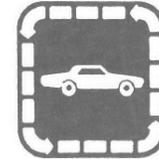
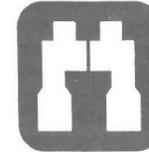


Sherburne

National Wildlife Refuge

Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive



Wetlands

Prior to settlement, lands now within the refuge were a mosaic of wetlands and uplands. As the land was cleared and plowed for agriculture, many of the original wetlands were drained. Today, in addition to four natural lakes and numerous natural wetlands, the refuge has restored 22 wetlands, or pools, where the water level can be raised and lowered to create a variety of wetland types. Wetlands are used by bald eagles, sandhill cranes, waterfowl, loons, trumpeter swans, mink, muskrat and many other species.

Oak Savanna

Oak savanna habitat is characterized by scattered individual and small groves of oak trees growing with an understory of colorful prairie wildflowers and tall grasses, and sometimes hazelnut and oak brush. Only about .02 percent of the original oak savanna habitat in the Midwest remains today. Using prescribed burns and grazing as the primary management tools, the refuge is working to restore this rare plant community.

Grassland openings within the oak savanna are being restored with big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass and switch grass, as well as a rich diversity of native wildflowers.

Wildlife Viewing Tips

To increase your chances of seeing and hearing wildlife, consider the following viewing tips:

- Take your time. Drive slowly.
- Use your vehicle as a "blind."
- Stay as quiet as possible.
- Observe wildlife from a distance. Use binoculars or scopes for closer views.
- Roll down your windows to enjoy the "symphony of sounds."
- Dawn and dusk are peak periods of activity. Mid afternoon is usually fairly quiet.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge
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Zimmerman, MN 55398

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FAX: 763.389.3493
TTY users may access the Federal
Information Relay Service at
800.877.8339

Website address
<http://www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne/>

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U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1.800.344.WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>



09/17

This leaflet is printed by:



Welcome to the Prairie's Edge

Oak savanna and wetland habitats dominate the wildlife drive. Observation decks and viewing scopes are provided at several points along the route. Set your odometer to 0 when you turn off CR 5, and watch for mile markers. Please share your interesting sightings with us, using these markers. Volunteer Roving Interpreters are on duty most mornings and evenings, and can provide refuge information or answer questions.

Grasslands and wooded edges host species such as grasshopper, field, and clay-colored sparrows, along with eastern meadow-lark and eastern towhee. In years when water levels are low, a variety of shorebirds often use Sherburne as a stop-over site during migration. In and around wetlands and pools, sandhill crane, trumpeter swan, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, and a variety of waterfowl species are found. Swamp sparrows, common yellowthroat, red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds sing while perched on wetland vegetation. Quiet and close observation is needed to find more secretive species such as the sora and Virginia rail.

Scattered woodlands and brushy edges are where you will see Baltimore and orchard orioles, rose-breasted grosbeak, American redstart, scarlet tanager and red-headed woodpecker.

Bald eagles nest at Sherburne, with an average of ten active nests each year. One or two nests can be seen along the Drive.

Prairie wildflowers are the most stunning in late May, June, and July. During mid day, look for butterflies

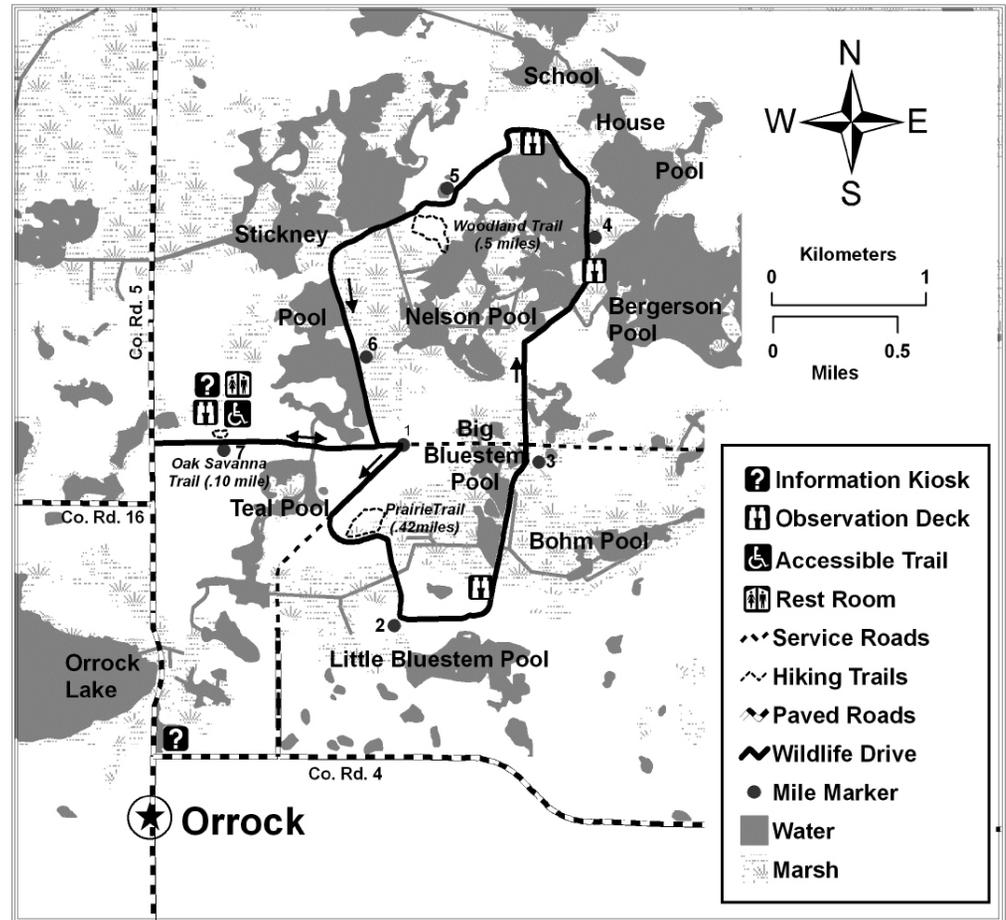
nectaring on lupine, penstemon, butterfly weed, blazing star and a variety of other species.

Other wildlife frequently seen include gopher snake, turtles, including the rare Blanding's, and occasional river otter, black bear, coyote, red fox, muskrat, badgers and mink.



Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive (7.0 Miles)

Open mid April through fall during daylight hours



The speed limit on our wildlife drive is 20 mph. Slow down, take your time, and please give wildlife a brake! Watch for snakes and turtles, allowing them room and time to get out of your path. *Wildlife comes first on National Wildlife Refuges!*