

Preserve User Guidelines

El Dorado is open daylight hours spring to fall.

To minimize disturbance of habitats and birds, please stay on the trails.

Motor vehicles, bicycles, hunting, fishing, trapping and swimming are not allowed.

Make your visit low-impact: please don't collect or disturb plants, birds or wildlife.

The 360-acre El Dorado Nature Preserve was established by the Nature Conservancy in 1968, with support from area birders, to protect this important habitat.

The Nature Conservancy is a non-profit private conservation organization committed to global preservation of natural diversity. Its mission is to identify and preserve plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Central and Western NY Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has protected more than 16,000 acres in 30 nature preserves, including El Dorado, one of its oldest.

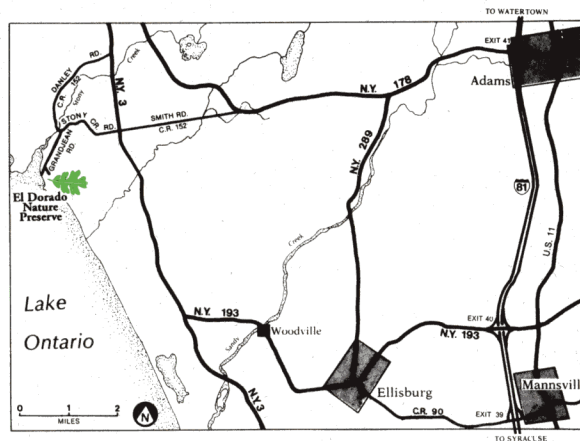
Travel Directions:

From the Syracuse area:

Take I 81 north to exit 40, then NY 193 west to NY 3 and drive north four miles. Turn left (west) on Stony Creek Road and drive 1.5 miles. Turn left at Grandjean Road. Where the pavement ends, take the left fork at the "El Dorado Nature Preserve" sign.

From the Watertown area:

Take NY 3, south, approximately 15 miles to Danley Road. Drive southwest on Danley until it ends. Turn left onto Stony Creek Road. At top of hill, turn right onto Grandjean Road. Where the pavement ends, take the left fork at the "El Dorado Nature Preserve" sign.



There is much to see and hear during your visit to El Dorado. The Nature Conservancy encourages you to appreciate the fragile habitat and along the way gain an understanding of the things that make El Dorado so special.

We acknowledge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for supporting the design and production of this brochure, and Esther Garnsey for the interpretive facilities at the El Dorado Nature Preserve.

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EL DORADO NATURE PRESERVE

A Migratory Bird Rest Stop



Ruddy Turnstone

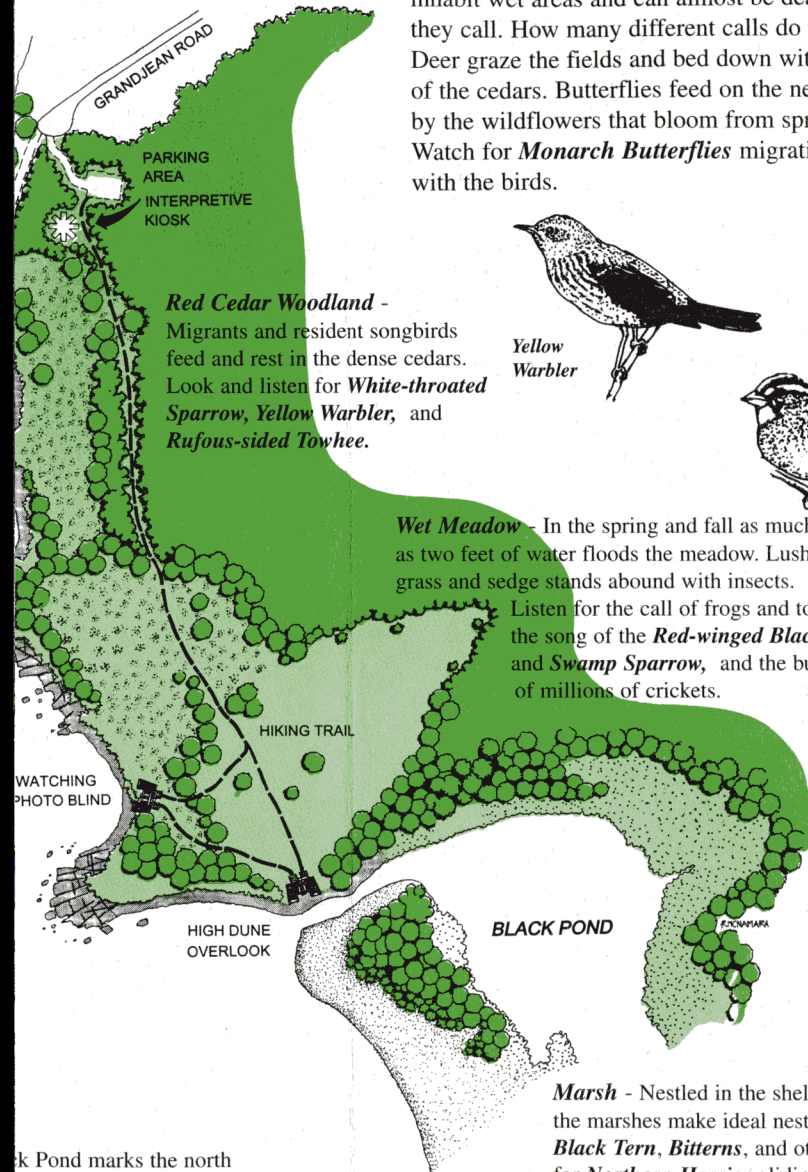
The
Nature
Conservancy®

Central and Western New York Chapter

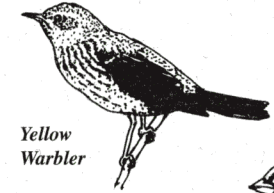
ITATS

Birds and More

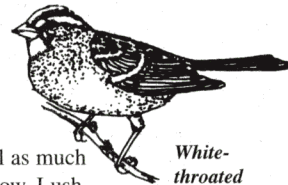
Birds are not the only wildlife you may see along the way. Reptiles and amphibians sun themselves. Frogs inhabit wet areas and can almost be deafening when they call. How many different calls do you hear? Deer graze the fields and bed down within the shelter of the cedars. Butterflies feed on the nectar provided by the wildflowers that bloom from spring to fall. Watch for *Monarch Butterflies* migrating along with the birds.



Red Cedar Woodland -
Migrants and resident songbirds feed and rest in the dense cedars. Look and listen for *White-throated Sparrow*, *Yellow Warbler*, and *Rufous-sided Towhee*.



Yellow Warbler



White-throated Sparrow

Wet Meadow - In the spring and fall as much as two feet of water floods the meadow. Lush grass and sedge stands abound with insects.

Listen for the call of frogs and toads, the song of the *Red-winged Blackbird* and *Swamp Sparrow*, and the buzzing of millions of crickets.



Black Tern

Marsh - Nestled in the shelter of the dunes, the marshes make ideal nesting habitat for *Black Tern*, *Bitterns*, and other birds. Watch for *Northern Harrier* gliding over the cattails, wading *Great Blue Heron*, and, if you are lucky, maybe even a *Bald Eagle*.

Black Pond marks the north end of the dune system. The dunes are covered with beach grass and sand dune shrubs. The dunes drive on the exposed beach, and the dunes are on footpaths.