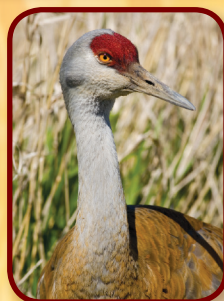


Even if you can't tell a waxwing from a warbler, you'll love the Chicken Dance Trail.

Out beyond the great Midwestern cities, the land opens up and the pavement gives way to fields and streams, to prairie, rills and endless sky. Right in the center of North America's central flyway, millions of birds of all shapes, sizes and species pass through this area every year. If you know where to look – and that's the key – you can see an uncommon variety, and, if you're dedicated, knowledgeable and lucky, you can often make unusual and interesting sightings.

The purpose of the Chicken Dance Trail is to recommend some of our finest birding habitat – places we know personally – as well as to help birders discover an area rich not only in birds, but in history and culture as well, with its own brand of inspiring scenery. On our Web site, we've included our own recommendations of some of the places you might like to stop, including good local restaurants (we eat there ourselves), places to stay and points of interest.

Each adventure is a different terrain and habitat and encompasses a number of sites along the highway or secondary roads. This map will point you in the right direction, but use the GPS on your smart phone to get right where you need to be.



On your phone, tablet or computer, great bird watching starts at www.ChickenDanceTrail.com

When you visit www.chickendancetrail.com you'll find detailed maps of five bird watching adventures with a prominent Get Directions button at each stop that works with the GPS on your smart phone. You'll also be able to take advantage of features like an informative monthly blog, interactive birding list and links to other great bird watching resources. Visit us soon! We have a lot to share.

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to visit the Chicken Dance Trail now!



Thanks to these supporters of the Chicken Dance Trail



Nebraska Division of Travel & Tourism
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THE CHICKEN DANCE TRAIL



TRAIL



Points of interest and birding sites along the Chicken Dance Trails



Sandsage Prairie

Harry Strunk Lake offers canyon, sky and water vistas as well as a complex variety of habitat and miles of walking trails for wildlife viewing. On this loop you'll also drive along the scenic Republican River to McCook and Red Willow Reservoir. The Republican River basin and floodplain offer a mixed and rich habitat for wildlife, and vast tracts of prairie wilderness draw birds that soar as well as many other animal species.



Loess Canyons

Retreating glaciers gouged rugged canyons and prevailing northwest winds carried the nutrient-rich soil thus exposed, called loess, and deposited it on the plains, making a fertile seedbed for prairie grasses. Here, in April, May and early June, lucky birders can see prairie chickens "dance" on their traditional breeding grounds as well as many other species.



Medicine Creek

A habitat mix of towering cottonwoods, brushy seed and fruit bearing perennials, moist bottomlands and moving water draws a mix of wildlife. Shore birds may be spotted along the river and many species of woodland songbirds nest in the deciduous, ancient trees along the Republican. A careful birder can make a big dent in their bird list in many of the scenic spots along this trail.



Rainwater Basin

The rainwater basins of Central Nebraska provides spring migration habitat for about 6 million snow geese and a million Canada geese as well as 5-7 million ducks, and well over a million Sandhill cranes. Nearly half the mallard population and 30 percent of the continental pintail population rest in the Nebraska's rainwater basins before continuing north to nesting grounds. Spring offers an unparalleled birding experience.



Republican River

The Republican River Valley is where Willa Cather, one of America's literary giants, grew up and gathered material for her seminal novels *My Antonia* and *O Pioneers!*. Here you'll find broad vistas of gently rolling hills carpeted with sage and long grass. Join us as we look for birds in virgin prairie and croplands, along the river and riparian wetlands, and on the shores of Nebraska's second largest lake.