Watchable Wildlife

USDA Forest Service | Hoosier National Forest | 1/2012

They're found along roads and highways, are brown with the outline of binonculars on them, and are usually near brushy areas or wetlands. They're the Watchable Wildlife signs which identify areas with a high probability of viewing wildlife. Each area offers a unique or exceptional chance to view wildlife in their natural homes. Part of the excitement lies in the uncertainty.

Unlike more predictable opportunities to view animals such as zoos, these sites are homes to a diverse number of animals, any of which you might encounter during your visit. To improve your chances, walk quietly and slowly into the wind, come early in the morning, or late afternoon, and above all be patient.

The abundance of wildlife on the Hoosier National Forest is impressive: 50 species of mammals, 142 bird species, 36 reptillian and 28 amphibian species, 125 fish, and we're finding more species all the time. Finding these animals is part of the adventure.

The Forest is a collage of ecosystems. Each ecosystem is unique in the types of animals who make their home there. The Watchable Wildlife sites showcase some of these habitat types. Bring your binonculars and your camera, and tread softly to view the real owners of the Forest.

Watchable Wildlife Sites:

Maines Pond

This small pond is surrounded by open grasslands, thickets of brush and cedar, and patches of small trees. A buried pipeline runs behind the pond and the pipeline corridor is kept mowed which attracts songbirds and small mammals.

Prairie grasses and wildflowers are abundant during spring and summer. There is a high probability of viewing meadowlarks, bluebirds, sparrows, quail, and other birds in this area.

Size: 5 acres. *District: Brownstown*

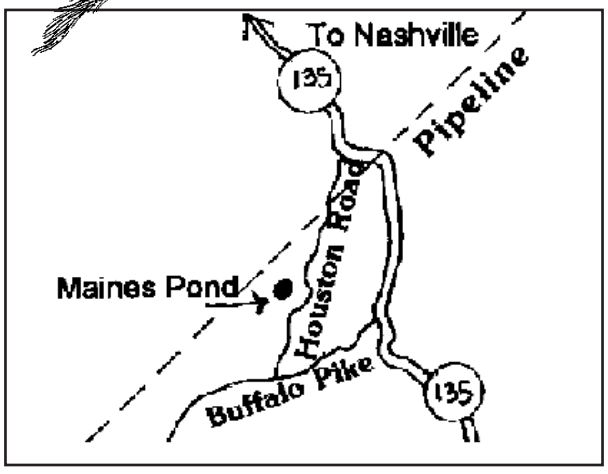
For More Information:

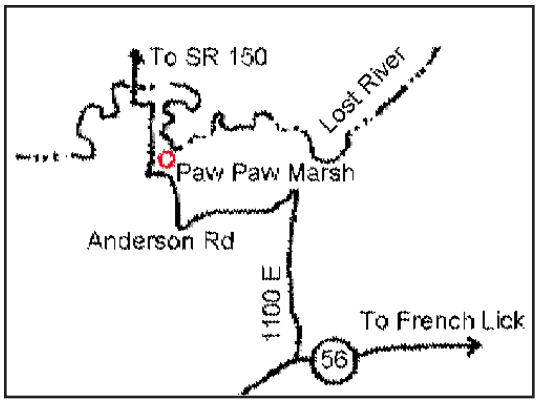
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and Brownstown Ranger District
811 Constitution Avenue
Bedford, IN 47421
(812) 275-5987
www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier

Relay for the deaf and
hearing impaired: 1-800-877-8339

Tell City Ranger District
248 15th Street
Tell City, IN 47586
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Paw Paw Marsh

In this flooded stand of bottomland trees along an oxbow of the Lost River, there's a high probability of seeing beaver and muskrat. Beaver are mostly nocturnal, however, you may catch a glimpse of them when they emerge from their lodges before sundown.

Heron and egrets are often seen, as well as whitetail deer, and winter songbirds frequent the area of pine and shrubby fields between the parking lot and the marsh.

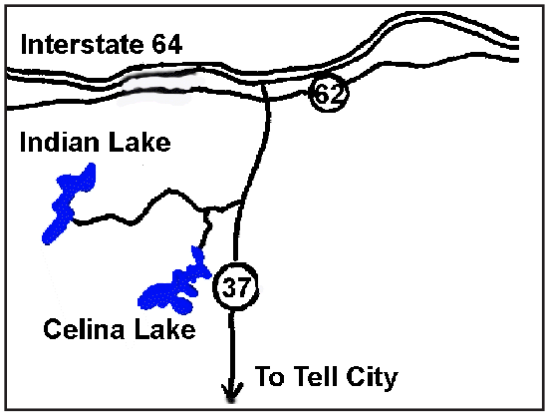
Size: 5 acres. *District: Brownstown*

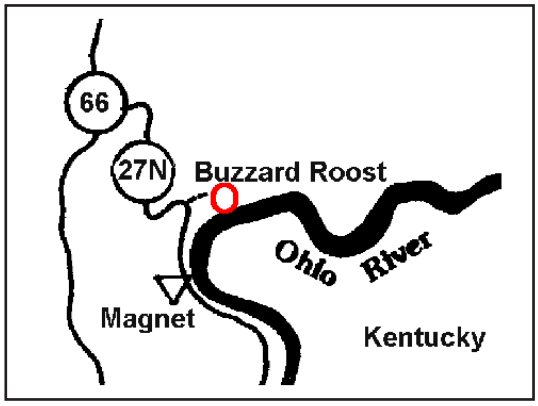
Indian/Celina Lakes

Two clear lakes nestled in the wooded hills are encircled by a 12 mile hiking trail which traverses a variety of forest types. Along the roads are fields with low vegetation to enhance wildlife viewing. A fully-accessible fishing pier, tranquil hiking, camping, picnicking, or fishing make this an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon.

Woodland songbirds, deer, and turkey are commonly seen. Soaring above the lakes or perched in shoreline trees you may also see hawks, eagles and osprey.

Size: 2 30-acre fields, and a 12 mile trail. District: Tell City





Buzzard Roost

This site is along the Ohio River on a tall prominent bluff. From here you have a panoramic view of the river and the patchwork farmland in Kentucky. Fall colors from this spot are spectacular. This site is relatively remote, and wildlife, especially birds, congregrate here. As suggested by its name, the site is frequented by buzzards, who soar on the thermal air currents rising up from the river during the summer. Hawks and eagles are also often seen along the bluffs. *Size: 80 acres.* *District: Tell City*

Indiana Wildlife Viewing Guide

These are only a few of the 33 identified sites scattered across southern Indiana, and only a fraction of the limitless opportunities visitors have to view and enjoy Indiana's vast wealth of wildlife.

Watchable Wildlife is a national program with sites identified in most states.



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