

There are many fine birding sites within 50 miles of the St. Louis City limits. Although this list is by no means complete, it contains some of the best public areas. The initial directions will get you to each area for birding on your own, while the directions for where to meet (and in some cases how to carpool) apply to scheduled St. Louis Audubon Society field trips.

CA = Conservation Area, SP = State Park, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge.

Information and maps for the various CA's are available on the web site of the Missouri Department of Conservation and individual site pages. For State Parks and maps of those sites, see the web site of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and individual park sites.

eBird Protocols: Most of the locations here are eBird hotspots—i.e., lists from those sites are archived in eBird under one location name and are publicly viewable, with a cumulative list of birds found there and other data. In some cases, specific smaller sites within a larger one are also eBird hotspots, which we term “sub-hotspots.” Please check the exact hotspot name used by eBird to make sure your list is entered correctly. Then, on any list submitted for a given hotspot, please record only birds seen within its boundaries—or very nearby, if the boundaries are hazy. Don't use one hotspot to include birds seen at other sites. Note also that if you are birding any site that is not an eBird hotspot, you can follow the procedure for creating a “personal location” there, and if you think it should be recommended to others, you can suggest it as a hotspot.

Use of Merlin: Many birders now use the Merlin app to help them find and identify birds. This is fine as long as you follow the basic principle that this is your list, not Merlin's. In other words, Merlin shouldn't be the sole basis for listing a species. If it locates and identifies a bird for you, whether by sight or by sound, that bird must also be seen or heard by you, well enough to identify it from your own knowledge. Example: If Merlin says “White-throated Sparrow,” then you should actually see one, or hear and recognize its song, before counting it. Merlin is helpful, but it isn't you (and it isn't always right).

Sites:

AI Foster Trail

Take I-44 west to Eureka and go north on 109. In about 3 miles, make a right on Old State Road and then your first right again on Washington Ave. In about ¼ mile, park in the semicircular lot on your left with the Western Greenway sign.

Babler SP

Take I-44 west to Hwy 109 at Eureka and go north past Manchester Rd. Angle left on Babler Park Drive and continue to the park. OR

Take I-64/US-40 west to the Long Rd. exit in Chesterfield Valley and go south to Wild Horse Creek Rd. Turn right and follow this road to Hwy 109. Go left on 109, then right on Babler Park Road to the park entrance.

Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot.

Baldwin Lake (IL)

Take I-270/255 across the Jefferson Barracks Bridge to IL. Exit for Hwy 3 and follow it south to Redbud. In Redbud, continue straight on Hwy 154 east instead of turning right on 3. Follow Hwy 154 to Baldwin. Follow the signs in town to Baldwin Lake (left turn at 5th Street/Baldwin Road). Meet at the parking lot inside the gate.

Note that the lake and the adjoining area are cut into halves by a county line. In eBird, the northern half is “Kaskaskia River SFWA—Baldwin Lake (St. Clair Co.)” and the southern half is “Kaskaskia River SFWA—Baldwin Lake (Randolph Co.)”.

To carpool there, meet at the commuter lot at I-270 and Hwy 30 west (Gravois Road); the entrance is on Kennerly Road.

Blue Grosbeak Trail (Weldon Spring CA)

From St. Louis, take US-40/I-64 west across the Missouri River. Exit at MO-94 and go left. In just under a mile along 94 there will be a Busch Greenway bike-trail parking lot and gate on your left. Meet in the parking lot. This is the trailhead for what birders call the Blue Grosbeak Trail, but that name is informal, with no sign. First of four entry points (and a sub-hotspot) for Weldon Spring CA.

BK Leach CA

Take I-70 west across the Missouri River and through St. Charles. At Exit 220, go north on route 79. Proceed through the towns of Winfield and Foley to county road M on the right. Turn right there and proceed about 2 miles to enter a portion of BK Leach CA. If you are unfamiliar with the area, get a map in advance from the MDC web site.

To carpool, take Exit 220 (route 79) and turn left. Go across the interstate and turn right into the parking lot for Dierberg's; meet there at the southeast corner of the parking lot

at the scheduled time. Birding may also be done at other locations up route 79, such as Winfield Dam and Clarence Cannon NWR.

Busch CA

From St. Louis, take US-40/I-64 west across the Missouri River. Exit at MO-94 and go left. In just over a mile, turn right at the stoplight onto route D. Go about 2 miles to the Busch entrance on the right. Enter and turn left at the T to the Hampton Lake parking lot, or right to reach the Visitor Center; for scheduled field trips, meet at one of these as directed. If you are new to the area and birding by yourself, you will need a map.

