

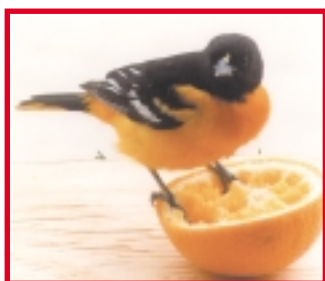
The Porter County  
**Birding Guide**

**INDIANA DUNES**  
*The Casual Coast*





*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*



*Baltimore Oriole*



*Morning Doves*

Welcome to the Casual Coast, along the southern shore of Lake Michigan. Home to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Indiana Dunes State Park and the most diversified flora and fauna in the Midwest, the dunes are complemented by several nearby inland nature preserves. Together, they provide a unique haven for birds and birders that will make your stay on the Casual Coast both enjoyable and memorable.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>BIRD MIGRATION TO THE DUNES</i> .....	1
<i>WEATHER EFFECTS OF BIRDING</i> .....	2
<i>RAPTOR FLIGHTS</i> .....	2
<i>BIRDING SITES</i> .....	3-5
<i>ACCOMMODATIONS CHART</i> .....	6
<i>PORTER COUNTY MAP</i> .....	7
<i>WELCOME TO BIRDING</i> .....	12
<i>PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST</i> .....	13-19
<i>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</i> .....	20
<i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i> .....	20

*Photography provided by David Oberst*



**“W**ithout doubt the presence of Lake Michigan affects the movement and distribution of birdlife in the Dunes more than any other single factor. The shores of this enormous lake provide leading lines that control flight paths of numerous migrants, and the vast open waters draw legions of transitory and wintering birds. During autumn the elongate north-south boundaries of the lake become airways along which thousands of migrants navigate toward wintering areas. Southbound birds following the shores are ultimately guided into the Dunes Area, at the toe of the lake. This avian convergence at the bottom of Lake Michigan is termed the *funneling effect*. ” The funneling effect explains the unusually high diversity of autumn birds in northwest Indiana.



*Wood Duck*

“Lake Michigan also provides two important avian habitats that are otherwise quite rare in the Midwest: the deep lake and the beach. Waters of the lake attract large numbers of bay and sea ducks, many of which are virtually unrecorded at inland sites in the Midwest. Additionally, the lake attracts a number of rare periodic transients, including the Purple Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Parasitic Jaeger, Great Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Thayer’s Gull, Sabine’s Gull, Little Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake. Extensive beaches provide resting and feeding areas for shorebirds, especially those species preferring sand rather than mudflats, e.g., Sanderling, Red Knot, and Baird’s Sandpiper.

“The deep waters of Lake Michigan also constitute a significant obstacle to migrants. During nocturnal flights many north-bound passerines overfly land’s end and daybreak finds them over the lake. When landfall is visible, they often fly directly to the shore, where they immediately land for rest and feeding.

*This effect generates an anomalously high concentration of passerines in parks and woodlands immediately adjacent to the lake” (Brock 5).*



**T**hat most migrants fly during fair weather when trailing winds are available is well documented in ornithology textbooks. Along the shores of southern Lake Michigan this principle is most clearly evident during the fall. Bennett (1952) discovered that the number of fall passerine migrants along the Chicago lakefront tripled (compared to numbers on the day immediately prior to frontal passage) on the days immediately following passage of cold fronts.

Photo by: David Oberst



*Common Loon*

*“Similarly, the most exciting autumn birding in the Dunes occurs during or immediately following the passage of cold fronts. In addition to the passerine waves that follow the fronts, northerly winds stimulate a general longshore movement of water birds.*

*“On such occasions, an endless stream of loons, ducks, gulls, and terns often flows along the lakefront.” (Brock 6).*

### RAPTOR FLIGHTS

---

**S**pring hawk flights along the High Dunes must be attributed to the presence of Lake Michigan. North-bound hawks, especially buteos, enjoy a leisurely spring migration, wafting effortlessly over the Midwest on balmy southerly winds. These soaring raptors, however, display a marked aversion to flying over large bodies of water. Consequently, upon encountering Lake Michigan the northward movement is abruptly truncated and the birds turn to a course paralleling the shoreline. Thus, the migrating hawks are concentrated in a belt immediately adjacent to the lake. In effect, therefore, the High Dunes rest directly below a narrow flight corridor that extends along the lake’s southern margin.” (Brock 8).



Photo by: David Oberst

*Cooper's Hawk*

*During March and April, the major flight months, good daily flights can consist of 100 to 300 birds. Fall flights are limited; the most notable species observed is the Peregrine Falcon, with flight peaks in early October.*



## BEVERLY SHORES **A**

*Whether you drive or walk, Beverly Shores will produce a number of species, seen or heard, that will delight the birder. This "island" in the National Lakeshore supports habitats such as an interdunal marsh, lake, beach and wooded dune. The interdunal marsh offers excellent habitat for passerines as well as nesting species. Beverly Drive produces many opportunities to see and hear several species of birds. Best observation time is all year.*

*Types of migration birds seen are loons, waterfowl and gulls. Birds seen and heard in late spring and summer are Willow Flycatcher and warblers.*

## COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED PRESERVE **B**

*The preserve is a 167-acre home to over 500 native plants, trees, sedges and forbs as well as over 4 miles of trails. Wetlands can be found throughout the landscape including swamps, marshes, wet prairies and fens. Birds commonly seen at Coffee Creek include several species of woodpeckers such as the Red-bellied woodpecker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Herons, hawks, and wood ducks, as well as the state endangered marsh wren can be seen in their respective habitats throughout the preserve. Bridge 5, near the southern end of the corridor is a great place to see Cardinals, Indigo Bunting and the Tufted Titmouse. From the Water Plaza, at the northern area of the preserve, Belted Kingfishers can be seen fluttering near the wetlands. Don't miss the Killdeer who often nests near Phillips Pond.*

Photo by: J.F. New & Associates



Photo by: Robert Sisko

## COWLES BOG **C**

*Wooded edges, savannah, marshes and wooded swamp provide ideal habitats for Common Yellowthroat, Sora, Virginia Rail, American Woodcock, Swamp Sparrow, warblers, and wren. Named after the Father of Plant Succession, Professor Henry Cowles, this area is perfect for the nature lover in general. For more information call 219/926-7561 ext. 225.*



## BIRDING SITES

---

### PORTER BEACH HAWK WATCH **D**

*Formerly known as the Johnson Beach hawk watch, this stabilized dune allows prime viewing of several hawk flights, especially in the spring.*

### WEST BEACH & LONG LAKE **E**

*Following the West Beach trails which take you by the beach, an interdunal pond, and wooded dune, one may discover a Hairy Woodpecker or two and perhaps a Common Yellowthroat. Long Lake may grace one with the presence of Least Bitterns, warblers and scores of waterfowl. A parking fee is required in the summer.*

### INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK **F**

*Indiana Dunes State Park encompasses a variety of habitats: climax forest, savannah, marram grass covered dunes, blowouts, beaches and marshes. Several trails run through these areas, providing opportunities to view and hear field sparrows, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, hawks, owls and more. Optimal observation areas would include the forest and the marsh-wood boundary along with trails 2 and 10. Trail 9 allows for eye level bird watching because of its higher elevation. Wilson Shelter also attracts several birds during spring migration. Entrance fee.*



Photo by: Wendy Smith

### PORT OF INDIANA **G**

*During winter one can best observe the Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Common Mergansers and bay ducks from the public access area of the Port of Indiana. On windy days, birds fly almost directly over the public access area.*

### SUNSET HILL FARM COUNTY PARK **H**

*Porter County's ongoing commitment to ecological restoration, this former 235-acre dairy farm is filled with woods, meadows, and three ponds. Part-time naturalists are available during three seasons of the year to offer a wide range of opportunities including: natural science projects on ponds, trees, birds, wildflowers or fields. With over ten miles of trails, bird watchers, nature photographers, or woods walk observers can enjoy endless outdoor opportunities. Birds commonly seen at Sunset Hill Farm include: field sparrows, flycatchers, thrushes, warblers, hawks, owls, ducks, geese and more.*



Photo by: Wayne Woodridge



## TALTREE ARBORETUM & GARDENS **I**

*Taltree Arboretum & Gardens offers the birder a wide variety of habitats to explore. Prairie, Savanna, Woods, Wooded Edges, Swamp, Pond and open Wetland can all be easily observed at this 300+acre site. With over 4 miles of trail, Taltree is a special place to bird. For more information on special birding opportunities visit them at [www.taltree.org](http://www.taltree.org). Entrance fee. (Closed Mondays)*

Photo by: David Oberst



## ROGERS LAKEWOOD PARK **J**

*A 122-acre facility of the Valparaiso Park Department, it is home to hiking trails, a beach, fishing, boating, and swimming. Birds commonly seen at Rogers-Lakewood Park include: native waterfowl such as Canada geese and mallard ducks, herons, hawks, and common songbirds. Daily entry fees are collected from Memorial Day through Labor Day and are charged by the carload.*

## JASPER-PULASKI FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA **K**

*The Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area has long been the sight of the annual migration of Sandhill Cranes. View this awesome spectacle during the fall to see thousands of these birds as they rest from their journey and feed. Springtime also brings the cranes, but in a lesser amount. Don't forget the binoculars or a scope! During the spring and summer, the area boasts ducks, geese, and egrets that are viewable from the observation trail. Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area is also a public hunting area. Please check in at the headquarters to obtain information about the affected areas before setting out.*

## HERON ROOKERY **L**

*Observe the Great Blue Heron in the spring and summer at this mature woodland located along the Little Calumet River. Migrant warblers are present in the spring along the channel among other species.*

