

HIKING AND WALKING FOR BIRDS

Thanks to Scott Sainsbury for suggesting this list in the first place – and to the North Branch Nature Center for enthusiastically agreeing to make it available.

Thanks also to the many birders who contributed information about their favorite places to hike and walk and bird. Contributors include: Jean Arrowsmith, Fred and Graham Bates, Tom Berriman, Bonnie Dundas, Julie Filiberti, Kyle Jones, Maeve Kim, Mark LaBarr, Jo Ann Lafayette, Charlie La Rosa, Martha McClintock, Louanne Nielsen, Martha Pfeiffer, Sarah Rosedahl, Tom Slayton, John Snell, Ruth Stewart, Erin Talmage, Connie Youngstrom

This list is a work in progress! Please send additions and corrections to North Branch Nature Center or e-mail Maeve Kim at maevulus@surglobal.net We'll aim at monthly updates as needed.

The list is *loosely* organized from north to south.

NORTHERN THIRD OF THE STATE

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge – This amazing resource in the northwest corner of the state is home to an astonishing variety of birds, including the state's only remaining population of nesting Black Terns. There are several walking trails ranging from one to five miles, described at <http://friendsofmissisquoi.org/visit/trails/>

Alburgh Dunes State Park – Walk either the beach or the "beach road" to the east end, and return for a mile-and-a-quarter walk. Info and a map at <http://www.vtstateparks.com>

North Hero State Park - This little-used park consists of 399 beautiful acres of lakefront, trees and mowed areas. Park at the entrance and walk on a road (no ticks!) a little less than a mile to the lake. The park is also great for car birding; you can drive slowly along the road with little worry about other cars. Day use only, 10AM – sunset from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. The park isn't staffed, but there's a metal box at the Contact Station to collect day use fees (\$3.00/person). There's a port-o-let at the beach area.

Pelot's Point Natural Area - Head up Route 2 through South Hero. When you're almost to North Hero, look on your right for Shore Acres (resort and restaurant). A half mile north of Shore Acres, turn left onto Station Road. Go west for about one mile until you reach the Lake. Turn right on Pelots Point Road. Go north for a little more than one mile. You will see the Natural Area sign, large parking lot and information kiosk on the right. Walk on trails and an old logging road, through woods and wetlands (with a short boardwalk) and right down to the lake. You can download a brochure at <http://www.kevaco.com/NorthHero/Recreation/fullbrochure-10-1-06.pdf>

On the way home, you might want to pull into Shore Acres briefly to enjoy the Purple Martin colony – or, better yet, plan to have supper there and watch the martins as you eat!

Round Pond State Park and Natural Area - This almost unknown state park has no parking area (except a small pull-off), no sign (except a tiny one), and no facilities – but it has beautiful trails through woods, past Round Pond and the surrounding wetlands, right down to Lake Champlain, with great views of the Sand Bar Causeway, Camel's Hump and Mt. Mansfield.

- From the South: Take Exit 17 off of I-89 onto US Route 2 W toward the Islands for about 7 miles. Take the first left in South Hero onto Landon Road. After about 0.8 miles, take your first left onto East Shore Road, follow the road down a small hill and park in the gravel pull off on your left.
- From the North: Take US Route 2 E. In South Hero, take a right on South Street. Take your first left on Landon Road and then take your first right onto East Shore Road. Follow the road down a small hill and park in the gravel pull off on your left.

Landon Community Trail - 170 acres of woods and farmland in South Hero, with a walking trail about .8 mile long. From the South: Take Exit 17 off of I-89 onto US Route 2 W toward the Islands for about 7 miles. Take the first left in South Hero onto Landon Road. A good-sized gravel parking lot and informational kiosk is about 0.7 miles from the intersection of Landon Road and Route 2.

Colchester Causeway – The north end of the Causeway is accessible from South Hero. (This is a much easier way to get to the “cut” - the break in the causeway - than to walk the 2+ windy miles from Colchester.) Take Route 2 north to South Hero village. Turn left on South St. and continue 2.5 miles. Turn right onto Martin Rd. After 1/3 mile, look for the trail on the left. There’s a parking lot almost immediately, on the left. If the dirt road is plowed, you can sometimes drive to a second parking area near the causeway itself. However, this road is sometimes blocked – and it’s a long way to back out.

