

Criteria for Iowa Important Bird Area (IBA) Site Selections

Category 1. Sites important to endangered or threatened species in Iowa.

This category includes the current list of Threatened or Endangered bird species for Iowa (listed below). Iowa includes any federally listed species on its lists, so those species are also included on the state list.

Endangered Species

Bald Eagle
Northern Harrier
Red-shouldered Hawk
Peregrine Falcon
King Rail
Piping Plover
Least Tern
Barn Owl
Short-eared Owl

Threatened Species

Long-eared Owl
Henslow's Sparrow

Category 2. Sites important to species of high conservation priority in Iowa.

Species selected by the Technical Committee as being of high conservation priority. An area has to have at least three species from this category in order to be nominated. This should insure that an area really is an important area for birds.

American Bittern
Least Bittern
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Broad-winged Hawk
Greater Prairie-Chicken
Common Moorhen
American Woodcock
Forster's Tern
Black Tern
Black-billed Cuckoo
Chuck-will's-widow
Pileated Woodpecker
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Bewick's Wren
Veery
Wood Thrush
Cerulean Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Grasshopper Sparrow
Bobolink

Category 3. Sites that contain rare or unique habitat within the state or an exceptional representative of a natural habitat, and that hold important species or species assemblages largely restricted to a distinctive habitat type.

Presumably such sites will include some species from the lists in categories 1 and 2 although the site might just be an especially good woodland, grassland, or other area.

Category 4. A site that regularly holds significant concentrations of one or more species.

The following criteria were selected:

- 4a. Waterfowl - a threshold of at least 500 waterfowl in winter or 1,000 in migration. Canada Geese were specifically excluded in these counts.
- 4b. Gulls and Terns - a threshold of at least 1,000 gulls or 100 terns with the following qualifiers: 5,000 for Franklin's Gull, 250 for Black Tern.
- 4c. Shorebirds - a threshold of at least 500 shorebirds.
- 4d. Wading birds - a threshold of at least 25 breeding pairs or 100 feeding or migratory birds.
- 4e. Raptors - a threshold of at least 1,000 total migratory raptors (seasonal total). We also added a category of 100 for wintering birds such as Bald Eagle.
- 4f. Landbirds - No threshold limits were established (see attachment for details).
- 4g. Single-species concentrations - a threshold of at least 5% of statewide population for a species (e.g., concentrations of American White Pelicans or Double-crested Cormorants).

Category 5. Sites important for long-term research and/or monitoring that contribute substantially to ornithology, bird conservation, and/or education.

We noted that some of the raptor viewing sites (e.g., Hitchcock Area, Grammar Grove) might fit in better in this category than in 4e above.

Appendix

The birds listed in Category 2 break down approximately as follows relative to habitat categories:

Wetlands - 6 species

American Bittern
Least Bittern
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Common Moorhen
Forster's Tern
Black Tern

Woodlands - 11 species

Broad-winged Hawk
Black-billed Cuckoo
Chuck-will's-widow
Pileated Woodpecker
Bewick's Wren
Veery
Wood Thrush
Cerulean Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler

Grasslands - 3 species

Greater Prairie-Chicken
Grasshopper Sparrow
Bobolink

Savanna/Shrub habitats - 4 species

Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-breasted Chat

Riparian habitats - 2 species

American Woodcock
Prothonotary Warbler

Abbreviated Iowa Important Bird Area (IBA) Summary - May 17, 2003

1. Between the 2002 IOU Spring Conference and the end of 2002, 59 individuals nominated 273 habitats for IBA recognition and priority treatment. Nearly everyone used the easy online nomination process at www.iowabirds.org/IBA. To keep up with IBA developments, return here often.
2. The Iowa IBA Technical Committee evaluated all nominations and was very pleased with the participation by birders from across the state. The Tech. Comm. moved 182 nominations forward in the IBA site identification process. (58 nominations were rejected for sites not meeting criteria, 34 were rejected for being a duplicate or for overlap with another nomination, and one nomination was separated into two nominations.)
3. Prizes donated to the IBA Program by Eagle Optics were awarded to: Lee Schoenewe for submitting the most nominations that were moved forward in the process (Spotting Scope w/ 20-60 variable power magnification and a Tripod, valued at \$1,000), Danny Akers for submitting the second most (Ranger Platinum Class 8 X 42 bins by Eagle Optics, valued at \$400), and Mike Dooley for submitting the third most (Denali 7 X 32 bins by Eagle Optics, valued at \$200).

Your Challenge for the Coming Months

The beauty of IBAs is that they will form a network of essential habitats that connect together Canada, the United States, and Latin America in the Western Hemisphere – and indeed the entire globe – and will allow for the first time, prioritization of habitat-level bird conservation actions. Our program focuses on those species selected by the Iowa IBA Technical Committee as being MOST in need of help – the Iowa IBA Criteria Species.

