

## 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.

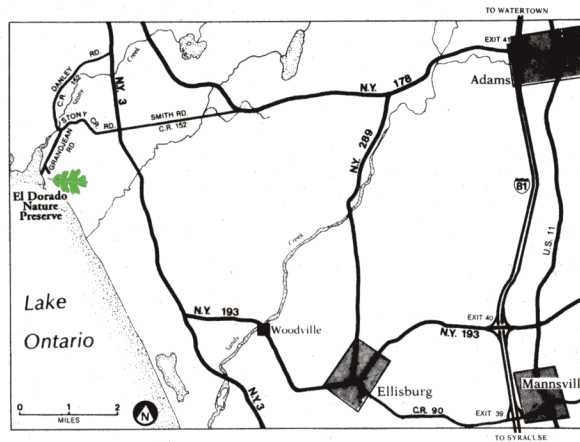
## Travel Directions:

### *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.



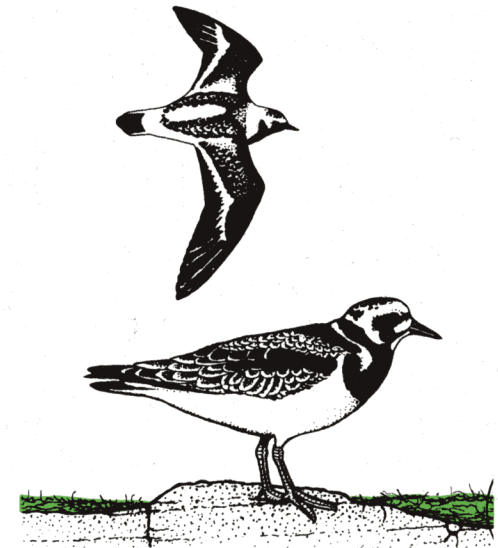
There is much to see and hear during your visit to El Dorado. The Nature Conservancy encourages you to appreciate the fragile habitat and along the way gain an understanding of the things that make El Dorado so special.

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

# EL DORADO HABITATS

The rugged El Dorado shoreline was shaped by glacial action in two key ways: the rocky shore was exposed thousands of years ago as the last glacier retreated, and the dunes formed when sand deposits were piled up by the westerly winds.

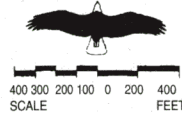
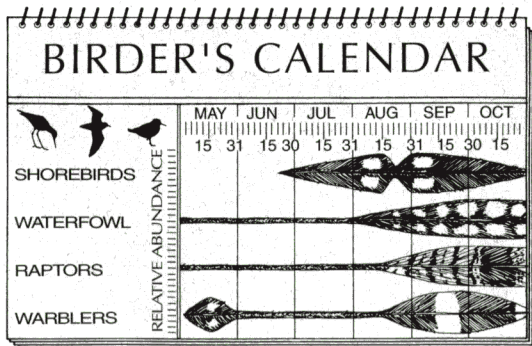
At the south end of the preserve, Black Pond and its surrounding marshes formed in the shelter of the newly established dunes. To the north, wave action pushed up a berm of sand and cobbles on the bedrock beach, sheltering an inland band of wet meadows. Farther inland, old pastures have grown up into dense red cedar woodlands.

El Dorado's diversity of habitats provides a unique opportunity for visitors to see a wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors and songbirds.