South Hero Marsh Trail - The South Hero Marsh is part of the **Roy Marsh Wildlife Management Area**. Walk along a former railroad bed (straight and flat) for 1.8 miles, from Tracy Road (on the outskirts of South Hero) to West Shore Road. There’s limited parking at both ends, but it’s usually “birdier” at the Tracy Road end. In early spring, Rusty Blackbirds are regularly seen and heard near the parking lot. Osprey nest along the power line cut, and Black-crowned Night-herons are regular nesters in the swamp.

- Take Route 2 through South Hero (heading north) and turn left onto Tracy Road. Soon, Tracy Road comes to a Y. Immediately before the Y, take a left turn into an open gravel area. The trail is straight ahead. Be sure to park on the right edge of the open area so your car isn’t within the wetland buffer zone.
- The trailhead at the other end isn’t marked, but it’s clearly an old railroad crossing. There’s a metal gate and a No Trespassing sign on the opposite side of the road. From Route 2 right in the village of South Hero, turn onto South Street. After 2 miles, turn ~~right~~ onto West Shore Road. After 0.6 mile, watch closely for the trailhead on the right.

Burton Island State Park - This entire 253-acre island off St. Albans Point is a state park. It’s a great place to camp, with lean-tos and tent sites including several that are on the Lake Champlain Paddlers’ Trail. And it’s great for birds and birders! In May and June, Burton Island is FULL of nesting birds. The island’s many trails go through scrubland, along the lakeshore, and into forested areas. In addition, the marina is a great place to see several species of gulls and terns. You can either paddle over from the boat launch at KillKare State Park (an easy paddle over shallow water) or take the Island Runner ferry, which leaves KillKare every hour and a half starting at 9AM, from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend. There’s even a nice little deli on the island. For more info and trail maps, go to <http://www.vtstateparks.com/html/burton.htm>

Niquette Bay State Park - This is a day-use park, open from 10AM until sunset from May 8 through Columbus Day. However, the park gates are usually unlocked all winter and the park is a popular year-round place for hikers and dog-walkers. In early spring, many areas are blanketed with dutchman’s britches, hepatica, dog-tooth violets (trout lilies) and other wildflowers. Take I-89 to exit 17 (US 2 Milton/Lake Champlain Islands). Heading toward Sand Bar, turn west onto Raymond Road and continue to park entrance. You can download a trail map from <http://www.vtstateparks.com/html/niquette.htm> A good walk/hike is the Allen Trail to the lake and then the Ledges Trail back to the parking lot.

IN THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM

Barr Hill Natural Area - Barr Hill Preserve is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy of Vermont. From the open field at the trailhead, you can see from Spruce and Signal Mountains at Groton State Park to the southern Green Mountains, Woodbury Mountain, Camels Hump, Elmore Mountain and Mount Mansfield. Some boreal species have been seen there, as well as many species of warblers in spring and fall migration. Drive north out of Greensboro and turn right at the Greensboro Town Hall. The Greensboro Elementary School is on your left. Just 0.6 miles from the town hall turn left at the first fork and follow the sign for the Barr Hill Nature Preserve. You'll pass a dairy farm and then a red barn just before the preserve entrance. Continue straight ahead. Continue uphill through the preserve for 0.6 mile to the parking area on the left. The nature trail begins here. (Note: The road is closed to vehicles during mud season and might be challenging at other times. An alternate approach is to park at the Highland Lodge, overlooking Caspian Lake, and hike up to Barr Hill.)

Moose Bog Trail – A favorite spot for boreal species and warblers, and good all year long! From late May to November take South America Pond Road (right hand turn off Route 105 approximately 8 miles east of Island Pond). After about 300 yards, there's a dirt pull-off on the right hand side of South America Pond Road. There's often great birding right there. You can also walk south on South America Pond Road for 200 yards, to a trailhead on the right side of road. The trail goes through black spruce forest for approximately one and a half miles. A spur trail to Moose Bog Pond is located on the left side of trail about one and a quarter miles after the start. - In winter months, park at a pull-off on the left side of Route 105 just after railroad tracks cross the road. Walk east on Route 105 for 300-400 yards. Moose Bog Trailhead will be on the right side of Route 105, with a sign at the trailhead.

Damon's Crossing Trail, in the Victory Wildlife Management Area - Take the River Road/Victory Road north from Route 2 at North Concord, Vermont. Approximately 7 miles north, a large dirt parking lot will appear on the left side of road at a large clearing where Bog Creek crosses the River Road and joins the Moose River. The trailhead is at the parking lot and runs through cedar wetlands and black spruce as well as hardwood forests. Good for boreal, marsh birds and warblers. Trail is approximately 2 miles long and dead-ends at an old stone dam.

