

KANSAS

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE

Scenic Byway

As the Byway moves through glistening wetlands exploding with wildlife, endless blue skies and the changing color of prairie grasses and trees, it's easy to miss the charm and vibrancy of the rural communities shaped by nature and the entrepreneurial spirit. Along the Byway you'll discover Great Bend and the Central Kansas Raptor Rehab Education Facility, the railroad towns of Hoisington and Ellinwood, and the underground tunnels at Ellinwood. Travel the Byway and be amazed at the wonder and variety of Kansas' natural landscape.



For more information about the Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway contact: Great Bend Convention and Visitors Bureau 1-877-427-9299 or www.visitgreatbend.com
Kansas Scenic Byways Clearinghouse 1-800-684-6966 or ksbyways.org

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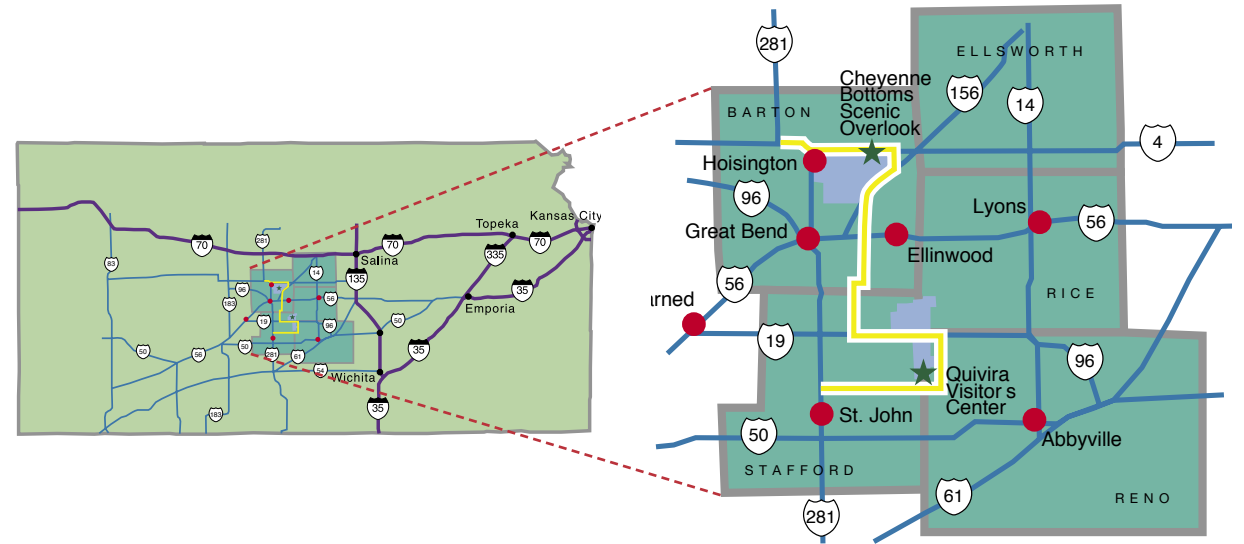
photo by Mike Blair

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Scenic Byway

WETLANDS AND WILDLIFE AREA MAP



Points of Interest Near the Byway

Scenic Places

- Cheyenne Bottoms Scenic Overlook, K-4 Highway (2006)
- Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, US-156 Highway at NE 50 Road
- The Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, Hoisington
- Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Stafford

Natural and Recreational Sites

- Brit Spaugh Park, Great Bend
- Brit Spaugh Zoo, Great Bend
- Arkansas River Hike/Bike Trail, Great Bend
- Central Kansas Raptor Rehab Education Facility, Great Bend
- Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, Great Bend
 - Wildlife Area Nature Trail
 - Driving Tour
 - Kansas Wetlands Education Center (opening 2006/2007)
 - Public Hunting and Fishing Areas
- Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Stafford
 - Visitors Center
 - Migrant's Mile Nature Trail (1.2 miles)
 - Birdhouse Boulevard (1000 ft accessible trail)
 - Photo Blinds
 - Spotting Scope (accessible)
 - Driving Tours
 - Public Hunting and Fishing Areas
- The Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve, Hoisington
 - Kiosks
 - Observation Area
 - Driving Tour
- Bi-Centennial Park, Hoisington

