

Lori Mertens-Pellitteri
Christy Sullivan

By and large, we hiked connector routes during the winter and trails from late spring through fall. It was an absolutely amazing experience. We were able to see newborn deer on two different occasions, bald eagles, porcupine, numerous turkeys and deer along with unnamed varieties of birds and other wildlife.

We took a week in 2020 to hike 90 miles to the Eastern Terminus and a week in 2021 to hike the final 77 miles of the Western Terminus. Otherwise, our hikes consisted of weekend outings and as we got further from Madison, we began to do weekend hikes and staying at local hotels.

We connected with official trail angels a dozen times and then our family/friend angles for 30 or so other assists. It took us 107 hikes. One of our favorite hikes was the LaBudde segment during a very heavy snow, it was magical.