* * * But our Iowa IBA Technical Committee needs to receive sufficient bird data for each of the 182 nominated habitats in order to make final decisions on whether or not those habitats can be officially recognized as Important Bird Areas (or IBAs).

IBA status will allow the IBA Program together with its partnering public agencies, private conservation organizations, businesses and individuals, to begin Phase II and Phase III. These next steps include: in-depth habitat analysis, long-term bird monitoring, initiating education programs at IBAs, development of IBA-level bird conservation plans, and the vital habitat restoration, enhancement, and improved management that future generations of birds and people each deserve...

The same 3 great prizes from Eagle Optics will be given away this year - to those who submit data on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd most nominated habitats. Thank You.

Habitats Nominated for IBA Status

Allamakee	Yellow River Forest/Effigy Mounds National Monument
Allamakee	"Upper Mississippi River Fish & Wildlife Refuge, McGregor District"
Allamakee	New Albin Wetland Complex
Appanoose	Lake Rathbun Reservoir
Appanoose	Sedan Wildlife Management Area
Appanoose	Dean Wetlands
Appanoose	"Stephens Forest, Unionville Unit/Soap Creek Wildlife Area"
Benton	Dudgeon Lake Wildlife Area
Black Hawk	George Wyth State Park/Hartman Reserve
Black Hawk	Cedar Hills Sand Prairie and adjoining drainage
Black Hawk	Cedar Bend Savannah
Black Hawk	Cedar Valley Nature Trail
Boone	Ledges State Park
Boone	Des Moines River Corridor/Holst Forest to YMCA Camp
Bremer	Sweet Marsh
Bremer	Aldo Leopold Wetland
Bremer	Wapsi River Greenbelt
Buchanan	Cedar Rock
Buena Vista	Buena Vista County Park/Glacial Hills grassland
Buena Vista	Storm Lake
Butler	Big Marsh
Butler	Shell Rock Park
Calhoun	North and South Twin Lakes
Carroll	Swan Lake State Park
Cedar	Cedar Valley Park Area
Cerro Gordo	Clear Lake/Ventura Marsh
Cerro Gordo	Union Hills WMA
Cerro Gordo	Zirbel Slough
Cerro Gordo	Shell Rock River Greenbelt
Cherokee	Martin County Access/Little Sioux River corridor/Steele Prairie
Clay	Waneta State Park
Clay	Dan Green Slough/Kirchner Prairie
Clay	Fen Valley
Clay	Little Sioux Wildlife Area
Clay	Kindlespire Access/Burr Area
Clay	Bertram Reservation
Clayton	Pikes Peak State Park
Clayton	Bloody Run County Park
Clayton	Bixby State Park
Clayton	Joy Springs County Park/Camp EWALU
Clayton	Osborne Outdoor Education Center
Clinton	Princeton Wildlife Area
Clinton	Goose Lake Wildlife Area
Clinton	Manikowski Prairie Preserve
Dallas	Beaver Bottoms Wetland
Davis	Lake Wapello State Park
Decatur	Sand Creek Wildlife Area
Delaware	Backbone State Park
Des Moines	Blackhawk Bottoms
Des Moines	Starr's Cave Park and Preserve
Des Moines	Big Hollow Creek Recreational Area
Dickinson	Spring Run Wildlife Area
Dickinson	Spirit Lake/Kettleson Wildlife Area
Dickinson	Cayler Prairie State Preserve
Dickinson	Dugout Creek WPA
Dickinson	Jemerson Slough/Center Lake WPA/Welch Lake WPA
Dickinson	Christopherson Slough/Little Swan Lake
Dickinson	Silver Lake Access and Fen/Trappers Bay State Park
Dubuque	Mines of Spain State Recreation Area
Dubuque	White Pine Hollow
Dubuque	Swiss Valley Park & Nature Preserve