Photo by: National Lakeshore





# ACCOMMODATIONS CHART

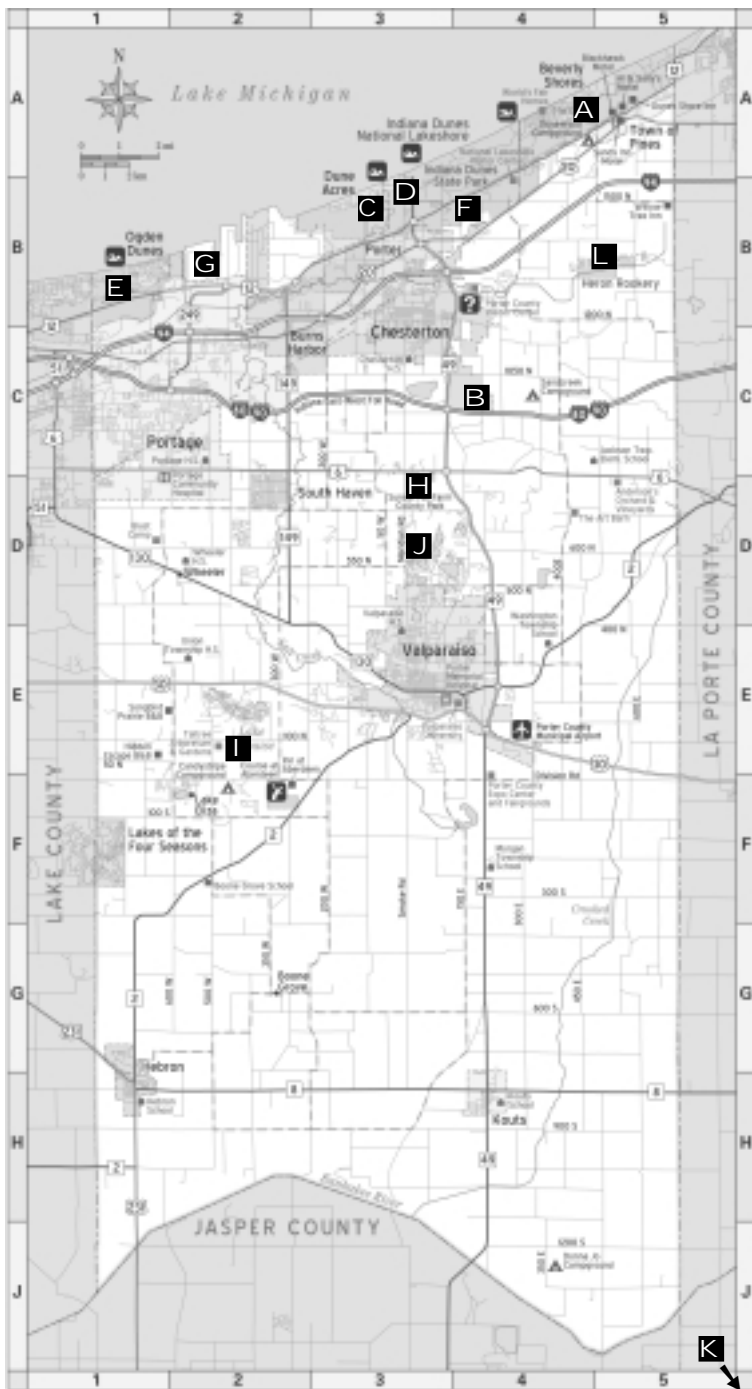
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Econo Lodge</b> State Road 49 and Indian Boundary Road	219/929-4416 or 800-55-ECONO	<b>Chesterton</b>
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Hilton Garden Inn</b> State Road 49 and I-80/90	219/983-9500 or 800-774-1500	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Indian Oak Resort &amp; Spa</b> State Road 49 and Indian Boundary Road	219/926-2200 or 800-552-4232	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Super 8 Motel</b> State Road 49 and Indian Boundary Road	219/929-5549 or 800-800-8000	
<b>\$</b>	<b>Castaway Motel</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/762-4633	<b>Portage</b>
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Comfort Inn</b> State Road 249 and I-80/90	219/763-7177 or 800-228-5150	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Days Inn</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/762-2136 or 800-325-2625	
<b>\$</b>	<b>Dollar Inn</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/763-6601	
<b>\$</b>	<b>Don's Motel</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/762-3317	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Hampton Inn</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/764-1919 or 800-HAMPTON	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Holiday Inn Express</b> State Road 249 and I-80/90	219/762-7777 or 800-HOLIDAY	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Ramada Inn</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/762-5546 or 800-437-5145	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Super 8 Motel</b> State Road 249 and U.S. Highway 20	219/762-8857 or 800-800-8000	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Spring House Inn</b> U.S. Highway 20 and Mineral Springs Road	219/929-4600 or 800-DUNES-00	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Al &amp; Sally's Motel</b> U.S. Highway 12	219/872-9131	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Blackhawk Motel</b> U.S. Highway 12	219/872-8656 or 800-908-8656	
<b>\$</b>	<b>Sands Inn Motel</b> U.S. Highway 20 and State Road 520	219/872-0717	
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Courtyard by Marriott</b> State Road 49 and U.S. Highway 30	219/465-1700 or 800-321-2211	<b>The Pines</b>
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Fairfield Inn</b> State Road 49 and U.S. Highway 30	219/465-6225 or 800-228-2800	
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites</b> State Road 49 and U.S. Highway 30	219/531-6424 or 800-HAMPTON	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Holiday Inn Express</b> U.S. Highway 30 and State Road 2	219/464-8555 or 800-HOLIDAY	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Super 8 Motel</b> State Road 49 and State Road 2	219/464-9840 or 800-800-8000	
<b>\$</b>	<b>Valparaiso Motel</b> U.S. Highway 30 and State Road 2	219/462-2752	
<b>\$\$</b>	<b>Dunes Shore Inn</b> U.S. Highway 12, Beverly Shores	219/879-9029	
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Gray Goose Inn</b> State Road 49 and Indian Boundary Road, Chesterton	219/926-5781	<b>Valparaiso</b>
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Hidden Escape</b> County Road 50 North, Valparaiso/Wheeler	219/759-4701	
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>The Inn at Aberdeen</b> State Road 2, Valparaiso/Boone Grove	219/465-3753	
<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>Songbird Prairie</b> County Road 600 West, Valparaiso/Wheeler	219/759-4274 or 877-SONGBRD	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>Willow Tree Inn</b> County Road 1500 North, The Pines	219/879-6790	
<b>\$17+</b>	<b>CandyStripe Campground</b> Division Road, Valparaiso/Lake Eliza	219/462-0784	
<b>\$19+</b>	<b>Donna Jo Campground</b> County Road 350 East, Kouts	219/766-2186	
<b>\$10+</b>	<b>Dunewood Campground</b> U.S. Highway 12, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Beverly Shores	219/926-7561 or 800-959-9174	<b>Bed &amp; Breakfasts</b>
<b>\$17+</b>	<b>Sand Creek Campground</b> County Road 350 East, Chesterton	219/926-7482	
<b>\$7+</b>	<b>State Park Campground</b> State Road 49, Indiana Dunes State Park, Chesterton	219/926-4520	
<b>\$28</b>	<b>Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp Resort</b> Old Porter Road, Portage	219/762-7757	
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$20-\$40 price per room</b>	<b>\$\$</b>	
<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>\$60+ price per room</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$</b>	<b>\$80+ price per room</b>