## A Vital Rest Stop

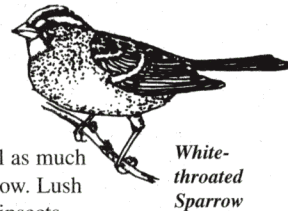
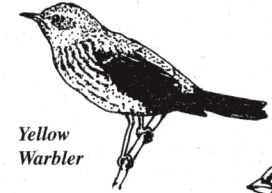
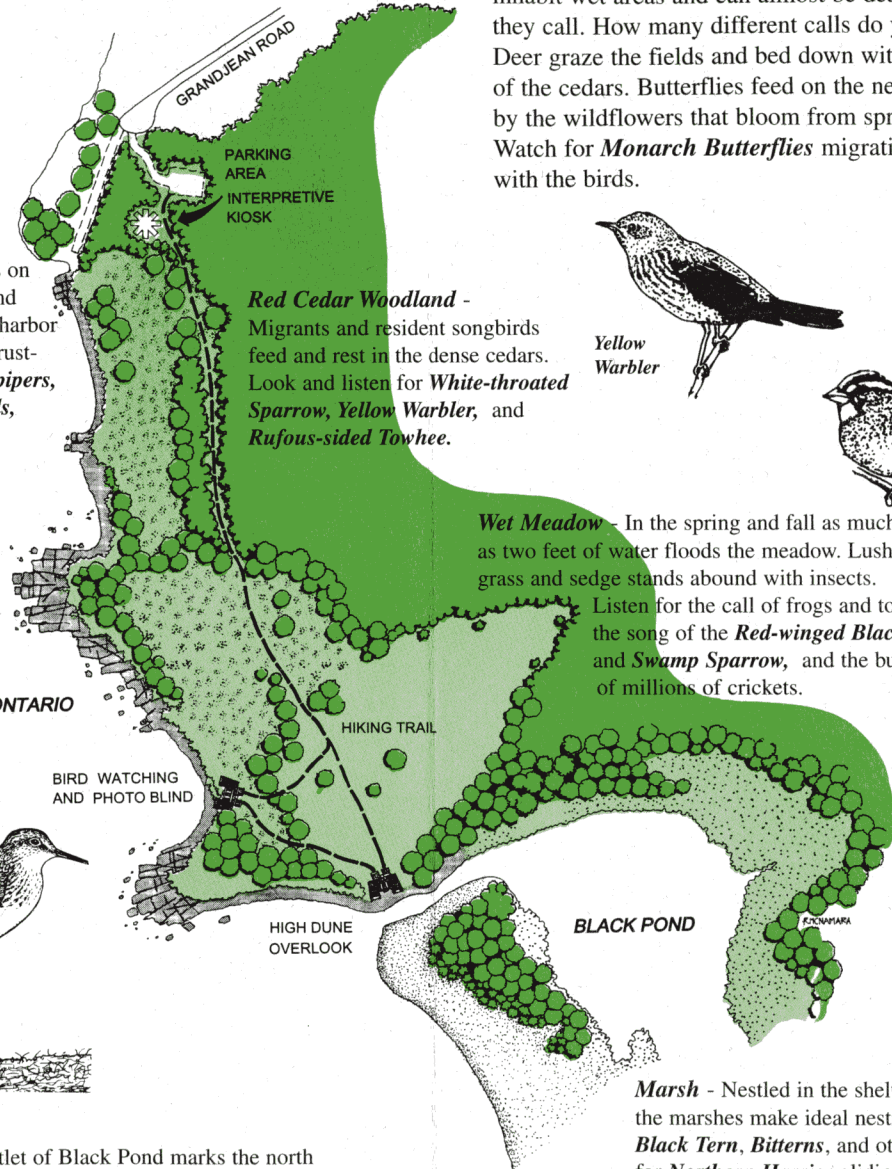
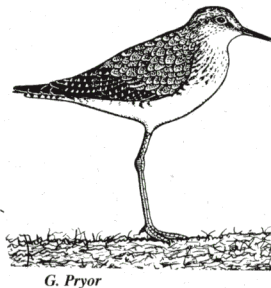
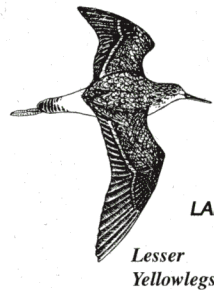
El Dorado provides a vital stopover for fall migrating shorebirds traveling thousands of miles from the Arctic to South America. The undeveloped shore offers seclusion, rocky perches, and food so birds can rest and replenish energy reserves. This lay-over is crucial to survival during the next leg of their journey -- the Atlantic Coast.

In the spring and fall, migrating songbirds also find abundant food and shelter in continuous brushy and forested habitats along the shore. Use the calendar below to know what to expect in various seasons.



### Calcareous Shoreline Outcrop

Small spaces around rocks, bumps and holes on the surface, crevices, and stranded mats of algae harbor a store of insects and crustaceans. Look for *Sandpipers*, *Yellowlegs*, *Terns*, *Gulls*, and *Waterfowl*.



**High Dune** - The outlet of Black Pond marks the north end of Eastern Lake Ontario's dune system. The dunes are stabilized by specialized plants, like *beach grass* and *sand cherry*. These hardy pioneers thrive on the exposed beach, yet they are vulnerable to human footsteps.

**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*.

## 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.