Nan Weston Nature Preserve  
Easudes Road  
From the Sharon Hills Nature Preserve, return south on Sharon Hollow Road to Easudes Road, then travel west. The Nan Weston Nature Preserve is east of Jacob Road. The Preserve sign is on the south side of the road where you will find a small parking lot. The trail into the Preserve begins there.  
This Nature Conservancy preserve contains floodplain forests, streams, rolling hills and wetlands which are home to a vast array of animals and plants. There is an extensive trail system in this 248-acre preserve.  
This is a prime location in Washtenaw County for woodland wildflowers in May and June. Many butterfly species can be seen here in early July. Nan Weston is also an outstanding herpetological site; salamanders, newts, toads and frogs in vernal pools can be viewed from boardwalks. Mid-May is a great time to view migrating birds in this preserve.  
Birders have noted: Pilated Woodpeckers, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushers, Ruffed Grouse, Acadian Flycatchers, and Barred Owls

Sharon Hills Short Nature Preserve  
6700 Hashley Road, south of Grass Lake Road  
From the Nan Weston Nature Preserve, take Easudes Road east to its junction with Sharon Hollow and Pleasant Lake Roads. Take Pleasant Lake Road east to Smythe Road and turn north. Smythe intersects at Wingate and Hashley Roads, continue north on Hashley to a parking lot on the west side of Hashley Road, south of Grass Lake Road. This WCPRC preserve is located in the Sharon Short Hills. Its 84 acres include varied topography, including wetlands and sloped woodland areas. Some quite steep areas are highlighted by hilltops offering significant vistas and some of the highest elevations in Washtenaw County.  
Birders have noted: Northern Shoveler, Golden-winged Warbler, Osprey, Vesper and Henslow’s Sparrows, Bank Swallow

Sharonville SGA (Washtenaw County)  
Sharony Valley Road  
From the Spike Preserve, return south along Sylvan Road, travelling west at Pleasant Lake Road, south on Sharon Hollow Road and west again on Sharon Valley Road. The area on Sharon Valley Road between Lamb Road and Prospect Hill Road contains a number of small parking areas. This is an important grassland community for Henslow’s and Grasshopper Sparrows. River Raisin runs through the area.  
Birders have noted: Rough-legged Hawk, Sedge Wren, Lapland Longspur, Hooded Merganser, Northern Harrier

Watkins Lake State Park  
14801 Arnold Road  
Note: A Michigan Recreation Passport is required for use of the parking lot.  
From the Sharonville SGA, travel east to Sharon Hollow Road and go south. Take a slight right onto Herman Road, then a right on Horning Road, and another right onto Arnold Road to the parking lot, north of Watkins Lake. This is a popular watchable-wildlife destination and features boardwalk trails through wetland areas. It is characterized by significant changes in ecosystems and offers broad vistas of surrounding land. A large wetland complex is located in the eastern portion of the property and three smaller wetlands occur in the west. Two boardwalks have been built to cross some of these wet areas (one just north of the parking lot) and extend the trail system (which is presently under development). A perennial stream meanders through the property and serves as the source for a man made pond. Open fields contain grasses and forbs, and the woodland features a mixture of native trees.  
Birders have noted: This is a great place to get close access to a large wetland, so it’s a place to see Sora and Virginia Rail. The 42-acre Grass Lake Sanctuary (grasslakesanctuary.org) is adjacent to the Preserve and is run by an organization devoted to providing nature-focused retreats. Please respect the privacy of the GLS neighbors.

Return now to downtown Manchester  
From the Watkins Lake area, return to Sharon Hollow Road via Horning and Herman Roads, heading north on Sharon Hollow and then turning right onto W Austin Road which turns into W Main Street and leads you into downtown Manchester.

NOTE: Please be respectful of private property and do not trespass. Use caution when you slow or stop to view birds in the public right-of-way.  
This brochure may be viewed on-line at www.manchestermi.org. For more information, see ebird.org

THE Manchester Tour de Birds!

Cover Photographs by Sue Maher
The suggested route for Tour de Birds follows:

from Sharon, Connecticut, and this was approved in 1834 for
Many of the parks and preserves, as well as two of the roads in this
bicycle to tour the area, the parking lot at Chi-Bro Park in
the greatest amount of inland stopover habitat for migrating birds in
Hollow is part, contains significant natural communities and the
County Park. The Upper River Raisin Watershed, of which Sharon
ment that surrounded the sawmill at what is now Sharon Mills
The Great Horned Owl, Wood Duck, Green
Birders have noted:
This is an excellent place to see butterflies in early July.