Trips here are typically recorded in eBird using the overall hotspot “Busch CA,” although there is a sub-hotspot for “Lake 33” (the largest one) and another for a woody area called “Nature Study Area (WGNSS).”

Busch Greenway/Duckett Creek trailhead

From St Louis: Take 40/64 West across the Missouri River. Take the first exit (11) for Research Park Cir. Upon exiting, make two right turns—onto Wolfrum Road, then Research Park Cir—and cross over the highway.

*Follow Research Park Circle until it comes to a T; turn left on Research Park Dr., and then an immediate left again on Missouri Research Park Dr. Take this road down to the end for the Duckett Creek trailhead parking lot. If parking lot is full, cars can park on the side of the road. Coordinates to Trailhead Parking Lot: 38.69460° N, 90.68446° W

From St Charles: Take MO-94 southwest and follow signs for I-64/US-40 East; very soon take Exit 11, Research Park Cir. Turn right on Research Park Cir. Follow remaining directions above, starting at the *.

Carlyle Lake (IL)

Take I-64 east across the Poplar Street Bridge. Continue on I-64 when it diverges from I-70/55 (right-hand exit, signed to Louisville). Follow I-64 to Exit 19B, take that and go north briefly, and then go east (right) at the light on US 50 toward Carlyle. Follow the signs for 50 through Lebanon and then about 25 miles to the T at route 127 on the outskirts of Carlyle. Turn left, then right to reach McDonald's. If new to the area, you will need a map. Much of the area, with various lake access points, is managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, but there is also an Illinois State Park on either side of the lake, Hazlet SP on the southwest side and South Shore SP on the southeast side. There are various hotspots around the area.

For field trips, meet at McDonald's at the scheduled time. Carpool information may be posted with the trip announcement.

Carondelet Park

This park, which can be a fine migrant trap like Tower Grove Park, can be reached (1) from I-64 or I-44 by taking Kingshighway south to Holly Hills Ave; left there and follow Holly Hills, which becomes the northeast boundary of the park; (2) also from I-64 or I-44 by taking Grand Blvd. south until it enters the park at its intersection with Holly Hills; or (3) from I-55, by taking exit 202C for Loughborough Ave., which forms the southwest boundary of the park.

Castlewood SP

Take Big Bend Rd west beyond 141 to Ries Rd and turn south (left) and left again on Kiefer Creek Road.
Meet at lot on right, just after park office.

Clarence Cannon NWR

Take I-70 west across the Missouri River and through St. Charles. At Exit 220, go north on route 79. Proceed about 30 miles through the towns of Winfield, Foley, and Elsberry to the crossroads and a refuge sign at Annada; turn right there and follow the road to the refuge headquarters. A map of the refuge is available online or in the office (open some weekdays). Note that extensive work by the Corps of Engineers is reconfiguring the levees and the refuge structure; some parts may not be accessible at times.

To carpool, take Exit 220 (route 79) and turn left. Go across the interstate and turn right into the parking lot for Dierberg's; meet there at the southeast corner of the parking lot at the scheduled time. Birding may also be done at other locations up route 79, such as Winfield Dam and BK Leach CA.

Columbia Bottom CA

From I-270 east in north St. Louis County, take Exit 34 (Riverview Drive) and turn north (left). Go about 3 miles to the entrance on the right and make an immediate left for the visitor center, which is no longer open to the public.

Note: Exit 34 is currently closed off by construction (2026). Instead, from I-270, take Exit 31 north on route 367 toward Alton. Take the exit for Parker Road and turn right on Parker. Continue to the light at Bellefontaine Road; turn left, then a quick right on Spanish Pond Road and follow it, eventually downhill, to the Columbia Bottom entrance on the left, with another immediate left to the visitor center as described. **Further note:** There is ongoing construction work (2026) as the levees are being reconfigured; this may prevent access to some areas, including the road that leads to the river confluence overlook.

Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot.

Confluence Point SP

From I-270 in north St. Louis Co., take Exit 31 to go north on route 367 toward Alton. Cross the Missouri River bridge and proceed to the last road before the Alton bridge. Turn right there, go past the gas station, and continue down Riverlands Way 2+ miles to the far corner of the equipment compound. Turn right there to go out the gravel road (Confluence Road; see next) 2.5 miles to the SP sign marking the boundary. Continue through the park to the parking area and kiosk at the end of the road.

