Field Checklist for Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA
*=likely or confirmed area breeder
Ch=more likely to be seen at Chichaqua Bottoms
Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Migratory Species of Greatest Conservation Need
Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Nesting Species of Greatest Conservation Need

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

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

___Pied-billed Grebe*

___Double-crested Cormorant (Ch)
___**American White Pelican (Ch)**

___**American Bittern* (Ch)**
___**Least Bittern* (Ch)**
___Great Blue Heron*
___Great Egret* (Ch)
___Little Blue Heron (Ch)
___Cattle Egret (Ch)
___Green Heron*
___**Black-crowned Night-Heron* (Ch)**
___**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (Ch*)**

___White-faced Ibis (Ch)

___Turkey Vulture*

___**Osprey**
___**Bald Eagle***
___**Northern Harrier***
___Sharp-shinned Hawk
___Cooper's Hawk*
___**Red-shouldered Hawk***
___**Broad-winged Hawk***
___**Swainson's Hawk**
___Red-tailed Hawk*
___Rough-legged Hawk

___**King Rail (Ch*)**
___Virginia Rail* (Ch)
___Sora* (Ch)
___**Common Gallinule (Ch*)**
___American Coot* (Ch)

___Sandhill Crane* (Ch)

___Black-bellied Plover (Ch)
___**American Golden Plover (Ch)**
___Semipalmated Plover (Ch)
___Killdeer*
___Spotted Sandpiper* (Ch)
___**Solitary Sandpiper (Ch)**
___**Greater Yellowlegs (Ch)**
___Willet (Ch)
___**Lesser Yellowlegs (Ch)**
___**Upland Sandpiper***
___**Hudsonian Godwit (Ch)**
___**Marbled Godwit (Ch)**
___Semipalmated Sandpiper (Ch)
___Least Sandpiper (Ch)
___White-rumped Sandpiper (Ch)
___Baird's Sandpiper (Ch)
___Pectoral Sandpiper (Ch)
___Dunlin (Ch)
___**Short-billed Dowitcher (Ch)**
___Long-billed Dowitcher (Ch)
___Wilson's Snipe* (Ch)
___**American Woodcock* (Ch)**
___**Wilson's Phalarope (Ch)**

___Bonaparte's Gull (Ch)
___Franklin's Gull (Ch)
___Ring-billed Gull
___Herring Gull (Ch)

___Caspian Tern (Ch)
___**Black Tern (Ch)**
___**Forster's Tern (Ch)**

___Rock Pigeon*
___Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___Mourning Dove*
___**Yellow-billed Cuckoo***
___**Black-billed Cuckoo***

___**Barn Owl**
___Eastern Screech-Owl*
___Great Horned Owl*
___Snowy Owl
___Barred Owl*
___**Long-eared Owl (Ch)**
___**Short-eared Owl***
___Northern Saw-Whet Owl

___**Common Nighthawk***
___**Eastern Whip-poor-will (Ch)**
___**Chimney Swift***
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
___Belted Kingfisher*

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

___American Kestrel*
___Merlin
___Prairie Falcon
___**Peregrine Falcon**

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

___American Pipit

___Cedar Waxwing*

___Lapland Longspur
___Smith's Longspur
___Snow Bunting

___Ovenbird*
___**Louisiana Waterthrush***
___Northern Waterthrush
___**Golden-winged Warbler**
___**Blue-winged Warbler***
___**Black-and-white Warbler**
___**Prothonotary Warbler* (Ch)**
___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
___Palm Warbler
___Yellow-rumped Warbler
___Yellow-throated Warbler (Ch)
___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**
___**Nelson's Sparrow**

___Fox Sparrow
___Song Sparrow*
___Lincoln's Sparrow
___Swamp Sparrow*
___White-throated Sparrow
___Harris's Sparrow
___White-crowned Sparrow
___Dark-eyed Junco

___Summer Tanager*
___Scarlet Tanager*
___Northern Cardinal*
___Rose-breasted 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*
___Red Crossbill
___Pine Siskin
___American Goldfinch*

___House Sparrow*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

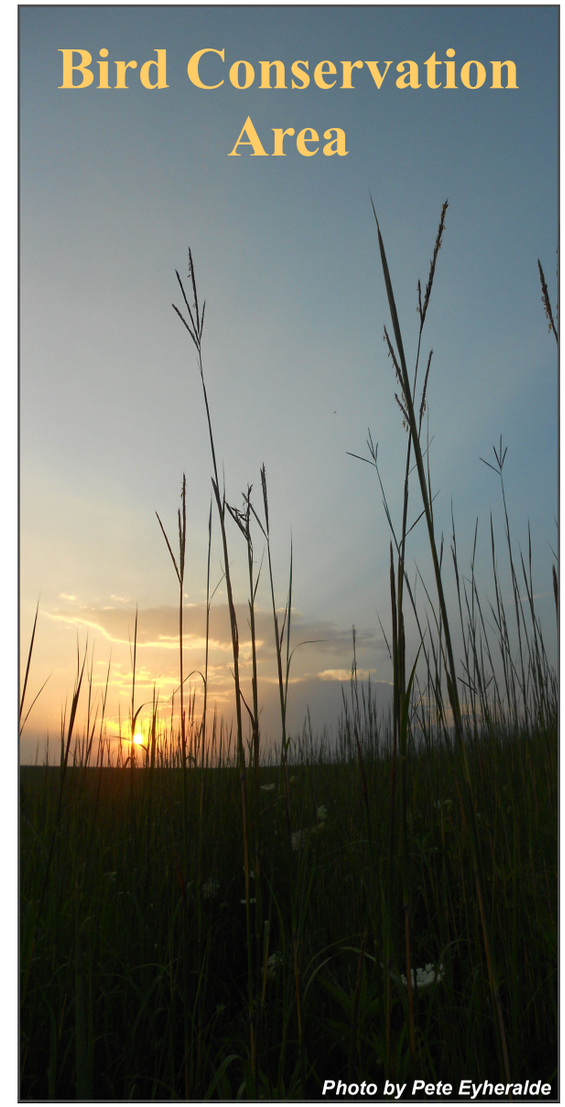
Wildlife Diversity Program
1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036
Phone: (515) 432-2823
Fax: (515) 432-2835

Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

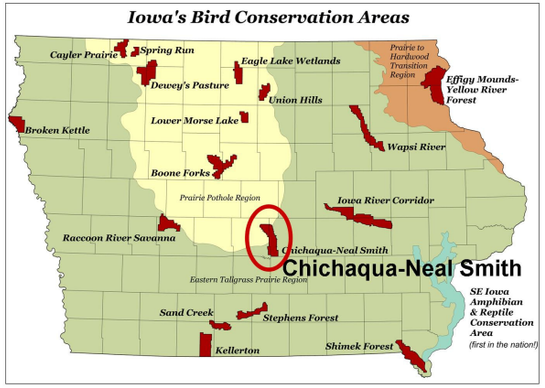
Produced by Natalie Randall, Bruce Ehresman, and Shane Patterson, 2012

Chichaqua-Neal Smith

Bird Conservation Area



Polk and Jasper Counties



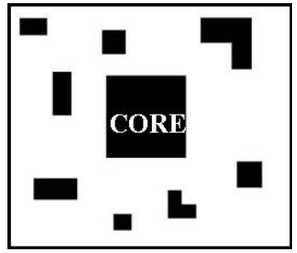
The Chichaqua-Neal Smith Grassland BCA is primarily composed of the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt in northeast Polk County and the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in southwest Jasper County. Dedicated in the spring of 2005, this BCA boundary encompasses about 76,500 acres, 15,000 acres of which are protected for wildlife. Chichaqua Bottoms stretches along the Skunk River, and includes old oxbow river channels, marshes, wetlands, sandy upland hills, and native and restored prairie tracts. Neal Smith NWR was created in 1990 to restore 8,000 acres of tallgrass prairie and oak savannah, as well as the animal communities associated with these landscapes. Because of the diversity of habitats within the Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA, a variety of migratory and nesting birds species can be found here. This area is especially important for rare or declining grassland birds like Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, and both meadowlark species. During spring and fall migration, Clay-colored, LeConte's, and Savanna Sparrows and Smith's and Lapland Longspurs can be found in various parts of this BCA.

Henslow's Sparrow
Photo by Jim Durbin

BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

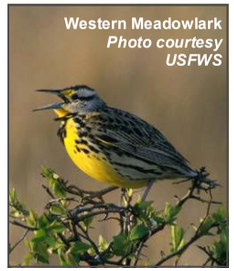
Upland Sandpiper
Photo by Tom Koerner, USFWS

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 at least 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.


Western Meadowlark
Photo courtesy USFWS

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.

CHICHAQUA-NEAL SMITH DIVERSITY

PLANTS

Because of the broad gradient of habitat types found across this BCA— from river bottoms and woodlands to savannahs and prairies— there is a great diversity of vegetation. Grasslands host Prairie Violet, Smooth Ox-eye, Lead Plant, White Prairie Clover, Indian Grass, Switch Grass, and Big and Little Bluestem. Wet prairies in the Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA support Blue Flag, Swamp Milkweed, Bottle Gentian, Tussock Sedge, and Michigan Lily. In addition to understory plants like Pitcher's Leather Flower, Downy Gentian, and Penn Sedge, savannahs in this area include trees like Bur, Black, and Red Oak, as well as Shagbark and Bitternut Hickory.

Blue Flag
Photo by Robert Snache

ANIMALS

Wildlife species found in the Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA are as varied as the habitat. Unique herpetofauna, such as Graham's Crayfish Snake, Six-lined Racerunner Lizards, and the threatened Ornate Box Turtle, occur within this BCA, primarily in the Chichaqua Bottoms area. The endangered Indiana Bat has been reported using savannah habitats within the Neal Smith NWR. Additionally, the refuge includes a herd of Bison and Elk as part of its goal of restoring the native prairie ecosystem. Invertebrates are also plentiful in this BCA. Look for butterflies like the Silvery Checkerspot in disturbed and open areas. Dragonflies like the Cherry-faced Meadowhawk and Black Saddlebags can be found along wetland and pond edges. You may also cross paths with the iridescent green Six-spotted Tiger Beetle or a species of Velvet Ant along foot trails throughout the Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA.

Indiana Bat
Photo courtesy Iowa DNR

Six-spotted Tiger Beetle
Photo by Michael Hodge

A list of Iowa's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) can be found at www.iowadnr.gov by entering "Wildlife Action Plan" in the search. If you encounter uncommon or rare species in this BCA, please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program to report your sightings.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in the creation of the Chichaqua-Neal Smith BCA include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Polk County Conservation Board, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, Des Moines Audubon Society, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Polk County Conservation

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Des Moines Audubon Society Organized 1923

Pheasants Forever The Habitat Organization