*(continued)*

___**Swainson's Hawk**
___Red-tailed Hawk*
___Rough-legged Hawk
___Golden Eagle

___Virginia Rail*
___Sora*
___American Coot*
___**Sandhill Crane**

___**American Golden Plover**
___Semi-palmated Plover
___Killdeer*

___Spotted Sandpiper*
___**Solitary Sandpiper**
___**Greater Yellowlegs**
___**Lesser Yellowlegs**
___**Upland Sandpiper***
___Semi-palmated Sandpiper
___Least Sandpiper
___Pectoral Sandpiper
___**Short-billed Dowitcher**
___Wilson's Snipe*
___**American Woodcock***
___**Wilson's Phalarope**

___Ring-billed Gull
___Caspian Tern
___**Black Tern**
___Common Tern
___**Forster's Tern**

___Rock Pigeon*
___Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___Mourning Dove*

___**Yellow-billed Cuckoo***
___**Black-billed Cuckoo***

___Eastern Screech-Owl*
___Great Horned Owl*
___Snowy Owl
___Barred Owl*
___**Long-eared Owl***
___**Short-eared Owl**
___Northern Saw-whet Owl

___**Common Nighthawk***
___Eastern **Whip-poor-will***

___**Chimney Swift***

___Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

___Belted Kingfisher*

___**Red-headed Woodpecker***
___Red-bellied Woodpecker*
___Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
___Downy Woodpecker*
___Hairy Woodpecker*
___Northern Flicker*
___Pileated Woodpecker*

___American Kestrel*
___Merlin
___**Peregrine Falcon**

___**Olive-sided Flycatcher**
___Eastern Wood-Pewee*
___**Acadian Flycatcher***
___Alder Flycatcher
___**Willow Flycatcher***
___**Least Flycatcher***
___Eastern Phoebe*
___Great Crested Flycatcher*
___Eastern Kingbird*

___**Loggerhead Shrike***
___Northern Shrike

___**White-eyed Vireo**
___**Bell's Vireo***
___Yellow-throated Vireo*
___Blue-headed Vireo
___Warbling Vireo*
___Philadelphia Vireo
___Red-eyed Vireo*

___Blue Jay*
___American Crow*

___Horned Lark*

___Purple Martin*
___Tree Swallow*
___N. Rough-winged Swallow*
___Bank Swallow*
___Cliff Swallow*
___Barn Swallow*

___Black-capped Chickadee*
___Tufted Titmouse*

___Red-breasted Nuthatch
___White-breasted Nuthatch*

___**Brown Creeper***

___Carolina Wren*
___House Wren*
___Winter Wren
___**Sedge Wren***
___Marsh Wren*

___Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*

___Golden-crowned Kinglet
___Ruby-crowned Kinglet

___Eastern Bluebird*
___**Veery***
___Gray-cheeked Thrush
___Swainson's Thrush
___Hermit Thrush
___**Wood Thrush***
___American Robin*

___Gray Catbird*
___**Northern Mockingbird***
___Brown Thrasher*

___European Starling*

___Cedar Waxwing*

___Snow Bunting

___Ovenbird*
___**Worm-eating Warbler***
___**Louisiana Waterthrush***

___Northern Waterthrush
___**Golden-winged Warbler**
___**Blue-winged Warbler***
___**Black-and-white Warbler***
___**Prothonotary Warbler**
___Tennessee Warbler
___Orange-crowned Warbler
___Nashville Warbler
___Connecticut Warbler
___Mourning Warbler
___**Kentucky Warbler***
___Common Yellowthroat*
___**Hooded Warbler***
___American Redstart*
___Cape May Warbler
___**Cerulean Warbler***
___Northern Parula*
___Magnolia Warbler
___Bay-breasted Warbler
___Blackburnian Warbler
___Yellow Warbler*
___Chestnut-sided Warbler*
___Blackpoll Warbler
___Black-throated Blue Warbler
___Palm Warbler
___Yellow-rumped Warbler
___Yellow-throated Warbler*
___Prairie Warbler
___Black-throated Green Warbler
___**Canada Warbler**
___Wilson's Warbler
___**Yellow-breasted Chat***

___Spotted Towhee
___Eastern Towhee*
___American Tree Sparrow
___Chipping Sparrow*
___Clay-colored Sparrow
___**Field Sparrow***

___Vesper Sparrow*
___Lark Sparrow*
___Savannah Sparrow*
___**Grasshopper Sparrow***
___**Henslow's Sparrow***
___**Le Conte's Sparrow**
___Fox Sparrow
___Song Sparrow*
___Lincoln's Sparrow
___Swamp Sparrow*
___White-throated Sparrow
___Harris's Sparrow
___White-crowned Sparrow
___Dark-eyed Junco

___Scarlet Tanager*
___Northern Cardinal*
___Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
___Blue Grosbeak
___Indigo Bunting*
___**Dickcissel***

___**Bobolink***
___Red-winged Blackbird*
___**Eastern Meadowlark***
___Western Meadowlark*
___Yellow-headed Blackbird*
___**Rusty Blackbird**
___Brewer's Blackbird
___Common Grackle*
___Great-tailed Grackle*
___Brown-headed Cowbird*
___Orchard Oriole*
___Baltimore Oriole*