Confluence Rd

This is the gravel connecting road between Riverlands and Confluence Point SP, as referenced in the preceding item. It begins at the (usually gated) junction with Red School Rd, where Riverlands ends, and continues 2.5 miles to the boundary of the SP. This road was set up as a separate hotspot because it lies outside the boundaries of both Riverlands and the SP but is frequently traversed by birders.

Caution: Birders use the name “Riverlands Way” only for the paved main road within Riverlands, whereas on Google maps and Mapquest, that name is also applied to the gravel road out to the SP (i.e., the Confluence Rd) and to the continuation of that road through the SP to its terminus.

Cora Island unit, Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

From I-270 in north St. Louis County, take Exit 31 for route 367 north to Red School Road (the second road after crossing the Missouri River). Travel about 3 miles on Red School Road to Cora Island Road at the corner of Ebenezer cemetery; turn right. Follow

Cora Island Road just over a mile, across the levee to the refuge parking lot. During floods this road may be under water. Do not drive into flooded spots.

This area is often visited in conjunction with Riverlands and/or Confluence State Park. It is a separate eBird hotspot, “Big Muddy NFWR—Cora Island Unit.”

Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park

From I-270, take exit 17 for Dorsett Road west. Follow Dorsett to the T at Marine Ave. and turn right. Follow Marine down the hill and along the lakeshore and park in designated lots where convenient to scan the lake and walk trails (or park where field trip directions indicate).

This lake is an eBird hotspot, with Mallard Lake (see below) as a sub-hotspot. In addition, you can visit the nearby Little Creve Coeur Ecological Area (see also below).

Cuivre River SP

Take I-70 west across the Missouri River and through St. Charles. At Exit 220, go north on route 79. As you are approaching the town of Winfield, turn left on route 47 and travel west for 10+ miles to the park entry road (route 147) on your right. This will take you to the office/visitor center. If you are on your own, use a park map.

Alternatively, continue west on I-70 and then take Exit 210 to proceed north on US 61. Exit at Troy and turn east (right) on route 47. The park entry road (route 147) will be on your left in about 3 miles.

To carpool, take Exit 220 (route 79) and turn left. Go across the interstate and turn right into the parking lot for Dierberg's; meet there at the southeast corner of the parking lot at the scheduled time. Birding may also be done at other locations up route 79, such as Winfield Dam.

Emmenegger Nature Park (City of Kirkwood)

From Watson Rd., just west of Lindbergh Blvd., turn right onto Geyer Rd. Cross over I-44 and make the first left onto Craigwold Rd. Follow this past the entrance to Powder Valley, cross over I-270, and turn left. Proceed to the entrance of the park on the right.

Forest Park (City of St. Louis)

From the corner of Skinker & Clayton Rds, go north on Skinker 1/2 block to Wells Rd. and turn right into the park. Go past Government Dr. on Wells until you reach the sign for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Forest and a triangular MDC sign on your left. Turn left and proceed back to the parking area with restrooms and a picnic shelter. We will meet there for field trips.

There is one general hotspot for all of Forest Park, and several more sub-hotspots for different parts of the park.

Hawn SP

Take I-55 south and take Exit 154 onto route O west (right). Follow O to route 32 and turn right. From 32, turn left on 144, the Hawn SP entry road, and follow it to the park office.

To carpool, meet at the MODOT commuter lot closest to the highway on the southwest side of I-270 & Hwy 30.

Hilda Young CA

Take I-44 to Eureka; exit at route 109 and go south (left). At the first junction, turn right on route FF and follow it to the parking lot for Young CA on the left.

To carpool, meet at the MODOT lot for commuters in the southwest corner of I-44 and Hwy 109.

Horseshoe Lake State Park (IL)

Take I-64/70 east across the Poplar St. Bridge. Take Exit 6 and turn left onto route 111 north. Go about 2 miles to the State Park entrance on the left. Meet at the first parking lot on the right.

Note that the eBird hotspot spells out "State Park" instead of SP.

Katy Trail Access and bottomland (Weldon Spring CA)

From US-40/I-64, exit at MO-94 and go left. Continue about 5 mi (about 2.5 mi beyond the Lewis & Clark trailhead; see below) to a signed left turn for this area. Just downhill, you cross the Katy Trail (which is a state park) and can park there for it, or continue through open fields to a Missouri River overlook. Third of four entry points (and a sub-hotspot) for Weldon Spring CA.

