

Birds of Waterloo's Prairies



Grasshopper Sparrow



Henslow's Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Bobolink



*Eastern
Meadowlark*

Historically, Southern Michigan was on the northern edge of the continent's prairie habitats that were more common and widespread to the south and west. Upland prairies existed on over 50 sites in the state, including several in Jackson County. Most were converted to farmland early on. Now, only small remnants remain.

The Michigan DNR is restoring native prairies on several sites in the Waterloo Recreation Area. Many grassland species including the birds pictured above

are now using these sites. The most accessible prairie site is on Reithmiller Road across from the German Lutheran Church. There is a small parking lot on the north side of the road just west of the church. A path leading from the parking lot through the prairie provides easy access. Maps of the park are available at the Discovery Center.

A prairie site developed by Michigan Audubon is also found at the Haehnle Sanctuary on Seymour Rd. about 1.5 miles west of Race Rd.