**Campgrounds**





# PORTER COUNTY MAP



Porter County  
3/12/09

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>A</b> - Beverly Shores                  | <b>G</b> - Port of Indiana                     |
| <b>B</b> - Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve | <b>H</b> - Sunset Hill Farm County Park        |
| <b>C</b> - Cowles Bog                      | <b>I</b> - Taltree Arboretum & Gardens         |
| <b>D</b> - Porter Beach                    | <b>J</b> - Rogers Lakewood Park                |
| <b>E</b> - West Beach                      | <b>K</b> - Jasper-Pulaski Fish & Wildlife Area |
| <b>F</b> - Indiana Dunes State Park        | <b>L</b> - Heron Rookery                       |

Custom Seed Blends • Garden Accents • Binoculars  
Birdhouses • Feeders • Bird Baths • Nature Gifts

Gift  
certificates  
available



*Wild Birds Unlimited*

Your Backyard Birdfeeding Specialist®  
Visit our website at [www.wbu.com](http://www.wbu.com)

*We Bring People and Nature Together*

(219) 465-0508

4205 Calumet Avenue

Valparaiso, IN

  
**Holiday Inn  
EXPRESS**  
Bird Watching Extravaganza



2323 Willowcreek Road  
Portage, IN 46368  
219-762-7777

At Exit 23, I-80/90  
or  
1-mile South of Exit 19, I-90

800-95-FOCUS  
[www.foocushotels.com](http://www.foocushotels.com)

#### Area Attractions

- Minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan
- Woodland Park (1 minute)
- 35 miles East of Chicago
- Variety of restaurants nearby



#### Amenities Include

- Manager's Reception (Mon-Thurs 5-7pm)
- Unique Spa Suites with Oversized Whirlpool Tub
- Expanded Continental Breakfast
- Heated Indoor Pool and Fitness Center
- Kidzutes® - Perfect for Families with Children
- Cable TV with HBO, CNN, ESPN
- Sealy® Mattresses
- Meeting and Banquet Facilities
- In-room Iron and Ironing Board

# Chesterton Feed Garden Center, Inc.



- *N.W. Indiana's premier garden center*
- *Patio Gift Shop- Unique & beautiful products for home & garden*
- *Happy Pet Place complete line of pet foods & pet supplies*
- *Always the finest variety of wild bird seed & bird feeders*

400 Locust Street • Chesterton, IN  
[www.duneland.com/cfgc.html](http://www.duneland.com/cfgc.html)  
Open everyday all year. Call (219) 926-2790



## Escape at... **Hidden Escape** Bed & Breakfast

An Intimate Getaway in the Country

### *A Private Bungalow Deep in the Woods*

Gazebo • Hot Tub • Sunroom  
Whirlpool • Living Room • Master Bedroom

*Birthdays, Anniversaries,  
Weddings, Honeymoons*  
A Great Getaway - Weekend Packages

219-759-4701  
[www.hiddenescape.com](http://www.hiddenescape.com)

We Accept



A Great Gift Making Time for Each Other

Hidden Escape  
Bed & Breakfast

*indian oak*  
resort & spa

800-552-4232 219-926-2200

[www.indianoak.com](http://www.indianoak.com)

558 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton, IN 46104

- ☛ Lakeside & Woodview Rooms  
Whirlpool & Fireplace Specialty Rooms
- ☛ Full Service Spa & Salon
- ☛ WaterBird Meeting & Banquet Center  
Weddings & Special Events up to 350 people

## Come Out and Play

The Brassie Golf Club is a Fazio designed modern day links course featuring 18 holes of championship golf. The facility is open to the public and has an experienced and knowledgeable staff who looks forward to providing you with an exceptional golf experience.