___Purple Finch
___House Finch*
___Pine Siskin
___American Goldfinch*

___House Sparrow*


**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

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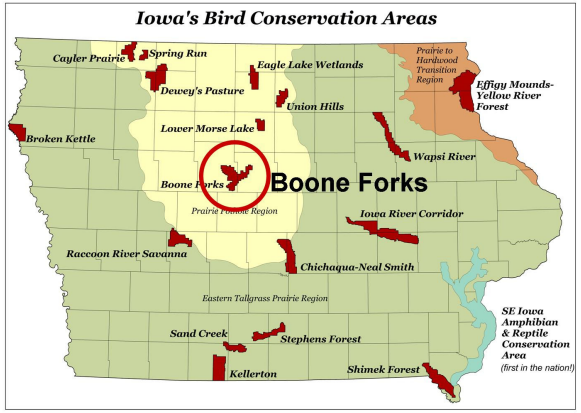
*Created by Jenni Dyar, 2009*
*Updated by Natalie Randall, 2012*


# Boone Forks Woodland

## Bird Conservation Area

## Hamilton & Webster Counties

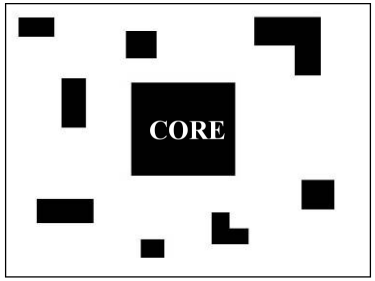



The Boone Forks region, where the Boone River joins the Des Moines River in Hamilton and Webster counties, is special. With its wooded bluffs, scenic sandstone cliffs, and abundance of wildlife, it is appreciated by a large number of outdoor enthusiasts each year. It is one of the richest areas in the state for woodland nesting birds such as the American Woodcock, Cerulean Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Eastern Whip-poor-will. This area also supports crucial habitat for birds during migration, providing both feeding and roosting areas and helping to sustain migrants as they move between winter and summer habitats, making it the clear choice for Iowa's 16th Bird Conservation Area (BCA).

Eastern Whip-poor-will
*Photo by Carol Vinzant*

## BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

Within the last two decades, alarming declines in a large number of species of North American birds have led to the emergence of national and international programs dedicated to the conservation of game and non-game birds. Since 1999, bird conservation organizations and enthusiasts have worked together under an umbrella called the North American Bird Conservation Initiative to "conserve all birds in all habitats." As part of this initiative and in an effort to protect dwindling populations of many Iowa birds, the **Bird Conservation Area** (BCA) program was established by the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau in 2001.




A BCA Model: Shaded areas depict public habitat protected for birds; white is private land.

The present model BCA encompasses at least 10,000 acres of public and/or private lands with approximately 25 percent of the area established as key bird habitat. This concept is backed by research that suggests viable bird populations require conservation efforts at a landscape-oriented level. Each BCA should also include a large "core" area of protected high-quality habitat. Surrounding this core are private lands, plus additional public tracts, managed for good bird habitat or at least maintained to be neutral in how they affect bird life.

## IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. Designated IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. All Iowa Bird Conservation Areas are also Important Bird Areas.

American Woodcock
*Photo by AJ Hands*

## BOONE FORKS DIVERSITY

### PLANTS

Oak-hickory woodlands dominate the uplands of this area with a maple-basswood component in wetter areas, particularly along the rivers and streams. Several hundred species of prairie forbs (like Prairie Blazing Star) and grasses (like Little Bluestem) can be seen in prairie remnants, as well as in upland areas and roadsides where prairie is being restored. Cattails, bulrushes, sedges, arrowhead and a variety of other wetland plants exist in marshes and wet meadows that still exist or have been restored.

### ANIMALS

Southern Flying Squirrel
*Photo by Jack Shaffer*

With nesting evidence for approximately 130 bird species in the Boone Forks Woodland BCA and at least 100 additional bird species using the area during migration, this is an area of especially high bird diversity. Because it contains a variety of habitats, this area also sustains a large diversity of other animals, including Bobcat, River Otter, Badger, and Southern Flying Squirrel. The Boone River, with some of the state's highest quality stream segments, holds rare fish like Western Silvery Minnow and Topeka Shiner, and it is one of few interior streams where a number of mussel species can still be found.

Topeka Shiner
Photograph provided by Kansas DWAP

**Bird Checklist for Boone Forks BCA**

* = confirmed or likely area breeder

**Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Migratory Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

**Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Nesting Species of Greatest Conservation Need**

___Greater White-fronted Goose
___Snow Goose
___Cackling Goose
___Canada Goose*
___**Trumpeter Swan***
___Wood Duck*
___Gadwall*
___American Wigeon
___Mallard*
___Blue-winged Teal*
___Northern Shoveler*
___**Northern Pintail**
___Green-winged Teal
___**Canvasback**
___**Redhead**
___Ring-necked Duck
___Greater Scaup
___Lesser Scaup
___Black Scoter
___Bufflehead
___Common Goldeneye
___Hooded Merganser*
___Common Merganser
___Ruddy Duck

___**Northern Bobwhite***
___Gray Partridge*
___Ring-necked Pheasant*

___**Ruffed Grouse**
___Wild Turkey*

___Pied-billed Grebe*
___Eared Grebe

___**American White Pelican**

___Double-crested Cormorant

___**American Bittern***
___**Least Bittern***
___Great Blue Heron*
___Great Egret
___Little Blue Heron
___Green Heron*
___**Black-crowned Night-heron**

___White-faced Ibis

___Turkey Vulture*

___**Osprey**
___**Bald Eagle***
___**Northern Harrier**
___Sharp-shinned Hawk
___Cooper's Hawk*
___Northern Goshawk
___**Red-shouldered Hawk***
___**Broad-winged Hawk***

*(continued on back)*