

**Birding at Sauerheber Unit of the Sloughs WMA,
Henderson County, KY
Submitted by Charlie Crawford**

Google Map coordinates

37.850810, -87.743689

Birders wishing to use the coordinates given in these directions should use the satellite view of the area for more detail.

Habitats

- About 2000 acres as a waterfowl refuge
- over half the property is bottomland
- including 65 to 70 acres of swampland

Birds and birder comments:

The Sauerheber Unit is a diverse area consisting of impoundments and naturally occurring marshes and tree-lined sloughs. Starting every September and until spring, the impoundments are flooded, creating habitat for wintering ducks, geese, and swans.

Contrary to signage, the area is open Marsh 15 until October 31. (Signage indicates closure begins October 15), closure then occurs from November 1 until March 15. No actual trails exist at the Sauerheber Unit. Impoundment dikes are walkable when mowed, which occurs irregularly.

There are 5 observation platforms along KY 268. Four of the platforms overlook areas of interest to the south. The fifth platform occurs just before the headquarters and provides a look over Anderson Pond.

Hunting is permitted at the Sloughs WMA and birders should be aware of various seasons.

In winter driving along KY268 , with occasional pullouts, can be rewarding, with dabbling ducks, Snow, Canada, and Greater White-fronted Geese. Snows Geese can be in the thousands, with Greater White-fronted Geese next in numbers, followed by Canadas. Mallards are the most common dabblers.

Wood Tract occurs to the south of KY268 (Wood Tract south). The impoundment north of KY268 after Tram Road is Wood Tract north (37.855449, -87.751284.) Tundra Swans most often can be seen at Wood Tract north of KY268, just past Tram Road. What is possible to see at the Wood Tracts varies each year due to the crops that have been planted. Some years most waterfowl can be seen in the south section, other years it is best in the north section. Typically any corn that has been planted is harvested in alternating sections so there is standing corn remaining and that is flooded. While if soy beans have been planted it is all harvested leaving nice open areas that are flooded.

Bald Eagles nest in the area with three active nests. One can be seen at the south end of Hardy Slough (at 37.842239, -87.750410). A second nest is often visible at the south end of Anderson Pond. The third nest is not visible in winter, but is an extremely large nest. It is about half-a-mile back the road that goes south from the headquarters. Many Bald Eagles use the Sauerheber Unit in the winter. Both immatures and adults are regularly seen.

Getting around

To see a map of birding spots in the area, click [here](#). (Created by Charlie Crawford.)

There are seven roads into the Sauerheber Unit. From the intersection of Hwy 136 and 268 (map coordinates (37.812364, -87.693503), drive north on 268.)

The first road (at 37.850810, -87.743689) goes southwest and leads back to the main Hardy Slough dike, then turns right and passes the Shorebird Unit, turns left again and dead-ends at Pond Creek.

The 2nd road (at 37.857532, -87.755362) goes north and ends at oil tanks. Further walking leads to the Ohio River.

The 3rd (37.859431, -87.761894) and 4th (37.859418, -87.772736) roads, again going south, join together, then pass a small impoundment then end at a gate. Walking past the gate leads down a dirt track to Pond Creek Marsh.

The 5th road goes north and ends at a small impoundment. (37.860332, -87.779302)

The 6th road, going south, is at the Headquarters (37.859519, -87.780075), and leads back to another set of impoundments and terminates next to Pond Creek Marsh.

The seventh road (37.861281, -87.784023) goes south and leads to the Crenshaw Tract. It connects to KY136 (Alzey – Mt. Vernon Road).

For more information on this area, check the [Sloughs WMA page](#). Sloughs is one stop on the [Audubon Birding Trail](#).