Roger's Creek/ Higgin's Hill Trail, Victory Wildlife Management Area - Take the River Road/Victory Road north from Route 2 at North Concord, Vermont. Approximately 9 miles north, after you go across bridge that crosses the Moose River, there will be a dirt road and metal gates on your right. In winter and spring, park along the shoulder of the River/Victory Road and begin the hike from the metal gates. In summer, the gates may be open and you can drive another half mile along dirt road/trail to a second set of gates where you can park. Great for boreal species, warblers, fly catchers and thrushes. Trail runs for 2-3 miles through mostly coniferous forest but eventually begins to enter hardwood forests. It ends at a very large clearing and camp (in private ownership).

North Branch Trail - This 4-mile loop trail borders the North Branch of the Nulhegan River. In spring and fall, it's a great place to find migrating warblers. It's accessible year round from a small parking lot on the north side of Route 105, 7 to 8 miles east of Island Pond.

Peanut Dam Road - Take the Stone Dam Road entrance into the Nulhegan branch of the Silvio Conte Wildlife Refuge (in Ferdinand). Drive approximately 4 miles along Stone Dam Road and park at a pull-off on right side at intersection of Stone Dam Road and Peanut Dam Road. The trail dead-ends after about 1½ miles. It's drivable but NEK bird guru Tom Berriman suggests walking it. It's a great trail for boreal species, with good birding May to October. (Note: Stone Dam Road is a snowmobile trail in winter.)

Pipeline East, Victory Wildlife Management Area - Take the River Road/Victory Road north from Route 2 at North Concord, Vermont. Approximately 9 miles north after you go across bridge that crosses the Moose River, there will be a 60-yard-wide clearing that stretches from east to west and crosses River Road. Park on the right shoulder of the road from March to December. (This is a snowmobile trail in the winter.) There's a set of gates on the right and a sandy dirt road that goes several miles east. It's a dead-end trail with a slightly rolling hill quality to it. Several beaver dams are on either side of the trail and an assortment of waterfowl and mammals can be seen here. All four boreal species can be found along this trail as well as breeding warblers and migrating warblers.

Miles Pond Railroad Bed Trail - Take Route 2 east to Miles Pond. The exit is on the right side of Route 2 approximately 3-4 miles east of the town of North Concord. Park in the lot at the beach area on the east end of the pond. The railroad track bed is just to the east of the parking area. (The line is not in use.) Walk about 2 miles to the town of East Concord. Trail goes through a variety of habitats, and 60 species of birds have been seen along it including migrating warblers, flycatchers, wetland species, and thrushes. Good from early May through October. (If you have two people with two cars, you can drop a car at each end: Miles Pond and East Concord.)

Jay Peak – The Long Trail goes right over the top of this peak – but you can also access it by taking the gondola from Jay Peak Resort. (It runs all year.) In spring, summer and fall, most visitors get off the gondola at the top, take a few pictures, and head back down. If you walk even five minutes downhill, you'll be alone with the strong possibility of seeing and hearing Bicknell's Thrushes, Swainson's Thrushes, Blackpoll Warblers and other northern birds.

Jay Pass to Hazen's Notch on Long Trail – This area is excellent for warblers. There are trail maps and descriptions in the Green Mountain Club's *Long Trail Guide*.

Belvidere Triangle – Start with the Forester's Trail in Eden. Hike up to the Belvidere Saddle and take the spur to the summit. Then head north on the Long Trail to Tillotson Camp and take the Frank Post Trail back to your car. It's a warbler hike and also a chance to see some of the higher elevation birds. The Green Mountain Club is the source for more info.

MIDDLE THIRD OF THE STATE

IN MONTPELIER

North Branch Nature Center – Go to <http://www.northbranchnaturecenter.org> for directions and information.

Hubbard Park – Right in the state's capital city, there's a 194-acre park with about 7 miles of trails for walking, hiking and skiing trails. You can get a trail map from the City of Montpelier web site.

Berlin Pond – Berlin Pond has been designated a Very Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. It includes at least six large woodland vernal pools and an extensive and popular system of trails. In addition, a dirt road goes all the way around Berlin Pond, with wetlands on both sides. The **Irish Hill Trail** (accessible from a small parking lot south on Brookfield Road from the main parking area) climbs a prominent ridgeline between the Berlin Pond watershed and the Dog River Valley. From I-89, get off on Exit 7. Go right at the first light onto Cross Town Road. After you go under the interstate, take a left onto Paine Turnpike South and then a right onto Brookfield Road. There's a parking area almost immediately, on the left.

