

Charles E. Price Memorial Park at Levels Road
950 Levels Road
Middletown, DE 19709

The Charles E. Price Memorial Park is an excellent location to view grassland birds in Delaware. Harboring the most diverse assemblage of summer grassland species in the state, birders can easily find both Grasshopper Sparrows, Horned Larks, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Eastern Meadowlarks nesting in the spray irrigation fields. Beginning in 2010, the Park hosted at least two pairs of nesting Savannah Sparrows and three pairs of Dickcissels. During migration, Bobolinks can be found in large numbers and there is potential for nesting at this site. There are also small wet pockets in the spray fields that have produced birds such as Sora and Wilson's Snipe. Winter birds have included large numbers of Savannah Sparrows and Horned Larks. Snow Buntings can occasionally be found in the Park proper and there is a chance for a Lapland Longspur mixed in.

To reach Charles E. Memorial Park: Follow Rt. 13 North to north of Smyrna. If taking US 1 North, exit at the North Smyrna exit and continue on northbound Rt. 13. After passing the Weigh Station, watch for signs for Rt. 71 North. Rt. 71 will be on your left. Take Rt. 71 north towards Townsend/Middletown. After passing through Townsend, continue about three miles north and pass Cricklewood. Just past the subdivision, there will be a small shopping center on the left and a DelDOT yard on the right, followed by St. Anne's Church Road on the left. Turn left on St. Anne's Church Road. Follow St. Anne's Church Road through two traffic circles. After the second circle, the Park will be on your left. For more directions, visit <http://www.ecodelaware.com/place.php?id=356>.

Best Viewing Locations: Dickcissels frequent the field on the left of the entrance road. Follow the entrance road to the first parking lot and walk back towards the entrance. More grassland birds can be found in almost any of the fields. To find the other species, the best option is to follow the road to the far side of the large pond and park in that large lot there. Walk to the post and rail fence and then along the fence in either direction. Early morning is best for world-class views of many of these species.

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