[www.TheBrassie.com](http://www.TheBrassie.com)

For More Information,  
Please Call 219-921-1192



In Town,  
Out of Town,  
or On the Town,

Applebee's® is always the  
*friendliest*  
place in the Neighborhood.



Applebee's

Entire Good  
in the Neighborhood™

<b>Marionville</b> 8415 Broadway (219)773-1811	<b>Michigan City</b> 4627 S. Franklin St. (219)876-8549	<b>Munster</b> 330 Ridge Rd. (219)836-8122
<b>Portage</b> 6211 U.S. Hwy. 6 (219)763-3362	<b>Scherverville</b> 630 W. Lincoln Hwy. (219)223-8750	<b>Valparaiso</b> 670 Northland (219)673-3868

# We're Ready to Welcome You!



Don't sleep just anywhere. There are two great hotels in Valparaiso here for you, the Courtyard and Fairfield Inn by Marriot. Our friendly staff understands your needs, offering all the amenities and services to make your stay enjoyable.

- Easy access from Route 49 and US 30
- Located near great restaurants and shopping
- Indoor pool, whirlpool and exercise room

## VALPARAISO

**Fairfield Inn**  
U.S. 30 at State Road 49  
CALL: 800-228-2800 or  
219-465-6225  
[www.fairfieldinn.com/VRPFI](http://www.fairfieldinn.com/VRPFI)

**Courtyard**  
U.S. 30 at State Road 49  
CALL: 800-321-2211 or  
219-465-1700  
[www.courtyard.com/VRPCY](http://www.courtyard.com/VRPCY)

## Country Charm in the Heart of the Dunes

Nestled amid the woodlands and wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes, Springhouse Inn offers warm, comfortable surroundings complimented by thoughtful amenities and attentive service. You can enjoy the cozy warmth of a bed & breakfast inn, with the clean, friendly service of a hotel, featuring...



**SPRING  
HOUSE  
INN™**

the perfect getaway.

ASK ABOUT OUR WHIRLPOOL ROOMS!

Call 219.929.4600 or 866-DUNES-00  
or visit [www.springhouseinn.com](http://www.springhouseinn.com)  
303 Mineral Springs Road Porter, IN 46304

### Accommodations & Services

- 50 beautifully-appointed, oversized country rooms, each with private bath, and balcony or porch
- Many rooms offer woodland view
- Indoor pool with fireplace
- Dry sauna & oversized whirlpool, exercise room
- Complimentary deluxe continental breakfast served daily in our Main House library
- Picturesque sitting rooms
- In-room coffee makers, iron/ironing boards
- Four meeting rooms for up to 16 people

Located just 40 minutes from Chicago, Springhouse Inn, one of Chesteron's finest hotels, provides a lodging and meeting retreat option only 2 miles from the Indiana Dunes.



**WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BIRDING!**  
*If you like watching birds in your backyard or you want to travel the world to see all 10,000 bird species, use these ten tips to get started! You might also want to visit [WildBirds.com](http://WildBirds.com), a great site for newer birders!*

**Hint #1:** *You need a field guide for your area. A field guide is a book with pictures of the birds and tips for identifying them.*

**Hint #2:** *You need a binocular to see the birds. (Hint: you'd need four eyes to use binoculars.)*

**Hint #3:** *You need to know what to expect in your area. Checklists of birds in your area will tell you this. See pages 13-19 for the Porter County Bird Checklist.*

**Hint #4:** *You need to be able to find the birds. To do this, you should learn about the habitat each species of bird prefers. See page 13 for Habitat information and the Bird Checklist for where to spot each species.*

**Hint #5:** *Join a group of other birders. Birders are very friendly and helpful. They are always willing to share their knowledge. We were all beginners once.*

**Hint #6:** *Try a birding trip or tour. Local bird trips are sometimes advertised in the newspapers. Check out the Birding Sites information on pages 3-5 for information on local bird treks.*

**Hint #7:** *Read about birds. There are many good magazines about birds and birding. For North American birds: *Birder's World*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Birding* and *WildBird* are magazines you might like.*

**Hint #8:** *Bring the birds to you. You can attract birds to your yard with just a little work. Planting the right flowers will attract hummingbirds. Sunflower seeds will bring lots of new birds to your house. You might even want to build a bluebird house.*

**Hint #9:** *Record your bird sightings. You might want to keep a "diary" or list of the birds you see in your yard. You can also keep a list of birds you see in your town or on your vacation. Birders often keep lists for their county, state or country. The Porter County Bird Checklist can be found in this guide on pages . . .*

**Hint #10:** *HAVE FUN. ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS. BE KIND TO BIRDS.*



*These hints are from the popular birding website - [Birding.com](http://Birding.com)*

---



## SEASONAL ABUNDANCE CODES:

**A = ABUNDANT:** *Often observed and widespread throughout county*

**C = COMMON:** *Frequent in appropriate habitat*

**U = UNCOMMON:** *Infrequent in appropriate habitat*

**R = RARE:** *Unlikely, but possible in county*

## HABITAT TYPES & LOCATIONS

**L-LAKE; B-BEACH:** *Lake Michigan and its beachfront including: Beverly Shores, Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore*

**D-DUNES:** *Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore*

**F-FIELDS:** *Cultivated and roadside fields, open areas and prairies such as those found at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Sunset Hill Farm County Park and Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve*