IN BURLINGTON

Red Rocks Park – Red Rocks has many trails through woods, some overlooking Lake Champlain. It's a well-known migrant trap for warblers in spring and fall. Find directions and a trail map at <http://www.sburlrecdept.com/parks.php>

Centennial Woods Natural Area – One of the UVM Natural Areas and adjacent to the campus, Centennial Woods has 65 acres of mature conifer stands, mixed hardwoods, fields, streams, and wetlands. The diverse habitat has been extensively studied by students in Environmental Studies, Botany, Zoology, Forestry, Recreation Management, and Education. You can find descriptions, driving directions, and a trail map at <http://www.uvm.edu/envprog/natural-areas/centennial-woods>

The Burlington Intervale is a unique area of farms on river-bottom land. There are several good birding trails including the Rita Calkins Trail, which starts near Gardeners' Supply. Go to <http://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/intervale-trail> for information and maps.

IN COLCHESTER

Delta Park – An easy trail goes through woods to the lake and is good for young children. Each spring, a lot of the access trail to Delta Park is under water, so it's best to save this walk for later in the summer, after lake levels recede. In late August and early September, especially during years when Lake Champlain is relatively low, birders flock to this small park to watch migrating shorebirds feeding on exposed sand flats. From Porter's Point Road in Colchester, turn onto Airport Road and then take a left onto Windermere Way. Go 0.7 miles to the Park. More info at the Winooski Valley Park District website, www.wvpd.org

Colchester Pond – A 2.5 mile walking trail goes all the way around this 182-acre pond, through dense forests and open fields and by rocky cliffs where ravens nest. For directions go to <http://www.trailfinder.info/trails/trail/colchester-pond> or the Winooski Valley Park District website, www.wvpd.org

Colchester Bog and **Colchester Causeway** – A bike trail leads from Airport Park (on Colchester Point Road) through the unique habitat of Colchester Bog. From here, you can walk or bike out across Malletts Bay almost all the way to South Hero along a gravel trail on an old railroad bed. During the summer, a bike ferry is available at “The Cut”, a small expanse of open water near the South Hero end of the causeway. There’s a lot of helpful information at <http://www.trailink.com/trail/island-line-rail-trail.aspx>

IN WILLISTON – *For information and maps, go to the Town of Williston website and click on Resources and then Trails.*

Mud Pond Conservation Area and **Mud Pond Country Park** – The Conservation Area is for walkers only; the Country Park has many mountain bike trails. To reach both, take Oak Hill Road south out of Williston. Just after passing over I-89, take a left onto South Road. After about two miles, turn right onto Mud Pond Road. Parking is immediately on your right.

- For the Conservation Area, walk up the hill for a 0.7-mile walk through woods to a lookout stand by a deep pond. This small area can be amazingly birdy.
- To get to the Country Park, park at the Mud Pond Road lot and walk cross South Road. Enter where there's a small kiosk. There are beautiful woods and even a hidden waterfall – but only some of the bike paths are on the map that's available at the kiosk, so it's easy to get temporarily lost!

Sucker Brook Hollow Country Park – The parking area for this new nature area is about 2 miles south of the I-89 overpass on Route 2A, on the left. There's a 2.3 mile round-trip multiuse trail that includes an impressive 57-foot long footbridge. The trail connects to Five Tree Hill.

Five Tree Hill Country Park – This park features a 1.3-mile trail through open fields, with great views.

Oak Hill View Country Park – The hiking or walking trail loops across the Isham Family Farm, with scenic features including a small pond, sugar bush, and great views of Mount Mansfield and Camels Hump.

IN ESSEX JUNCTION

Woodside Natural Area – The beautiful 1-mile loop walk in Woodside has yielded more bird species than almost any other part of Vermont. A pair of Red-Shouldered Hawks has nested in the park for several years now. At least one of the hawks has stayed during the winter, which is very unusual for this migratory species.

Woodside is maintained by the **Winooski Valley Park District**, which also manages many beautiful outdoor locations in the greater Burlington area, including the **Ethan Allen Homestead**, **Macrae Farm**, **Colchester Pond**, **Overlook Park** and the **Old Red Mill** in Jericho. Go to www.wvdpd.org for directions and trail maps.