Downtown Manchester
Main Street Bridge
Downtown Manchester
Birders have noted: "Great Blue Heron in River below the bridge. During early summer mornings, they often feed in the riverbed below the Manchester Mill dam. Watch also for Cedar Waxwing and Northern Cardinal fitting around on the island in the middle of the river. And if you look closely you may see or hear some non-renting Mill tenants: pigeons and Mourning Doves." 

Ponds along Schawb Road
East of Manchester
From downtown, follow Main Street east to its end at Hibbard. Turn south on Hibbard, then east on Duncan Street. Follow Duncan Street (it turns into Schawb Road [gravel]) just outside the Village limits. Follow this approximately ½ mile to the wetland area on the south side of the road. Park in the small turn off area and view wildlife from there.

Birders have noted: Prothonotary Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper, Sora, Virginia Rail, Red-breasted Merganser, Belted Kingfisher

Village of Manchester
www.48158.com

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Note: Bike racks are available in various locations and there is a drinking fountain at the corner of Main and Adrian Streets.
Dine or refresh in one of our local restaurants:
• Dairy Queen
• Hungry Wolf
• Over the Edge Sports Bar & Pizzeria
• The Village Tap
• Franks Restaurant
• Linda's Diner
• Stockwell's / Kelli's
• Two Black Sheep

Open fields at Meyers Road/Sharon Valley Road intersection
"Birding is done from the road.
Birders have noted: Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel
Fellows Bridge on Sharon Valley Road
Continue west on Sharon Valley Road. Where the River Raisin crosses under Sharon Valley Road east of Sharon Hollow Road, there is a small parking area on the north side of the road, east of the bridge.

Birders have noted: Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler

Rarities and vagrants include: Golden Eagle

Open fields at Sharon Valley Road/ Sharon Hollow Road intersection
Here you may see turkeys displaying in the open fields on the northwest corner of the intersection. To the southeast, the alfalfa fields are a good spot to look for bobolinks.

Birders have noted: Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel, Eastern Kingbird, Killdeer

Sharon Mills County Park
5701 Sharon Hollow Road
Since its original purchase by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, this park has grown to 264 acres. Acquisitions have added to the expanding corridor of protected

Sharon Hills Nature Preserve
Trails:
Continuing north from Sharon Mills County Park along Sharon Hollow Road, the Sharon Hills Nature Preserve is a 57.5-acre Legacy Land. The park is located between Walker Road and Tolen Drive on the east side. Look for the sign on the east side of the road, and park in the grassy parking area. The Preserve has a diverse mix of mowed oak-lee woodlands, oak savannah, remnant oak-hickory forest, black walnut and aspen stands, and rolling open space. A trail network runs throughout the Preserve. A well-maintained bridge backs up to a wetland area where you might see a Great Blue Heron. This is a good spot to see late season skippers and Milbert’s Tortoishell

Birders have noted: This is a good spot to look for the Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo.

Take the Manchester Tour de Birds (and other wildlife) using this handy guide. This self-guided tour will take you to some spectacular natural areas around Manchester, Michigan, that have something to offer to both the novice and seasoned birder. The description of each site includes a number of bird species that have been seen there. The guide also includes information about local dining, shopping and other sites. If you drive out and bring your bicycle to tour the area, the parking lot at Chi-Bro Park in Manchester is a good place to start your tour.

Many of the parks and preserves, as well as two of the roads in this

wonderful diverse birding area, contain the name "Sharon." History has it that the name "Sharon" was suggested by pioneers from Sharon, Connecticut, and this was approved in 1834 for naming the local township. Sharon Hollow was originally a settlement that surrounded the sawmill at what is now Sharon Mills County Park. The Upper River Raisin Watershed, of which Sharon Hollow is part, contains significant natural communities and the greatest amount of inland stopover habitat for migrating birds in the western Lake Erie basin.

