



**Where to Go:** Valparaiso, Indiana.

**Distance from Chicago:** 50 miles southeast.

**Where to Stay:** The lovely Colonial country home with white-trimmed dormers may attract visitors to the [Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast](#), but it's the grounds' prairie grass, roses, and many trees that lure the namesake songbirds on their way to and from the Indiana Dunes. The four suites—Bluebird, Warbler, Purple Finch, and Cardinal (with bright red walls, of course)—have whirlpool baths and fireplaces, and a three-course breakfast is served in a sunroom that looks onto the bird-filled woods.

**Insider Tip:** There's a microphone near one of the hummingbird feeders so guests can hear them "chirp" (a sound that's actually made by their tails).

**Price:** Doubles from \$155.

**What to Do:** Follow the birds 10 miles north to [Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore](#) and wander along the Cowles Bog Trail through wetland, oak, savanna, and swale for two miles until you crest the dunes and are rewarded with an expansive view of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline. Along dune trails keep your eyes peeled for orange butterfly weed and purple blazing star wildflowers, and the endangered inch-wide blue Karner butterfly.

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*Courtesy of Songbird Prairie Bed & Breakfast*