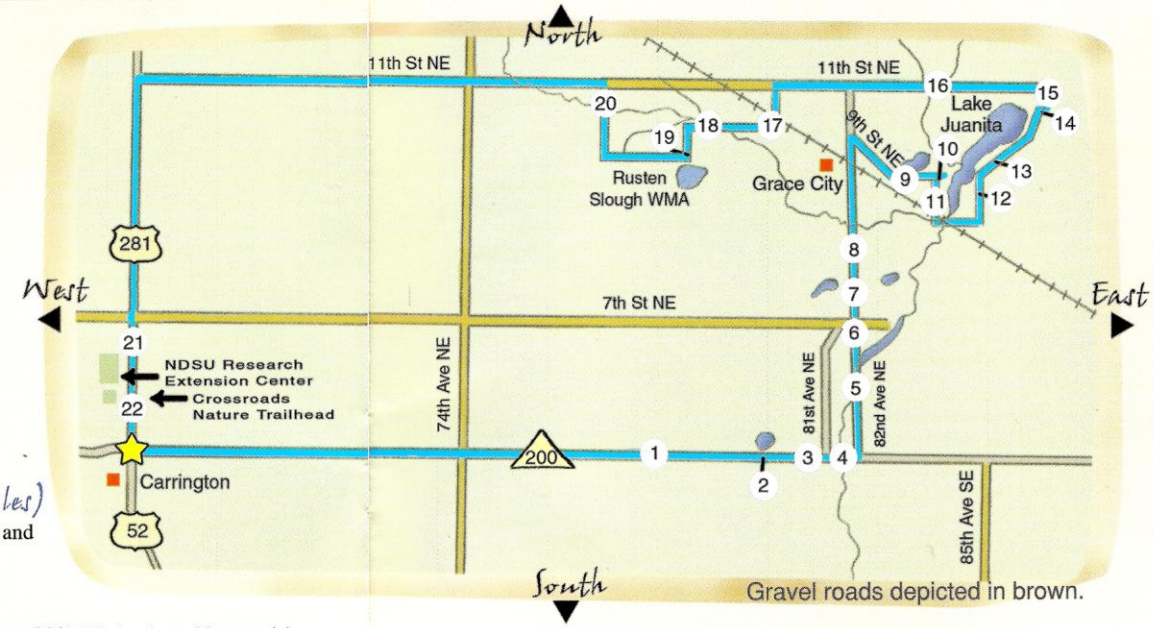
Lake Juanita Loop



The Lake Juanita Loop (62 miles)

This route will sample the Lake Juanita area and the James River valley east of Carrington.

Stop 1 *(11 miles East of Carrington on Highway 200).* Wetlands and low prairie: Virginia Rails and various waterbirds. In spring, check shallow water in the fields for migrating shorebirds.

Stop 2 *(2.4 miles East).* Wetland north of highway yields migrant shorebirds, breeding waterfowl. Hayland to the south yields Bobolinks.

Stop 3 *(.6 miles East).* Native prairie yields Upland Sandpipers, Clay-colored Sparrows, Brewer's Blackbirds, Grasshopper Sparrows and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Stop 4 *(.9 miles East).* Cliff Swallows at the bridge over the James River.

Stop 5 *(.1 miles East, 1.8 miles North).* Turn left on 82nd Ave NE. Going north, watch for American White Pelicans in the wetlands, Willow Flycatcher and Gray Catbirds in the brushy spring. Listen for Vesper Sparrows in open areas.

Stop 6 *(1.1 miles North).* A mile further should produce many Clay-colored Sparrows.

Stop 7 *(.4 miles North).* Scan the area for raptors from the highest point. Listen at the wetland for Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed sparrows. Various grassland species in hayland on east.

Stop 8 *(.5 miles North).* Listen for Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Stop 9 *(2.7 miles North, 1 mile East).* Turn east at 9th St NE. Blue Cloud Lake WPA: various waterfowl. Look for Willow Flycatchers, and Marsh Wrens in cattails.

Stop 10 *(1.1 miles East).* At Lake Juanita, the large tree planting on the right contains diverse vegetation that, during migration, hosts warblers and sparrows. East from the planting where the trail turns left (north), walk the marsh for possible American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows; scope Lake Juanita for Western Grebes and American White Pelicans in summer and Common Loons during April and October.

Stop 11 *(.75 miles).* Check the cattails for Virginia Rails.

Stop 12 *(.3 miles South).* Native prairie on west side of road hosts Chestnut-collared Longspurs and other grassland birds.

Stop 13 *(.4 miles North).* At Lake Juanita look over the water for Western Grebes in summer; Common Loons during migration.

Stop 14 *(1.2 miles North).* To the southeast, look for Swainson's Hawks and Marbled Godwits. Before proceeding left (north) look for various grassland species.

Stop 15 *(.4 miles North).* Check for for Le Conte's and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows in low area on left.

Stop 16 *(.6 miles North, 2.2 miles West).* Land to the left (south) is good area for Wilson's Snipes, Sedge Wrens, Le Conte's Sparrows, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, and some years, Yellow Rails.

Stop 17 *(3.8 miles West, 1 mile South).* Hike for grassland species on half-section to the southeast. Sprague's Pipits and Baird's Sparrows may be found.

Stop 18 *(1.5 miles West).* Check prairie on the right (north) for Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Stop 19 *(.5 miles West, 1 mile South).* Rusten Slough WMA. Scope for waterbirds.

Stop 20 *(2 miles West, 1.6 miles North).* James River breaks area. Listen for Baird's Sparrows in summer and migrant Smith's Longspurs in early October.

Stop 21 *(.4 miles North, 9 miles West, 4.5 miles South).* Walk NDSU-Carrington Research Extension Center's trees for migrant passerines, and the grounds for various thrushes, warblers, and sparrows during migration.

Stop 22 *(3 miles South).* Carrington Cemetery: Golden-crowned Kinglets and Crossbills in fall and Chipping Sparrows and Pine Siskins in summer.

During migration (especially after nighttime rains), walk the residential areas of Carrington for warblers and other passerines.