IN SHELBURNE

LaPlatte River Marsh Nature Area and **Ti-Haul Trail** – Both of these walking trails are reached from Bay Road in Shelburne. Park in the large fishing access lot or in the lot for Shelburne Bay Park, and walk across the road.

- The Nature Area, maintained by The Nature Conservancy, features a dirt trail that runs through woods, along the LaPlatte River. The area is also great for paddlers. Put in at the fishing access and go upstream. You'll feel like you're in wilderness, right in Chittenden County!
- The Ti-Haul Trail (originally laid down to move the boat *The Ticonderoga* from the Bay to Shelburne Museum) is a wider rec path made of cinders. It's about a two-mile round trip from Bay Road to Harbor Road on the Ti-Haul Trail.

Shelburne Bay Park - The parking lot for Shelburne Bay Park is a few yards west on Bay Road from the large fishing access lot. The main rec path runs for a little more than a mile between the parking lot on Bay Road and the Lake Champlain Yacht Club. There are additional paths (Allen Hill and Clark Trail) through the woods to the lake.

IN HINESBURG

Hinesburg Area Recreation Trails (HART) - The town of Hinesburg has been doing a remarkable job preserving beautiful land and developing well-marked trails. Go to www.hinesburg.org/hart.html for directions and maps. Here are a few gems:

Gepregs Park – Gepregs Park is famous among birders because of nesting Golden-Winged Warblers and Blue-Winged Warblers, both beautiful and both rare in the state. (The park also has had at least two identifiable hybrids of these two species.) Trails lead through old orchards and forests. The Hinesburg Invasive Team has been working with the town's Conservation Commission and Land Trust, as well as The Nature Conservancy and the Green Mountain Audubon Society, to eradicate invasive species and replace them with more bird-friendly plants. The parking area is off Shelburne Falls Road.

Hinesburg Town Forest – Google to find maps and directions for three entrances. The Economou Road entrance has been the best for birding. After parking, walk around the metal gate. Soon you'll come to a clearing with trails (actually logging roads) heading straight and to the right. The road to the right will take you to a large blow-down area. Find a comfy log, sit and wait. In late April and May, you'll see many different warblers, sparrows, woodpeckers, and flycatchers (including the uncommon Olive-Sided Flycatcher). You also might hear the high whistle of a Broad-Winged Hawk overhead.

LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest – 301 acres preserved by the Hinesburg Land Trust and Trust for Public Land - The Lewis Creek Road trailhead leads directly into beautiful forest.

IN CHARLOTTE

The **Charlotte Park and Wildlife Refuge** is a little-used gem with diverse habitats including old orchards and farmland, forests, and wide fields with views of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. The Park entrance is off Greenbush Road, north of Charlotte Village and just south of the narrow railroad underpass. Maps are usually available at the kiosk next to the parking lot, but you can also download one at <http://www.charlottevt.org> (Click on Maps and Trails of the Town.) *Note: There has been some trouble with vandalism in the parking area, so don't leave valuable items in your car.*

Williams Woods Natural Area - One-mile trail in 63 acres of mature valley clayplain forest preserved by The Nature Conservancy. A small pull-off is on Greenbush Road in Charlotte. Get maps and other info at <http://www.nature.org>

Mt. Philo State Park – 168 acres with breath-taking views of the Champlain Valley and Adirondacks. This park is open from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day and has become a favorite destination for birders during the fall hawk migration. Go to <http://www.vtstateparks.com> for directions and a trail map.

IN RICHMOND

Warren and Ruth Beeken Rivershore Trail – a lovely walk through woods and along the Winooski – Look for the nest holes of Bank Swallows in the steep banks across the river. From the center of Richmond, go down Bridge Street. Just past the Round Church, turn left on Cochran Rd. There are three ways to access the trail. The most popular is about midway along the trail at the canoe access approximately 1.5 miles from the Round Church. Look for a good-sized parking area on the left (north) side of Cochran Road.

Volunteer Green Trail – This very short trail along the Winooski can be an exciting place to go birding in the spring. Park at Volunteer Green Park (next to Parkside Restaurant on Bridge Street in Richmond) and walk out behind the band shell. The trail begins near the river's edge.

IN BOLTON

Preston Pond Conservation Area – This area has several beautiful trails through woods and wetlands. Libby's Look Trail is an easy hike and often very birdy. Google *Preston Pond Bolton VT* and you'll find a PDF trail map to download.

IN JERICHO

Mills Riverside Park – Walk on extensive trails through fields and forests. The Park entrance is on Route 15 just outside Underhill Flats. Go to <http://www.millsriversidepark.org> for a trail map and other information.

