

4. Vermillion Falls & Old Mill Parks

As you reach the Hwy 61 Bridge crossing the Vermillion River in Hastings, there is a park just to the east. Vermillion Falls Park is the starting point for a unique and beautiful birding place. Here the river's course includes a picturesque water fall that can be viewed from an overlook. A trail continues further east along the south bluff of this geologically formed gorge. More scenic views will be possible from a pedestrian bridge crossing over the gorge and leading you to Old Mill Park.

Continuing north you will find an interpretive sign and directions to the Old Mill

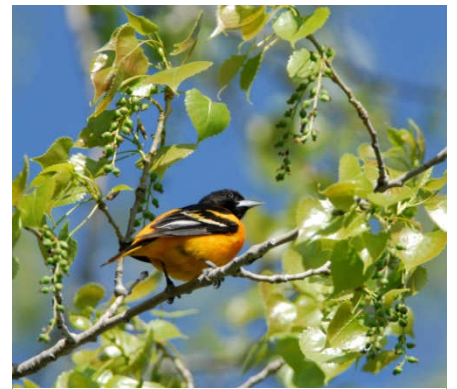
Ruins. All the way, native prairie and bluff land forests are preserved for wildlife benefits and your chance to see very interesting birds.



Cedar Waxwing

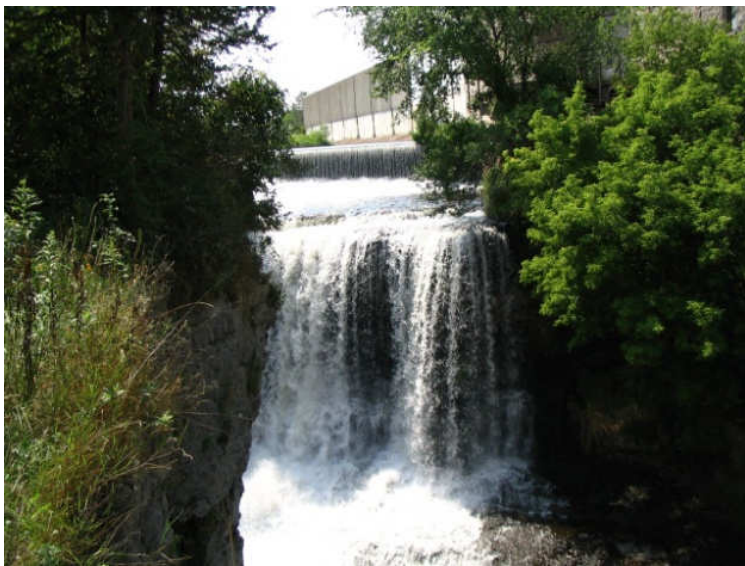
Photo by Jim Williams

The river, plants and topography of the gorge modify temperatures all year long and the open water encourages birds like Belted Kingfisher or American Robins to spend the winter. Insects, seeds and fruit found in the protecting native habitat are food for the birds through the nesting season. Cedar Waxwing, Eastern Bluebird, American Redstart and Northern Rough-winged Swallows are just a few of the species you can enjoy seeing at this treasured birding location.



Baltimore Oriole

Photo by Jim Williams



Vermillion Falls



Old Mill Ruins