- Urban Songbird Habitat, Hoisington
- Wolf Pond, Ellinwood
- Prairie Walk at Dozier Winery - Ellinwood

Historic Sites and Museums

- Barton County Historical Village and Museum (designated Santa Fe Trail interpretive center), Great Bend
- Hoisington Historical Museum, Hoisington
- Hoisington Post Office Depression Art Murals, Hoisington
- Kansas Quilt Walk, Great Bend
- Crest Theater (national historic site), Great Bend
- Old Fashioned Main Street, Clafin
- Schafer Art Gallery, Barton County Community College, Great Bend
- Underground Tunnels, Ellinwood
- Stafford County Flour Mill, Hudson
- Wolf Park Band Shell (national historic site), Ellinwood
- Starr-Wolf Hotel (national historic site), Ellinwood
- Historic Downtown Square, St. John
- First United Methodist Church (national historic site), Stafford
- Covenant Church (national historic site), Stafford

Events

- After Harvest Festival, Ellinwood (third week in July)
- National Wildlife Refuge Week, Quivira (Month of October)
- Wings N Wetlands Birding Festival, Cheyenne Bottoms & Quivira (Last weekend in April of odd-number years)
- Labor Day Celebration, Hoisington (Labor Day weekend)
- St. John Jubilee, St. John (Memorial Day Weekend)
- Octoberfest, Stafford (first week in October)
- Holiday Trail of Lights/Santa World, Great Bend (November & December)



photo by Mike Blair

The long-billed curlew is the largest shorebird in North America.

A flock of Sandhill Cranes in flight as sunset comes to the wetlands.

Discover the Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway



photo by Bob Gress

the face of the Refuge's population of predators including raptors, coyotes, red foxes, bobcats and badgers.

The Refuge has an educational Visitor's Center, as well as several hiking trails including the wheelchair accessible Migrant's Mile Nature Trail and the gentle and scenic Birdhouse Boulevard to bring you closer to nature.

The Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve

The Nature Conservancy Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve located in the Cheyenne Bottoms basin northwest of the Wildlife Area, encompasses 7,200 acres. Like the Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, it is a jewel in nature's crown. These wetlands have received designation as Ramsar Convention Wetlands of International Importance.

The wildlife areas which anchor this byway provide an ideal habitat for coyotes.



photo by Bob Gress

Travel Nature's Super Highway

Traveling the Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway brings you face-to-bill with North America's grandest collection of avian species. Stretching some 77 miles from beginning to end, the Wetlands and Wildlife Scenic Byway reveals a natural experience that is second to none.



"Birds of Prey" demonstration during National Wildlife Refuge Week in October.

A Birdwatcher's Paradise Awaits

The Byway is anchored by two of the largest wetland ecosystems in the world – Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge. These giant marshes draw clouds of sand hill cranes, squadrons of pelicans, fierce and majestic bald and golden eagles, scurrying shorebirds, elegant whooping cranes and many, many more.

Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area

Each year, Cheyenne Bottoms attracts 45% to 90% of North America's shorebirds. In fact, in the words of a Byway area naturalist, "There are 650 bird species in the United States, 417 in Kansas and 320 in Cheyenne Bottoms." Many naturalists believe that Cheyenne Bottoms is the most important migration stopover point in the Western hemisphere.

Besides birds, the Bottoms is also home to 23 species of mammals, 19 species of reptiles and 9 species of amphibians sharing the 41,000 acre wetland basin.

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is 22,135 acres of prairie grass, salt marshes, sand dunes, canals, dikes and timber. Little Salt Marsh and Big Salt Marsh are ancient basins that play host to over 500,000 birds during spring migration. The marsh waters teem with crabs, crayfish and frogs while prairie dogs scatter in



Flock of egrets are common sights.