Emmet	"Ingham, High, and Cunningham Lakes Wetland Complex"
Emmet	Anderson Prairie State Preserve Complex
Emmet	Cheever Lake and Four Mile Lake/WPA
Emmet	Ft. Defiance State Park
Emmet	Tuttle Lake Wildlife Area/Okamanpedan State Park
Emmet	Iowa Lake & Marsh/Goose Lake/State Line Marsh
Fayette	Volga River State Recreation Area
Fayette	Gouldsburg Park
Floyd	Fossil and Prairie Park
Fremont	Riverton Wildlife Area
Fremont	Waubonsie State Park
Fremont	Forney Lake Wildlife Area
Greene	Dunbar Slough
Greene	Snake Creek Marsh
Greene	Goose Lake
Guthrie	Springbrook State Recreation and Wildlife Area
Guthrie	Elk Grove Wildlife Area
Guthrie	Bays Branch Wildlife Area
Hamilton	Bjorkboda Marsh/Masterson WA/Boone East Marsh
Hamilton	Boone Forks Wildlife Area
Hancock	West and East Twin Lakes
Hancock	Eagle Lake
Hardin	Iowa River Greenbelt-Alden to Union/Pine Lake State Park
Harrison	DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Henry	Lake Geode State Park
Howard	Hayden Prairie State Preserve
Howard	Lylah's Marsh
Humboldt	Bradgate Wildlife Area
Ida	Moorehead Park
Iowa	Indiangrass Hills
Jackson	Green Island Wildlife Area
Jackson	Eden Valley Refuge
Jackson	Bellevue State Park
Jasper	Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
Johnson	Coralville Reservoir/Hawkeye Wildlife Area/Lake McBride State Park
Johnson	S&G Materials sandpit
Johnson	Hickory Hill Park
Johnson	Red Bird Farms Wildlife Area
Johnson	F. W. Kent Park
Jones	Muskat Slough
Jones	Pictured Rocks/Indian Bluffs
Jones	Beam Woods
Keokuk	Belv-Deer Recreation Area
Kossuth	Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge
Kossuth	Stinson Prairie State Preserve
Lee	"Shimek State Forest, Croton Unit"
Lee	Pool 19 (Keokuk to Fort Madison)
Lee	"Shimek State Forest, Lick Creek Unit"
Linn	Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area
Linn	Hitaga Sand Ridge Prairie Preserve
Linn	Matsell Bridge Natural Area
Linn	Pinicon Ridge Park
Linn	Squaw Creek Park
Linn	Wickiup Hill-Cedar River Complex
Louisa	Cone Marsh
Louisa	Cairo Woods Wildlife Area
Louisa	Toolesboro Access/Odessa
Louisa	Klum Lake Wildlife Area
Louisa	Indian Slough Wildlife Area
Lucas	"Stephens State Forest, Lucas & Whitebreast Units"
Lyon	Big Sioux River Wildlife Area/Nelson & Kroger Tracts
Madison	Badger Creek Recreation Area
Madison	Pammel State Park

Mahaska	Cedar Bluffs State Preserve
Marion	Red Rock Reservoir
Mills	Folsom Lake Wildlife Area
Mitchell	Pinicon Alders and Wapsi-River Wildlife Areas
Monona	Loess Hills Wildlife Area
Monona	Badger Lake Wildlife Area
Monroe	Stephens Forest - Thousand Acres Unit
Montgomery	Hackiebarney Woods
Montgomery	Viking Lake State Park
Muscatine	Cedar Bluffs Recreation Area
Muscatine	Wildcat Den State Park
O'Brien	Waterman Creek Area
Osceola	Rush Lake - Osceola
Palo Alto	Ruthven Wildlife Area/Deweys Pasture
Palo Alto	Elk Lake WPA/Virgin Lake Wildlife Area
Palo Alto	Westfork Wildlife Area/Basswood Rec Area/Prairie Gold Wildlife Area
Palo Alto	Silver Lake - Palo Alto
Palo Alto	Rush Lake - Palo Alto
Plymouth	Broken Kettle Grassland
Plymouth	"Dunham Prairie, Higman Wetland, Appley Wetland"
Pocahontas	Sunken Grove Wildlife/Shimon Marsh
Pocahontas	Lizard Lake
Polk	Saylorville Reservoir
Polk	Brown's Woods
Polk	Paul Errington Marsh
Polk	Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt
Polk	Camp Dodge
Pottawattamie	"Mid-American Energy Plant, Council Bluffs"
Pottawattamie	Hitchcock Nature Center (and adjoining properties)
Pottawattamie	Blackbird Marsh/Big Lake/Big Marsh
Poweshiek	Fox Forest/Diamond Lake
Ringgold	Kellerton Bird Conservation Area
Sac	Tomahawk Marsh/Black Hawk Lake and State Park
Scott	Lost Grove Lake Wildlife Area
Scott	Cameron Woods State Preserve
Story	Ada Hayden Heritage Park
Tama	Otter Creek Marsh
Taylor	Lake of Three Fires State Park/Simmons Wildlife Area
Union	Green Valley State Park and Mitchell Marsh
Van Buren	Lacey Keosauqua State Park
Wapello	Fox Hills Wildlife Area
Warren	Woodland Mounds Preserve
Washington	Brinton Timber
Wayne	Medicine Creek W.A. / southern Wayne County grasslands
Webster	Brushy Creek State Recreational Area/Dolliver Memorial State Park
Winnebago	Myre Slough
Winnebago	Harmon Lake
Winnebago	Pilot Knob State Park
Winneshiek	Cardinal Marsh
Winneshiek	Coon Creek Wildlife Area/Upper Iowa River Complex
Woodbury	Snyder and Winnebago Bends
Woodbury	Port Neal Fly Ash Ponds
Woodbury	Owego Wetlands
Woodbury	Stone State Park
Woodbury	Sioux City Prairie
Worth	Elk Creek Marsh
Wright	Big Wall Lake Marsh
Wright	Lower Morris Lake Complex