Lewis & Clark Trail (Weldon Spring CA)

From US-40/I-64, exit at MO-94 and go left. Continue about 2.5 mi (about 1.5 mi beyond the Blue Grosbeak trailhead; see above) to the gravel parking lot on your left. Great forested hiking trail, offering choice of a shorter loop (5.1 mi) and a longer loop (8.4 mi). Second of four entry points (and a sub-hotspot) for Weldon Spring CA.

Little Creve Coeur Ecological Area

From I-64/US-40, take exit 22 for route 141. Follow 141 north across Ladue Road to Olive Blvd; turn right on Olive and then left on Creve Coeur Mill Road. In about a mile, turn left on Waterworks Road, then right on River Valley Drive. Where this road angles left, turn into the small parking area on the right. From here you can walk the signed trail toward the wooded and (often) marshy area.

This area is a separate hotspot, but other areas within the Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park hotspot are nearby. (1) Return to Creve Coeur Mill Road and turn left to reach the restaurant parking lot, on the right, that is the starting point for the Mallard Lake Trail (see below); (2) continue north another short distance on C.C. Mill Road and turn into the soccer complex, from which you can scan part of the main lake; and (3) continue on Creve Coeur Mill, turn right on 141 (the Maryland Heights Expressway), and then exit at Marine Ave., which will take you all along the east side of the lake (see above)

Lost Valley Trail (Weldon Spring CA)

From St. Louis, take US-40/I-64 west across the Missouri River. Exit at MO-94 and go left. Proceed on 94 about 5.7 miles to the Lost Valley parking lot and trailhead on the right. Fourth of four entry points (and a sub-hotspot) for Weldon Spring CA.

Mallard Lake Trail

To meet at the Lake House Restaurant parking lot, go west from I-270 on Hwy 364 (Page Ave.) to the exit for the Maryland Heights Expressway (route 141). Go north (right) on 141 past River Valley Drive to Creve Coeur Mill Rd. Turn right and go south, cross under Hwy 364, and look for the restaurant/parking lot on your left.

This trail is designated “Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park–Mallard Lake” as a sub-hotspot of “Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park.” To reach the main lake from the restaurant, (1) go north a short distance on C.C. Mill Road and turn into the soccer complex, from which you can scan part of the main lake; and/or (2) continue on C. C. Mill, turn right on 141 (the Maryland Heights Expressway), and then exit to the right at Marine Ave., which will take you all along the east side of the lake (see above). To visit Little Creve Coeur Ecological Area, go south on C.C. Mill Road to Waterworks Road; turn right and follow directions under that site (see above).

Marais Temps Clair CA

From the north side of I-270, take exit 31 (route 367) north toward Alton and cross the Missouri River bridge. At the junction with MO-94 (stoplight), turn left and follow 94 about 10 miles to county road H. Turn left on H and proceed across train tracks to the first intersection, with Mertz Road on the left; turn right there and follow Powers Road, which becomes Island Road as it approaches a large wooded area (which is Marais Temps Clair). Continue to main parking lot on left, with mobile-unit headquarters. MTC can only be covered on foot, from the entry point opposite this lot or three others, each with a small parking lot (use area map from website).

From St. Charles, follow 94 northeast to junction with H; proceed straight on H for about two miles, turn left on Island Road, and follow about two more miles to the main parking lot described above, on the right.

To enter on the north side, follow the directions from I-270 all the way to county road H but do not turn there. Continue on 94 about 3+ miles to an entry point and parking area on the left, almost opposite Rees Road on the right. From there you can walk in and around the levee system.

Melvin Price Lock and Dam #26, Alton

From I-270 in north St. Louis Co., take Exit 31 to go north on route 367 toward Alton. Cross the Missouri River bridge and proceed to the Alton bridge and across the Mississippi. Turn right onto route 143 and you are now within this area. Continue east on route 143 about 2 miles to the entrance road for the Great Rivers Museum on the

right. Turn in there and use pullovers and parking spots along that drive to examine the river, the dam, and the lock walls as you approach the museum at the end. When you leave, going back west along 143, use the generous shoulders to pull over and watch for waterfowl and shorebirds in the slough.

On the south side of the river, drive into the Riverlands area along Riverlands Way to the end, where you make a sharp left turn. About halfway down toward the dam, you pass a small sign for the state line; beyond that point, and at the parking lot for the dam spillway, you are in Illinois and this hotspot.

Thus, together, the north and south sides of the river near the dam, as described, constitute a single hotspot, the primary one for the Illinois portions of Riverlands.