Mobbs Farm – This diverse and beautiful park has over 260 acres of woods and open fields, as well as the lively Mill Brook will waterfalls, and gravel beaches. There are nine miles of walking and mountain bike trails on both sides of Fitzsimmons Road (near Jericho Center). The western section, Mobbs Valley, has been much more productive for birders. Go to <http://www.jerichovt.gov/> and click on Parks. There's also a good map at the kiosk on Fitzsimmons Road.

Old Red Mill Park – This small and little used park in “downtown” Jericho is maintained by the Winooski Valley Park District (www.wvpcd.org). Trails run through forest along a fast-moving stream and into a wetland.

IN UNDERHILL

Underhill State Park – Go to <http://www.vtstateparks.com> for information. In early spring, you can park just outside the gate and either duck under the gate or walk back down the entrance road. Either way, you'll have a good chance of seeing and hearing Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers and Winter Wrens, as well as other species.

Crane Brook Conservation Area – This area between Irish Settlement Road and New Road was put aside for nature and recreational uses when Underhill closed its dump. It includes forest, new growth, fields, beaver ponds and wetlands. Neighbors maintain extensive walking and cross-country ski trails. There are no available maps but the area is worth exploring anyway. Here are two ways in:

- Drive out Pleasant Valley Road through Underhill Center. Turn left onto Irish Settlement Road (at Underhill Central School). Bear right when Irish Settlement Road merges with Sand Hill Road. In about .7 miles, there's a small pull-off on the right with a metal gate. There is a sign, but it's almost completely obscured by trees. Once through the gate, trails will take you straight ahead to an open field with a spectacular view of Mt. Mansfield. Go left or right for forest birding or go straight through the meadow and down to New Road.
- Drive out Pleasant Valley Road. When you pass the road to Underhill State Park on your right, start looking for New Road just a little way past that on your left. (Oldsters call this Dump Road.) The road effectively ends right in front of a gate, behind which the Underhill Road Department keeps equipment, sand, etc. Park just past the gate and walk on the wet and rutted road past wetlands and beaver ponds.

IN HUNTINGTON

Birds of Vermont Museum – The museum houses an impressive collection of bird carvings, so it's a great place to visit even when the weather isn't great for birding. There's also a big window looking out onto well-stocked bird feeders. Outdoors, there are walking trails, forests, a pond, a river, and even a tree house so visitors can see into the upper parts of the trees. The museum's website, <http://www.birdsofvermont.org> has lots of information.

Green Mountain Audubon Center – There are many trails through woods and fields, by a beaver pond, and by wetlands. The Center is home to year-round activities including children's camps and maple sugaring. Go to www.vt.audubon.org and click on Centers and Chapters.

IN STARKSBORO

Cota Field - This natural area, preserved by the Starksboro Conservation Commission, has a wide variety of habitats (farmland, fields and forest) in a relatively small area. The mile-long Creekside Loop follows Lewis Creek through mixed woods, early successional shrubland and open fields – and includes a beautifully designed suspension bridge. From Hinesburg, drive south on Route 116. North of Starksboro, turn right onto State Prison Hollow Road. The large parking area is on the left, almost immediately. The trail starts just south of the parking area. There are monthly monitoring walks led by birder Zac Cota.

IN ADDISON

Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area – This is one of the most frequently birded places in the state, partly because of the yearly spectacle of flocks of Snow Geese in mid-October. In some years, the water levels are drawn down resulting in a bonanza of shorebirds in late summer and early fall. The Brilyea Access, off Rte. 17 just west of the Goose Viewing Area, leads to two walking trails. One goes between the creek and agricultural fields, through a deciduous forest and over Dead Creek on earthen embankments. The other trail (starting at the very last parking area at Brilyea) goes through forest and fields. In addition to Brilyea, there are several other access points described at <https://ottercreek.wordpress.com/birding-in-addison-county/dead-creek/>

IN BRISTOL

Bristol Waterworks (AKA The Waterworks Property) – When Vergennes decided to sell 666 acres that used to be used for the city's water supply, local citizens rallied and raised funds to conserve the land as a community forest. The property has hardwood and valley clayplain forests and a good-sized lake. There's a wide, mostly flat walking trail.

