest. A wide variety of resident and migratory bird species can be seen in season. This is one of northeast Missouri's best places to find forest-interior birds. Mississippi Kites have been seen in the area, but flooding on the Mississippi River can limit access to the bottomland sites during parts of the year.

9. Ted Shanks Conservation Area

Where: This 6,705-acre area is located south of Hannibal on Highway 79 to Route TT, then east about one mile.

Birds: Wetland habitats present include bottomland hardwood, shrub/scrub, emergent marsh and moist soil. Bald Eagles regularly pass through this major waterfowl stopover site. A fair number of shorebirds, large waders and a large number of songbirds frequent the area. Several rare wetland birds migrate through or nest here, including Trumpeter Swans, Least and American Bitterns, King Rails, and Common Moorhens. There is good automobile viewing from an internal road system that loops around wetland cells and along forest edges.

10. Lock & Dam 24 and Clarksville Visitor Center

Where: Located in Clarksville, east from Highway 79 on Howard Street, then north on Front Street to the lock and dam. The visitor center is located north of Howard Street on Highway 79. For more information, contact: Army Corps of Engineers, 573-242-3724.

Birds: A viewing platform at the dam provides views of Bald Eagles (mid-November through March), Ospreys and several species of gulls and terns in migration. Canada geese and several species of ducks stop here during spring and fall migration, and Great Blue Herons flock to feed along the banks in summer. The Clarksville Visitor Center, built with Great River Road funds, has indoor viewing with spotting scopes and information on current bird sightings. An annual Bald Eagle viewing event is held in late January. Be sure to inquire about the development of two new birding & interpretive sites in Clarksville at the Holcim Concrete grounds and Silo Park.

11. Warsaw

Where: Located between Nauvoo to the north, Quincy just south. Reached via the Great River Road.

Birds: During winter months, watch for Bald Eagles perched in nearby trees or fishing over the river.

12. Lock & Dam No. 20

Where: Located just south of the town of Meyer.

Birds: During the winter months and early spring, watch for large groups of Bald Eagles fishing the open waters from the dam.

13. Great River National Wildlife Refuge - Long Island Division

Where: The Long Island Division is located along the Mississippi River. There are numerous side roads to take to access the area. Refer to the Illinois DeLorme Atlas, page 46 and explore. Much of the division is accessible only by boat. For more information: (573) 847-2333.

Birds: The Great River NWR is part of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge complex, located along one of the most important waterfowl migration routes in the U.S. Scattered along more than 350 river miles of the Mississippi Flyway, the refuge includes about 35,000 acres, divided into sixteen divisions in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Over 200 species of birds stop during their annual flights. Watch for American White Pelicans, Pied-billed Grebes, Snow Geese, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, mergansers, Bald Eagles, shorebirds, waterfowl, herons, egrets and migrating songbirds, such as warblers, orioles, flycatchers, gnatcatchers, and woodpeckers.

14. Quincy Bay State Fish & Wildlife Area

Where: Access different viewing areas to the west off of Hwy 24, north of Quincy.

Birds: Watch for American White Pelicans, Greater White-fronted Geese, and other waterfowl during fall migration. Watch for Bald Eagles during winter months. In spring and summer, watch for herons, egrets, Ospreys and migrating neo-tropical songbirds, such as warblers, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers and grosbeaks.

15. Lock & Dam No. 21

Where: Located just south of Quincy, west off of Hwy. 57.

Birds: During the winter months and early spring, watch for large groups of Bald Eagles fishing the open waters from the dam. Spring and summer are great for viewing herons.

16. Lock & Dam No. 22

Where: Located south of East Hannibal.

Birds: During the winter months and early spring, watch for large groups of Bald Eagles fishing the open waters from the dam. Spring and summer are great for viewing herons.



Great Egret
© Hope Rutledge



Bald Eagle
© Hope Rutledge



Pied-billed Grebe
© Hope Rutledge

KEY

- River View
- Blufftop View
- Open Water/Wetlands
- Bottomland Forests
- Open Fields/Grasslands
- Upland Forests
- Lock & Dam
- Great River Road
- Boat Landing
- Canoe Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Information
- Restrooms
- Bike Trail
- (IBA) Important Bird Area

Maps are not to scale. Please refer to state road maps for actual distances between points.