**FL-FLIGHT:** *Observed in flight*

**M-MARSH:** *Areas regularly inundated by shallow water for much of the year: Interdunal marshes are found along Lake Michigan at Beverly Shores, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore & Indiana Dunes State Park. Marshes are also found along county rivers, the most notable being the Kankakee River at the southern border of the county and at Kankakee Fish & Wildlife Area in neighboring Starke County*

**P-PONDS:** *Permanent bodies of water that include small lakes, ponds and wetlands: Long Lake, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, Rogers Lakewood Park, Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, Sunset Hill Farm County Park and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore*

**S-SWAMPS:** *Wetlands that are poorly drained with trees growing throughout. There are numerous types of swamps in the county and they can be found at: Indiana Dunes State Park, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Beverly Shores (along Beverly Drive), Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens and the Kankakee River Floodplain*

**W-WOODS:** *Beverly Shores, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, Indiana Dunes State Park, Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve*

**WE-WOODED EDGES:** *Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, Sunset Hill Farm County Park, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and Indiana Dunes State Park*

**U-URBAN:** *Urban areas throughout the county*



# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

Bird	Seasons				Habitat
	SP	S	F	W	
<b>Loon &amp; Grebes</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Loon	C	R	C	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe	C	C	C	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Grebe	U		C	R	L,H
<b>Cormorants</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Double-crested Cormorant	C	U	C	R	L
<b>Bitterns &amp; Herons</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> American Bittern*	U	U	U	R	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Bittern*	R	R	R		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron	A	A	A	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret	C	U	C	R	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron	C	C	C		M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-crowned* Night Heron	U	U	U		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-crowned* Night Heron	U	U	U		M
<b>Swans, Geese &amp; Ducks</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Mute Swan	C	C	C	C	L,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Tundra Swan	U		U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose	A	A	A	A	L,M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck	A	A	C	R	P,S
<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal	C	R	U	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Duck	C	R	C	U	L,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard	A	A	A	C	L,P,M,
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Pintail	U	R	U	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal	C	U	C	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	C	R	U	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall	C	R	C	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	C	R	C	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Canvasback	U	R	R	U	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Redhead	C	R	U	R	L,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck	C	R	C	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup	U	R	U	U	L,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup	C	R	C	U	L,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Scoter	R	R	U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> White-winged Scoter	R	R	U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye	C	R	C	A	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead	C	R	C	A	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser	U	R	U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser	U	R	U	C	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser	C	R	C	U	L,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Duck	C	R	U	R	L,P
<b>Vultures</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture	A	A	C	R	FL
<b>Eagles &amp; Hawks</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle*	U	R	R	R	FL
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier*	U	R	U	R	F
<input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	C	C	C	WE,W
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk	C	C	C	C	WE,W
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk	R	R	R	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk	U	R	U	R	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk	U	U	U	U	W

\* State endangered



# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

## Seasons

Bird	SP	S	F	W	Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk	C	C	C	C	F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk	U	U	U	U	F,M
<b>Osprey &amp; Falcons</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Osprey*	U	R	U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel	C	C	C	C	F
<input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon*	U	U	U	U	FL
<b>Quail, Pheasant, Turkey</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite	U	U	U	U	F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant	U	U	U	U	F
<input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey	U	U	U	U	F,W
<b>Rails &amp; Coots</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Rail*	U	U	U	U	M
<input type="checkbox"/> Sora Rail	C	U	U		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Moorhen	R	R	R		M
<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot	A	A	A	U	M,P,L
<b>Crane</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandhill Crane (Jasper-Pulaski Site)	C	U	C	U	F,M
<b>Plovers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-bellied Plover	U	R	U		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> American Golden Plover	C	R	U		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Plover	U	R	U		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover*	R	R			B
<input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer	A	A	C	R	M,D,F
<b>Sandpipers &amp; other Shorebirds</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs	U	R	R		M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs	U	U	U		M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper	C	U	U		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper	C	C	U		M,S
<input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper	U	R	C		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper	U	U	U		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper	C	R	U		M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Baird's Sandpiper		R	U		B
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruddy Turnstone	U	R	U		B
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanderling	R	C	C		B
<input type="checkbox"/> Dunlin	U	R	U		B,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Knot	R		R		B
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Sandpiper	R		R		B
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-billed Dowitcher	R	R	R		P
<input type="checkbox"/> Red Phalarope			U		L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Snipe	U	R	U	R	M,P
<input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock	C	C	C	R	S,W
<b>Jaegers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Parasitic Jaeger			U		L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Pomarine Jaeger			R		L,B
<b>Gulls</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Gull	R	R	U	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonaparte's Gull	C	R	C	U	L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Laughing Gull	U	R	R	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull	A	C	A	C	L,B





# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

## Seasons

Bird	SP	S	F	W	Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Herring Gull	A	U	A	A	L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Thayer's Gull	R		R	U	L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Iceland Gull	U		R	R	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Glaucous Gull	R		R	U	L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Black-backed Gull	U	R	R	U	L
<input type="checkbox"/> Sabine's Gull		U	R		L
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-legged Kittiwake	R	R	U	R	L
<b>Terns</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Caspian Tern	C	U	R	R	L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Tern	C	R	U		L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Forster's Tern	U	R	U		L,B
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Tern*	R	U	R		M,B
<b>Doves</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock Dove	C	C	C	C	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove	A	A	A	A	F,W
<b>Cuckoos</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo	U	U	U		WE
<b>Owls</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl	R	R	R	U	F,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl	C	C	C	C	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Owl			R	R	B
<input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl	C	C	C	C	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl	R			R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech Owl	C	C	C	C	W
<b>Goatsuckers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk	C	A	C		WE,F
<input type="checkbox"/> Whip-poor-will	C	U	U		W
<b>Swifts</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift	A	A	A		U
<b>Hummingbirds</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird	C	C	C		F,WE
<b>Kingfishers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher	C	C	C	R	M,P
<b>Woodpeckers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	C	R	U	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker	C	C	C	C	W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker	C	C	C	U	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker	U	U	U	U	W



# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

## Seasons

Bird	SP	S	F	W	Habitat
<b>Flycatchers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher	U	R	U		S
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood Pewee	C	C	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	U	R	R		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher	C	C	R		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher	U	U	U		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher	C	U	R		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher	C	R	C		W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe	C	C	U		F,W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Great-crested Flycatcher	C	C	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird	C	C	U		F,M
<b>Larks</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark	C	U	U		F
<b>Swallows</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin	C	C	C		F,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow	C	A	C		F,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Rough-winged Swallow	U	U	U		F,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow	C	C	C		B,D
<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow	R	R	R		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow	C	A	C		F
<b>Jays &amp; Crows</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay	A	A	A	A	W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> American Crow	A	A	A	A	ALL
<b>Titmice</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee	C	C	C	C	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse	C	C	C	C	W
<b>Nuthatches</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch	U	R	U	U	W
<input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch	C	C	C	C	W
<b>Creepers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper	C	R	C	U	W
<b>Wrens</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren	U	U	U	U	WE,U
<input type="checkbox"/> House Wren	C	C	C		WE,U
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren	U	R	U	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Wren*	U	U	U		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren*	U	R	R		F,M
<b>Old World Warblers, Thrushes &amp; Allies</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet	C	R	C	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet	C	R	C	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	U	R		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird	C	C	C	U	F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Veery	U	U	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush	U		U		W

\* State endangered



# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

## Seasons

Bird	SP	S	F	W	Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush	U		C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush	C		C	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush	U	U	U	R	W
<input type="checkbox"/> American Robin	A	A	A	U	F,W
<b>Thrashers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird	C	C	C		WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird	U	U	U	R	F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher	C	C	C	R	WE
<b>Waxwings</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing	C	U	C	U	W,M
<b>Starlings</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> European Starling	A	A	A	A	ALL
<b>Vireos</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> White-eyed Vireo	U	R	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Vireo	U	R	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo	C	U	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo	C	C	U		WE,P
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo	U	R	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo	C	C	C		W
<b>Warblers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler	C	U	U		WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged* Warbler	R	R	R		WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula Warbler	U	R	R		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler	U	R	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler	C	C	R		WE,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler	C	R	U		W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape May Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler	C	R	C		W,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Prairie Warbler	U	U	R		D
<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler	C	R	C		WE,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Blackpoll Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler	C	C	R		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Black and White Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart	C	U	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird	C	C	U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush	U	R	U		WE,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush	U	R	U		S
<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler	R	R	R		WE

\* State endangered



# PORTER COUNTY BIRDERS CHECKLIST

## Seasons

Bird	SP	S	F	W	Habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat	C	C	C		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler	U	R	R		S
<input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler	C	R	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat	U	R	R		M,WE
<b>Tanagers</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager	C	C	U		W
<b>Cardinals &amp; Buntings</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal	A	A	A	A	F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak	C	C	C		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting	C	C	C		F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel	U	U	U		F
<b>Sparrows</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee	C	C	C	R	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Tree Sparrow	C	C	C		F,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow	C	C	C		F,WE,D
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow	C	C	C	U	F,D,M
<input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow	U	U	U		F,D
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow	U	U	U		F,D
<input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow	U	U	U		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow	C		C	R	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow	C	C	C	U	M,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow	U		U		W
<input type="checkbox"/> Swamp Sparrow	C	C	C	U	M,S
<input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow	C		C	R	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow	C		C	R	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco	C		C	A	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Lapland Longspur	R		R	R	B
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Bunting	R		U	U	F,B
<b>Blackbirds &amp; Orioles</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink	C	C	R		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird	A	A	A	U	F,M,S
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark	C	C	C		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark	R	R	R		F
<input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird*	R	R	R		M
<input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird	U	R	U	R	S
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle	C	C	C	U	M,F
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird	C	C	C	U	W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole	C	C	U		W,WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole	U	U	U		W,WE
<b>Finches</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch	U	U	U	U	W
<input type="checkbox"/> House Finch	A	A	A	A	U
<input type="checkbox"/> Common Redpoll	R		R	U	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin	R		R	U	WE
<input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch	A	A	A	A	F,WE,U
<input type="checkbox"/> Evening Grosbeak	R		R	U	WE
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow	A	A	A	A	U