- From Hinesburg - Take Monkton Road south out of Hinesburg, past Bristol Pond. Make a right onto Plank Road (right before a large farm that is on both sides of the road). Cross Sawyer Road. Plank Road will sweep to the right then make a sharp turn to the left over Norton Brook. The parking area for the Waterworks property is on the right just before that sharp turn.
- From the traffic light in Bristol - Follow North St. for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile until you reach Plank Road (on your left). Turn onto Plank Road and check odometer. You'll remain on Plank Road through 2 intersections (Burpee Road at 0.8 miles and Sawyer Road at 1.7 miles). Plank Road will sweep to the right then make a sharp turn to the left over Norton Brook. The parking area for the Waterworks property is on the right just before that sharp turn. (Total driving distance along Plank Road is 3.3 miles.)

Sycamore Park - This small park (8.4 acres) was set aside as part of a flood mitigation plan. It's located on a prominent bend of the New Haven River. From Route 7, turn east onto Rte. 17. Go to the flashing traffic lights where Rte. 116 South intersects with 17 and Burpee Road. Turn south onto Rte. 116. Travel south for a few miles. Bear left where 116 intersects with River Road. (Don't go straight onto River Road). There will be a one-way bridge with traffic light just up the road past that bend to the left. On your right just before the bridge is a turn-off that goes down into the parking lot for Sycamore Park.

Memorial Park - The walking trail goes by a beautiful gorge, footbridge and waterfalls. From Rt. 7, turn onto 17 east. Go through Bristol Village straight towards Starksboro. After a couple of miles, the road turns to Rt. 116 North. Continue on 116 until you come to Rt. 17 (right turn). Travel 2 or 3 miles maybe. Look for a pull-off on your right, on a small hill.

IN GROTON

Groton State Forest – With over 26,000 acres, this is the second largest land block administered by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. There are over 17 miles of hiking trails and over 20 miles of gravel roads and multi-use trails

IN MIDDLEBURY

TAM – The Trail Around Middlebury is a 16-mile long footpath maintained by the Middlebury Area Land Trust. It passes through several excellent birding locations. Chipman Hill in particular has been a great place to see a wide variety of warblers. Go to <http://www.maltvt.org/trail/tam-trail/> for maps and info.

Otter View Park - This park consists of only 15 acres, but it has excellent wildlife habitat and access to Otter Creek. It's located at the intersection of Weybridge Street and Pulp Mill Bridge Road. Go to the Middlebury Area Land Trust website to download a brochure: <http://www.maltvt.org/our-land/otter-view-park/>

IN LINCOLN

Forest Service Roads off Lincoln Gap – There's one Forest Service Road to the north and one a little further on to the south. Both are drivable with a 4-wheel high clearance vehicle, but it's much better to hike them.

IN WOODSTOCK

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park – It would be worthwhile to visit Vermont's only national park even if there weren't any birds – but there are. There are lots of songbirds in the forests, a pond that can have interesting waterfowl in spring and fall, and even occasional Red Crossbills in the Prosper Road parking lot. Many trail options. Good map at <http://www.nps.gov/mabi/index.htm>

Quechee State Park – A trail runs 2.5 miles along the dramatic Quechee Gorge. There's lots of info about the park at <http://www.vtstateparks.com/htm/quechee.htm>

IN THE MAD RIVER VALLEY

Blueberry Lake, Warren – This is a cross-country ski and snowshoe center in the winter, with many trails through woods and meadows. Go to <http://blueberrylakeski.vt.com> for directions.

Mad River Greenway – 1.3 miles along the Mad River, starting near Small Dog Electronics on Route 100 and ending near the 1824 House Inn. There's a trail map at <http://www.madriverpath.com/maps-madriver.php>

SOUTHERN THIRD OF THE STATE

Rutland Audubon provides driving directions, trail maps and lots of information about birds at <http://rutlandcountyaudubon.org/hotspots/>

The Rutland Audubon website introduces birders to the following locations:

- **West Rutland Marsh** – There's a short boardwalk into the marsh and a long dirt road alongside it. Regular bird monitoring walks have yielded almost 200 species, including rarities such as Least Bittern, Virginia Rail and Common Gallinule.
- **Pleasant Street Powerline** – great spot for warblers, including Prairie, Golden-winged and Blue-winged
- **Cadwell Loop** – part of the Pittsford Trail Network – easy 2.4 mile walk through various habitats
- Pomainville WMA - old farm fields, wetland, grasslands along Otter Creek
- **Leffert's Pond** – good for walking or paddling
- **Kent Pond** – The Killington area offers great bird hikes at Kent Pond, Gifford Woods State Park and the Appalachian Trail. Kent Pond has seen some rare birds including an American White Pelican!
- **Aitken State Forest** – great place for spring and early summer bird walks
- **Diamond Run Nature Trail** – short trails and board walks through a swampy area
- **Tinmouth Channel WMA** – 450 acres of wetlands to explore on foot or by boat