The suggested route for Tour de Birds follows:

Chi-Bro Park, Manchester Village
209 Ann Arbor Street (M-52)
This park, located in the shadow of the Manchester water tower, has a pond, nature trails, picnic tables, a water fountain, and a portable restroom. It contains a segment of the Manchester Shared-Use Trail

The Leonard Preserve, Manchester Village
375 N. Union Street
From Chi-Bro Park, travel M-52 south to Main Street in Manchester, go west through the Village downtown, and then turn north onto Union Street. The street bears left - when it turns to gravel and you see split rail fencing, you will see the Leonard Preserve entry sign. Keep going, the parking area is on the right. The Preserve is within walking distance of the Village of Manchester downtown.
The Leonard Preserve is 259 acres and includes almost one mile of winding River Raisin shoreline. This Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (WCPARC) site’s diverse landscape includes rolling hills, oak-hickory woodlands, wetland meadows, and prairie remnants. The diversity of habitat makes for excellent wildlife viewing, and the over four miles of trails are great for cycling.

This is an excellent place to see butterflies in early July.

Birders have noted: Great Horned Owl, Wood Duck, Green Heron, Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Pied-billed Grebe

Village of Manchester Offices ~ Manchester Library
912 City Road
Located at the intersection of City Road and Hibbard Street. Return west on Schawb/Duncan to Hibbard, then turn south to the Village Offices on left. The Ford-Manchester plant was constructed on the site of the old Premium Grist Mill east of town. Park and view the historic dam and riverfront.

Today the building is used to house Manchester’s library and village offices. Restrooms and a drinking fountain are available here when the building is open.

From the Village offices, travel M-52 (City Road) west to the downtown M-52/Main Street intersection. Continue north on M-52 approximately ¼ mile then turn left onto Sharon Valley Road and proceed west to Meyers Road.

Open fields at Meyers Road/Sharon Valley Road intersection
"Birding is done from the road.

Birders have noted: Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel
Fellows Bridge on Sharon Valley Road
Continue west on Sharon Valley Road. Where the River Raisin crosses under Sharon Valley Road east of Sharon Hollow Road, there is a small parking area on the north side of the road, east of the bridge.

Birders have noted: Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Blue-winged Warbler

Rarities and vagrants include: Golden Eagle

Open fields at Sharon Valley Road/ Sharon Hollow Road intersection
Here you may see turkeys displaying in the open fields on the northwest corner of the intersection. To the southeast, the alfalfa fields are a good spot to look for bobolinks.

Birders have noted: Northern Mockingbird, Dickcissel, Eastern Kingbird, Killdeer

Sharon Mills County Park
5701 Sharon Hollow Road
Since its original purchase by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, this park has grown to 264 acres. Acquisitions have added to the expanding corridor of protected

land along the River Raisin, which includes the Nan Weston Nature Preserve and the Sharonville State Game Area, providing a large contiguous tract of land for birding.
The park has two parking lots. One is near the mill building in a beautiful natural setting along the banks of the river. Public restrooms and a water fountain are located in the rear of the mill building when the park is open to the public. The other parking lot allows access to the western portion of the park (North Lot) with mountain biking/hiking trails which are open to those who travel on foot, cross-country skis, and snowshoes as well. A 20-minute hike along sweeping vistas of rolling farmland takes you to the banks of the River Raisin, and a trail which allows a walk along the back of the millpond seen from Sharon Mills.

Birders have noted: The mill pond is a good place to look for mute swans, green herons, kingfishers, and swarms of (some-times) hundreds of swallows of all types such as purple martins, bank swallows, or cliff swallows. It’s also one of the best places in the area to see chimney swifts flying over. It’s a good spot for other fly-swarms as well: ospreys, eagles, and other raptors. In the faster water, just below the dam, look for spotted sandpipers along the shore.

Sharon Hills Nature Preserve
Trails:
Continuing north from Sharon Mills County Park along Sharon Hollow Road, the Sharon Hills Nature Preserve is a 57.5-acre Legacy Land. The park is located between Walker Road and Tolen Drive on the east side. Look for the sign on the east side of the road, and park in the grassy parking area. The Preserve has a diverse mix of mowed oak-lee woodlands, oak savannah, remnant oak-hickory forest, black walnut and aspen stands, and rolling open space. A trail network runs throughout the Preserve. A well-maintained bridge backs up to a wetland area where you might see a Great Blue Heron. This is a good spot to see late season skippers and Milbert’s Tortoishell

Birders have noted: This is a good spot to look for the Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo.