Jerry Hope Memorial Country Roads Birding Route, 2022

Begin at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center at 8 a.m. From there, make your way to westbound Illinois Route 64 via Campton Hills Road and Town Hall Road. From Route 64, turn right onto McGough Road, then take an immediate left onto Old State Road. Drive slowly along Old State, looking for mixed flocks of Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, Dark-Eyed Junco, sparrows, and with luck, Snow Bunting, feeding along the shoulder and in the fields.

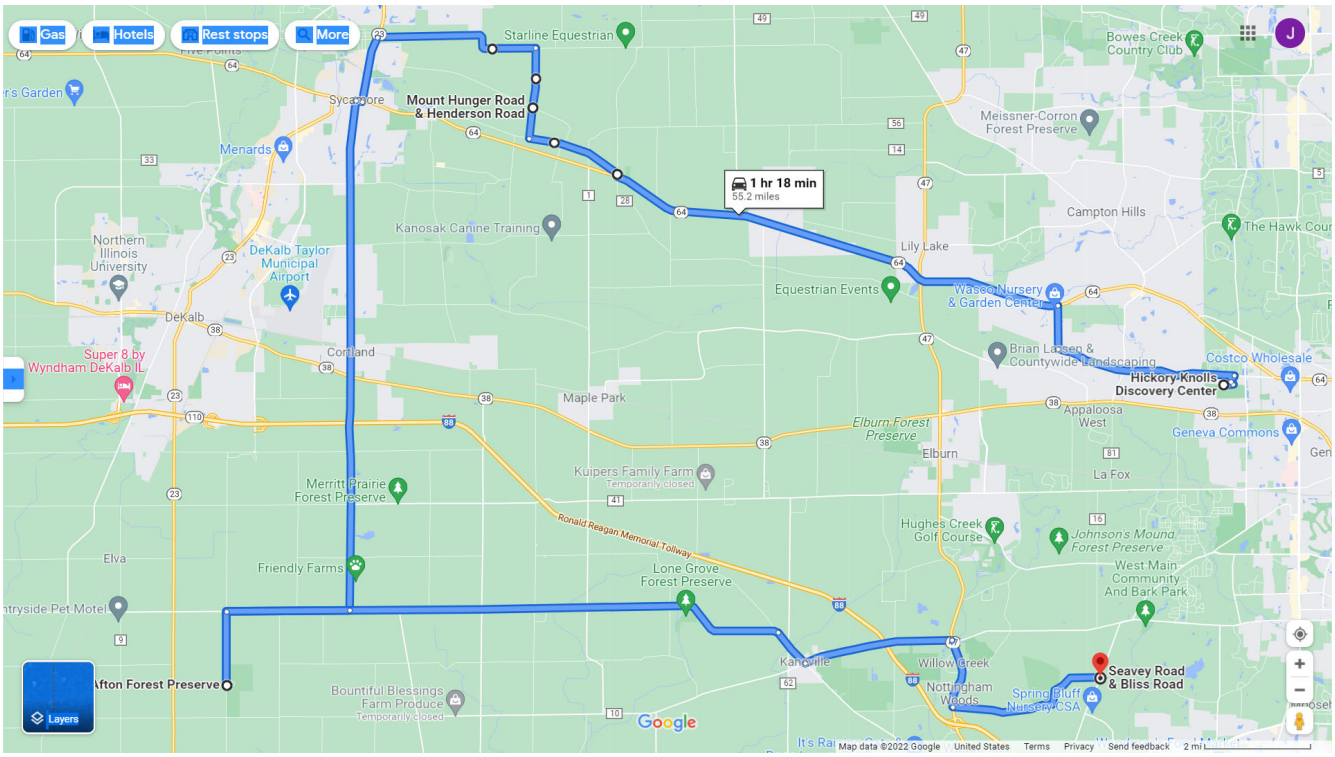
Next, turn right onto Henderson Road. Again, drive slowly looking for mixed flocks feeding on the ground. A large flock of Snow Buntings has been foraging near the corner of Mount Hunger Road and Henderson Road. They are skittish birds, so drive slow and keep an eye out for birds in the air and birds perched on wires.

Make a left onto Swanson Road. Drive slowly looking for mixed flocks.

Next, make a left onto Illinois Route 23, and head to Afton Forest Preserve in DeKalb via Somanauk Road, Perry Road and Crego Road. Mixed flocks are certainly possible on Perry and very likely on Crego, especially near the preserve. Check the birds carefully. We had a Fox Sparrow on a Jan. 8 scouting trip.

At Afton, take a short walk to look for the Common Redpolls that have been spotted on and off there, feeding on alder and birch seeds.

From Afton, we'll head east to Seavey Road, via Perry Road, Main Street and Illinois Route 47. (An optional stop at Lone Grove Forest Preserve on Perry Road can be added to check for owls, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren.) On Seavey, drive slowly looking for mixed flocks. Check the massive flocks of Canada Geese for the random Snow Goose or Cackling Goose. Check the tops of utility poles for raptors. (A Peregrine Falcon was seen here in late December.) Also, be on the lookout for the Northern Harriers that patrol Black Sheep Golf Club. The tour ends at Seavey Road and Bliss Road.


Gas
Hotels
Rest stops
More
Starline Equestrian
Mount Hunger Road & Henderson Road
Sycamore
Menards
1 hr 18 min
55.2 miles
Kanosak Canine Training
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport
DeKalb
Super 8 by Wyndham DeKalb IL
Cortland
Maple Park
Merritt Prairie Forest Preserve
Kuipers Family Farm
Temporarily closed
Ronald Reagan Memorial Tollway
Elva
Friendly Farms
Lone Grove Forest Preserve
Bountiful Blessings Farm Produce
Temporarily closed
Kaneville
Willow Creek
Nottingham Woods
Spring Bluff Nursery CSA
Seavey Road & Bliss Road
Bowes Creek Country Club
Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve
Campton Hills
Lily Lake
Equestrian Events
Wasco Nursery & Garden Center
Brian Larsen & Countywide Landscaping
Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
Costco Wholesale
Appaloosa West
Geneva Commons
Elburn Forest Preserve
Elburn
La Fox
Hughes Creek Golf Course
Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve
West Main Community And Bark Park
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