Emerald Lake State Park, North Dorset – Get directions and a trail map at <http://www.vtstateparks.com/htm/emerald.htm>

Merck Forest and Farmland Center, Rupert - Go to the top of Mt. Antone for incredible views, stay overnight in one of the cabins, or meander along the forest trails. Good variety of birds (obviously no shorebirds!). Open all year. <http://www.merckforest.org>

Minard's Pond, Bellows Falls - Walk the trail all around this scenic reservoir. Pond Road is just south of Joy Wah's (big Chinese restaurant on Route 5, with the Connecticut River at its back). *Note: The turn from Route 5 to Pond Road is VERY sharp if you're heading south; it's much easier and safer if you approach from Bellows Falls, heading north.*

Pinnacle Trail Complex, Westminster - The Pinnacle complex is composed of the trail along the ridge that goes all the way to Putney Mountain, famous as migratory raptor counting station. There are numerous connected trails offering various routes up to the ridge and offering possibilities to make loops. Trail maps at <http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org>

Atherton Meadows Wildlife Management Area, Whitingham - Many stages of growth resulting from some regrown clear cuts made to create more habitat variety. If you walk far enough, you'll come to Atherton Meadows, a vast expanse of old beaver ponds. So, you have opportunities for birds of mature woodlands, huge raspberry thickets, wetlands, and open water. Map and description at http://fpr.vermont.gov/state_land/management_planning/documents/district_pages/district_1/atherton_meadows

(There are other excellent ponds and marshes that can be viewed from the back roads between Whitingham and Route 9 in Marlboro.)

Hogback Mountain Conservation Area, Marlboro - Hogback is adjacent to Molly Stark State Park and there is a fire tower at the top of Hogback. The former ski trails have now grown up and there are many stages of secondary growth. There's a wealth of info at <http://www.hogbackvt.org>

One World Conservation Center – Bennington, Route 7 south - 95 acres with 1.5 miles of trails, 3 habitats (wetlands, meadow and woodland). You can bring your leashed dog. There are benches along the way and pretty easy access for disabled people.

IN BRATTLEBORO

Hogle Wildlife Sanctuary Trail (AKA Retreat Meadows) - Off Eaton Ave. in downtown Brattleboro, this neighborhood trail is a beautiful walk down along the Retreat Meadows. A loop of 0.5 miles is possible, and features a boardwalk through a wetland area rich with bird life. From downtown Brattleboro, travel north on Main St. (which becomes Putney Rd.), past the Common 0.5 mi., and turn left onto Eaton Ave. The street soon turns 90 degrees left. Just before this turn, the trail is marked with a granite post on the right.

Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) offers 1.6 miles of trails on 100 acres of field and forest. Interpretive guides provide info on natural history. A highlight is the open view from the Center's hilltop pasture. Trails are easy, with a few steep hills. BEEC is located at 1221 Bonnyvale Rd., 2.2 mi. up from Western Ave. (Rte. 9) in West Brattleboro (Bonnyvale Rd. is a left turn off Western Ave. 1.1 miles west of I-91 Exit 2).

West River Trail - This old railroad bed winds north along the West River on the east side opposite Rt. 30 for 3.5 miles to Rice Farm Rd. The unpaved trail is ideal for easy mountain biking and hiking. Go north on Main St, which becomes Putney Rd., for 1.0 mi. and bear left onto Spring Tree Rd. (just past the bridge over the West River). Turn left, then right, and go 0.3. mi. to the trailhead at the end the road. A second trailhead is located 0.5 mi. past the Black Mountain trailhead on Rice Farm Rd.

We need directions or more info about the following locations:

Northam Trails - Designed for xc skiing, these trails lead off from the Old Plymouth Rd., an excellent road walk itself. At an elevation of 1800- 2000 ft. and located in mixed hardwoods and conifers, a beaver wetland, and small streams make for an interesting day of birding (or perhaps bird listening once the trees have leafed out). A good place to find Magnolia, Blackburnians, Nashville, BT Green and Blue Warblers.

Shrewsbury Peak Loop – 5.4 miles through woods

Equinox Mountain Trails – miles of fire roads

Public Access Trail in Dorset, Nichols Hill Rd