Meramec SP

Take I-44 west to Exit 226 near Sullivan. Exit and turn left on route 185 into the state park.

To carpool, meet at the MODOT lot for commuters in the southwest corner of I-44 and Hwy 109.

Monroe County (IL) Driving Tour

Meet at the MODOT commuter lot closest to the highway on the southwest side of I-270 & Hwy 30. We will caravan/carpool from there.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

From Lindbergh Blvd., go west on Watson Road, turn right onto Geyer Rd., cross over I-44, and make the first left onto Craigwold Rd. Follow this to the entrance to Powder Valley on the right. The hotspot designation is "Powder Valley CNC."

Red School Rd./Cora Island Rd.

This is a pair of roads that serve as connectors for parts of the Riverlands area and are mostly birded from the car. To access Red School at its westernmost point, take exit 31 from I-270 in north St. Louis Co. Go north on 367, cross the Missouri River, and within half a mile turn right on Red School. It is about 2 miles to the junction with Wise Road

(the boundary of Riverlands). You can continue on Red School just over half a mile to Orton Road (another entry into Riverlands) and then just around the corner to Cora Island Road, which leads you due south through a low area that often holds water and shorebirds to parking for the Cora Island Unit (see above). Going back to Red School, in one additional mile you reach the junction with the Confluence Road but usually cannot drive through. Most of this final mile borders on sections of Riverlands and can thus be considered as part of that hotspot if you are already using it, while birds seen along the rest of Red School and all of Cora Island are best listed under this hotspot.

Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary

From I-270 in north St. Louis Co., take Exit 31 to go north on route 367 toward Alton. Cross the Missouri River bridge and proceed to the last road before the Alton bridge. Turn right there, go past the gas station, and turn right again at the far corner of the pond on your right, onto Wise Road. A short distance down Wise is the Teal Pond parking lot, where field trips often meet. For the Audubon Center, continue a short distance on the main road (Riverlands Way) instead of turning on Wise. The Center is on your left.

The eBird hotspot with this name covers all the Missouri portions of Riverlands—a fairly large area with irregular boundaries. It has two sub-hotspots that are pretty well defined, for Ellis Island and Lincoln Shields (Recreation Area), but since most visits encompass several parts of the area, one might as well just use the overall hotspot. This applies also to Orton Road on the south side of the area, which has been named a hotspot of its own (not a sub-hotspot) even though it is, in fact, mostly part of Riverlands.

Increasing the confusion are other nearby hotspots, designated as such because they are frequently birded but do not lie within the boundaries of Riverlands (Missouri). See the entries here for Confluence SP; Confluence Rd; Melvin Price Lock and Dam 26; Cora Island Unit, Big Muddy NFWR; and Red School Rd./Cora Island Rd.

Route 66 SP

From St. Louis, take I-44 west to Eureka and exit 264, for route 109. Get in the leftmost exit lane, turn, and get back on I-44 heading east about a mile, to exit 265 (/Williams Rd). Exit there, swing around briefly on Williams Rd, and make the first available left onto S. Outer Road East). Follow this as it parallels I-44 for a mile and turns left underneath it. Continue looping around, make a right, and proceed to the first main parking lot. If already coming east on I-44, follow these directions for exit 265. This provides entry to the main park property.

The park Visitor Center is on the other side of the Meramec River. From I-44, take exit 266 and go north on N Outer Road a short distance to the center.

Shaw Nature Reserve

Take I-44 west to Exit 253 at Gray Summit. Exit; go left over the highway, then right. The Reserve gate is on your left; if you arrive before 8:00, park across the road and wait for the gate to open. This site is owned and managed by the Missouri Botanical Garden; entry is free to members (fee required for non-members).

To carpool, meet at the commuter parking lot at Hwy 44 & Hwy 141, the northwest corner off the north outer road.

St. Stanislaus CA

From I-270 heading northeast, exit at McDonnell Blvd and go left; continue as McDonnell turns into Howdershell Rd. At Teson Rd., turn left and follow to a "T" at Aubuchon Rd. Turn right and follow to the conservation area; there is a parking lot on the left as the road curves right and a second one a little farther on the right. Meet in first lot on left.

Tower Grove Park (City of St. Louis)

From I-64 or I-44, take Kingshighway south to Magnolia. Turn left onto Magnolia and park on the right side where convenient within the first hundred yards or so. The Gaddy Bird Garden is up the slope to your right. OR continue along Magnolia to the entrance to the park, Tower Grove Ave. Turn right on Tower Grove Ave. and turn right again onto Northwest Drive. Take Northwest Drive to park near the Gaddy Bird Garden, which will be about 1/2 mile on your right.

Either way, meet at the entrance to the Gaddy Bird Garden.

Two Rivers NWR (IL)

From I-270 in north St. Louis Co., take Exit 31 to go north on route 367 toward Alton. Cross the Missouri River Bridge and proceed to the Alton Bridge (Mississippi River). Cross the bridge, turn left, continue past the casino, and make a left onto the River Road (route 100). Follow this about 12 miles to Grafton and continue through town and

beyond. Just past the entry to the Brussels Ferry, turn left into the parking lot for the Gilbert Lake division of the refuge (signed on road). You can walk in here and continue, if desired, on a gravel road along the river as far as Pere Marquette SP (a long walk). This part of the refuge is the “Two Rivers NWR (Jersey Co.)” hotspot in eBird.

To reach the Swan Lake division, return to the ferry landing and cross the Illinois River on the ferry (free). Across the river, go straight for 1+ miles and turn right at the first refuge sign, to Swan Lake via a gravel road, ending at a parking area. From there, you will need to walk up the gated levee road, or drive if you are with a group that has access. The levee runs northwest for 3+ miles, between the Illinois River on your right and the large backwater of the river called Swan Lake on your left; the levee itself and everything on your left is within the refuge.

Returning to the paved road, continue another 2+ miles to a marked roadside wildlife observation point and then another entry gate to the “Calhoun wetlands” area. Going back to the paved road and another 2 miles down it, refuge signs will indicate a right turn that takes you close to the visitor center (off to the right; usually open weekdays only) and through woods to a boat launch spot.

All of the refuge on this side of the river is included in the hotspot “Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co.)” There are also sub-hotspots for Swan Lake and the Calhoun Wetlands if you visit only those sites.

To carpool, meet at Riverlands, either Teal Pond or the Audubon Center as directed (see Riverlands above).

Voelkerding Slough (carpool)

Meet at Busch CA (see above) at the field trip meeting time.

Weldon Spring CA

To approach this area from St. Louis, take US-40/I-64 west across the Missouri River. Exit at MO-94 and go left.

Weldon Spring is somewhat larger than Busch CA and is contiguous with it, but it doesn't have a marked single entrance. Instead, there are four major points of entry as you proceed along MO-94. The entire CA is included within a general eBird hotspot, “Weldon Spring CA,” while the four entry points are separate locations, each a sub-hotspot beginning with that prefix and adding the site name. Each of these is listed alphabetically above, with directions. They are (1) the “Weldon Spring CA--Blue Grosbeak Trail”; (2) the “--Lewis & Clark Hiking Trail”; (3) the “--Katy Trail Access”; and (4) the “--Lost Valley Trail.” You may record birds using any or all of these four sub-

hotspots or simply list all birds under the general hotspot, which would also pick up any species seen at brief roadside stops or while driving (the entire stretch of 94 between Lewis & Clark Trail and Lost Valley Trail is within Weldon Spring CA on both sides).

Winfield Dam and Sandy Chute (Sandy Slough)

Take I-70 west through St. Charles to Exit 220. Go right (north) about 15 min to the town of Winfield. Just past the town center, turn right on route N and proceed 3 miles to the left turn for the dam. You will cross Sandy Chute on a small causeway; stop and check for various water birds, and possibly shorebirds where muddy. Continue to the parking lot for the dam, walk west along the levee, and scan the river for waterfowl, larids, etc. Be aware that access to the dam is sometimes closed.

Sandy Chute can be checked further by re-crossing the causeway and turning right on a narrow gravel road ("Sandy Slough Road"); at about 1.5 miles you get a good view of a shallower part of the chute. Continuing along the gravel road to a T, and left at the T, will bring you back to the town of Winfield and route N via open ag fields that can be good for birds.

Access points for another open-field road on the south side of N, called Big Box Road, are (1) halfway down route N on the right and (2) just beyond the turn to the dam. Entering Big Box at either of these junctions, you can traverse it in a circuit back to the other junction.

All of this is included in an eBird hotspot labeled "Winfield Dam/Sandy Chute and surrounding fields."

To carpool, take Exit 220 (route 79) and turn left. Go across the interstate and turn right into the parking lot for Dierberg's; meet there at the southeast corner of the parking lot at the scheduled time. Birding may also be done at other locations up route 79, such as BK Leach CA and Clarence Cannon NWR.