\* State endangered



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

*The Porter County Convention, Recreation & Visitors Commission (PCCRVC) would like to give special thanks to David Oberst, Director of Education and Naturalist at Taltree Arboretum & Gardens, and Taltree board member, Laurie Eberhardt, Ph.D., for their help in creating this guide. The PCCRVC is truly grateful for their help.*

TALTREE ARBORETUM & GARDENS:

"A SPECIAL PLACE TO BIRD"

*Taltree offers the birder a wide variety of habitat at one location: Prairie, Savanna, Woods, Wooded Edges, Swamp, Pond and open Wetland, can all be easily observed at this 300+ acre site. More than 60 species of birds have been identified on Taltree's property. The Bluebird Trail derives its name from the numerous Bluebird nesting boxes along its route, Eastern Bluebirds are a common site at Taltree. The trail directs visitors along the perimeter of the prairie in an effort to reduce disturbance to wildlife and restore habitat to natural nesting conditions. As a result grassland-nesting birds, such as the Bobolink, that need a large area of undisturbed habitat for survival have abundantly returned. This trail also traverses a 7-acre open wetland, which holds abundant migratory waterfowl in the spring. Wood Ducks are a common site as they utilize nesting boxes in the wetland. In 2002, a Hooded Merganser successfully nested at Taltree. Migrating spring warblers can be viewed in abundance along the Heron Pond Woodlands and Owl Trails. Taltree is an excellent site to view raptors. Red-tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks are year round residents. During the winter and early spring months a pair of Northern Harrier Hawks regularly patrol the open space at the arboretum. Wild Turkey, Ring-necked Pheasant and Bobwhite Quail are also present. Other birds of particular interest are American Woodcocks, Eastern Meadowlarks, Dickcissels, Indigo Buntings, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles and the Savanna and Grasshopper Sparrows. Taltree Arboretum & Gardens: A Natural Inspiration....*

### **Bibliography**

**Brock, Kenneth J.** *Birds of the Indiana Dunes. (Revised Edition)* Shirley Heinz Environmental Fund, 1997.

**Sibley, David Allen.** *The Sibley Guide to Birds.* Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 2000.

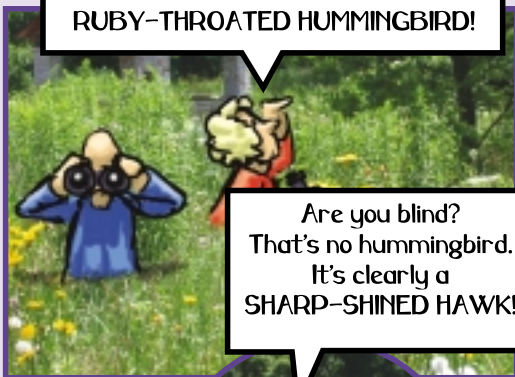
**United States.** *Birds of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. (Revised Edition)* Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, 1991.

*Special thanks to Ken Brock for permission to use information about birding in the Indiana Dunes directly from his book, **Birds of the Indiana Dunes.***



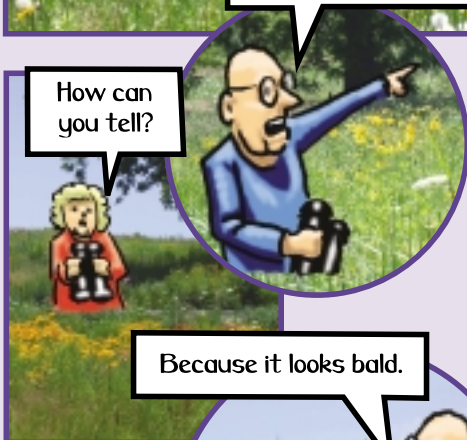
# COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED PRESERVE

Look at that beautiful  
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD!



Are you blind?  
That's no hummingbird.  
It's clearly a  
SHARP-SHINED HAWK!

How can  
you tell?



Because it looks bald.



You would know.

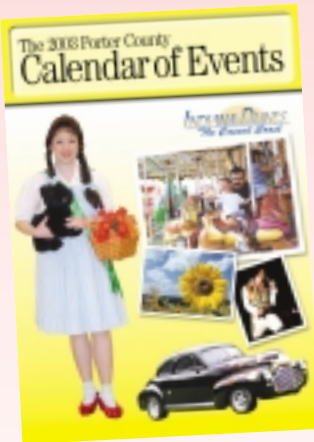


## OVER 40 SPECIES OF BIRDS TO ARGUE OVER.

Just off I-80/90 where State Rd 49  
meets 1050 North • (219)926-1842  
Chesterton, IN • [www.coffeecreekwc.org](http://www.coffeecreekwc.org)

# There's still more...

to see and do at the Casual Coast. There are several more specialty guides, each geared to people's special interests!



*Call, write, or visit our website to request your free specialty guides.*

**INDIANA DUNES**  
*The Casual Coast*

Produced by the Porter County Convention,  
Recreation, & Visitor Commission  
800 Indian Boundary Road Chesterton, Indiana 46304  
219/926-2255 • 800/283-8687  
www.indianadunes.com • www.casualcoast.com