Field Checklist for Dewey's Pasture 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
___American Black Duck*
___Mallard*
___Blue-winged Teal*
___Northern Shoveler*
___**Northern Pintail***
___Green-winged Teal*
___**Canvasback***
___**Redhead***
___Ring-necked Duck*
___Greater Scaup
___Lesser Scaup
___Bufflehead*
___Common Goldeneye
___Hooded Merganser*
___Common Merganser
___Ruddy Duck*

___Gray Partridge*
___Ring-necked Pheasant*
___Wild Turkey*

___Common Loon
___Pied-billed Grebe*
___Red-necked Grebe
___Eared Grebe*
___Western Grebe

___Double-crested Cormorant
___**American White Pelican**

___**American Bittern***
___**Least Bittern***
___Great Blue Heron*
___Great Egret
___Cattle Egret
___Green Heron*
___**Black-crowned Night-Heron***
___**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron***
___White-faced Ibis

___Turkey Vulture*
___**Osprey**
___**Bald Eagle***
___**Northern Harrier***
___Sharp-shinned Hawk
___Cooper's Hawk*
___Northern Goshawk

___**Broad-winged Hawk**
___**Swainson's Hawk**
___Red-tailed Hawk*
___Rough-legged Hawk

___**King Rail***
___Virginia Rail*
___Sora*
___**Common Gallinule***
___American Coot*

___**Sandhill Crane**

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

___Franklin's Gull
___Ring-billed Gull
___Herring Gull
___Caspian Tern
___**Black 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*
___**Short-eared Owl***
___Northern Saw-Whet Owl

___**Common Nighthawk***
___**Chimney Swift***
___Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
___Belted Kingfisher*

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

___American Kestrel*
___Merlin
___**Peregrine Falcon**

___Eastern Wood-Pewee*
___**AcadianFlycatcher**
___Alder Flycatcher
___**Willow Flycatcher***
___**Least Flycatcher**
___Eastern Phoebe*
___Great Crested Flycatcher*
___Western Kingbird
___Eastern Kingbird*

___**Loggerhead Shrike**
___Northern Shrike
___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*
___Red-breasted Nuthatch
___White-breasted Nuthatch*
___**Brown Creeper**
___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*
___Brown Thrasher*
___European Starling*
___American Pipit
___Cedar Waxwing*

___Lapland Longspur
___Smith's Longspur
___Snow Bunting

___Ovenbird
___Northern Waterthrush
___**Golden-winged Warbler**
___**Black-and-white Warbler**
___**Prothonotary Warbler**
___Tennessee Warbler
___Orange-crowned Warbler
___Nashville Warbler
___Mourning Warbler
___**Kentucky Warbler**
___Common Yellowthroat*
___American Redstart*
___**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
___Black-throated Green Warbler
___**Canada Warbler**
___Wilson's Warbler

___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

___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

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

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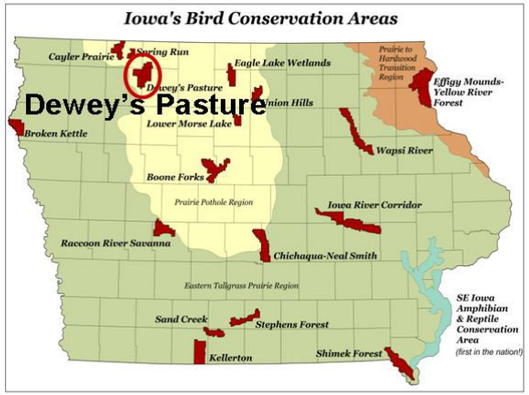
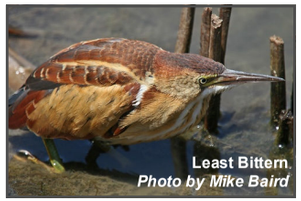
Produced by Natalie Randall, Bruce Ehresman, and Shane Patterson, 2011

Dewey's Pasture

Bird Conservation Area

Clay, Emmet, and Palo Alto Counties




Least Bittern
Photo by Mike Baird

The Dewey's Pasture Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located just east of Spencer, Iowa, and has boundaries lying within Clay, Emmet, and Palo Alto counties. This area, dedicated in 2006, became the 9th BCA in the state of Iowa and its boundaries encompass nearly 79,000 acres. Nearly a quarter of this BCA is grassland, much of which includes pothole wetlands and lowland marshes. This diverse landscape provides habitat to the 236 migratory and breeding bird species listed on this brochure's checklist. Sixty of these birds are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including nesters such as American Bittern, Redhead, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, Sedge Wren, Bobolink, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Records of breeding birds from the first half of the 1900s for Dewey's Pasture indicate there were 100 to 200 nests found annually of both Forster's Tern and Least Bittern, now listed as SGCN. During the 1930s, 30 to 40 King Rail nests were reported annually in the vicinity of Dewey's Pasture, but this SGCN has since declined and are now rarely observed. Historically, the grassy wetlands here also supported nesting populations of

Rusty Blackbird
Photo by Vincent Lucas

Marbled Godwit, which now only pass through during migration. The American Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Nelson's Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird are other SGCN that may be seen in the Dewey's Pasture BCA during migration.

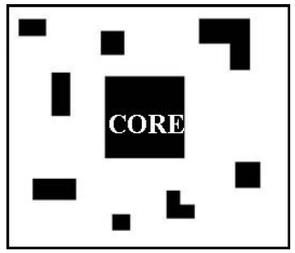
American Golden Plover
Photo by Doug Harr

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.

Grasshopper Sparrow
Photo by Matt Tillett

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.



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

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.

DEWEY'S PASTURE DIVERSITY

PLANTS

Hoary Puccoon
Photo by Jason Sturner

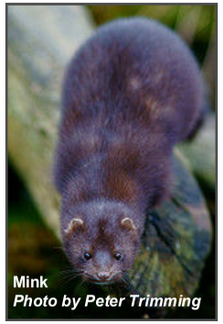
The lakes, marshes, sloughs, and prairies making up the Dewey's Pasture BCA host a variety of colorfully named plant species. While exploring this BCA in the spring, look for Hoary Puccoon, Bastard Toadflax, Porcupine Grass, Prairie Larkspur, and Prairie Turnip (a starchy root Native Americans used in their winter food supply) in upland prairie sites. During mid-summer, Marsh Skullcap, Hedge Nettle, Lacustrine Sedge, Prairie Cord Grass, Hard and Soft Stemmed Bulrush, and Blue Vervain may be found in and along wetland areas. In drier locales, Silver-leaf Scurf Pea and Roundhead Lespedeza can be found blooming at this time.

Blue Vervain
Photo courtesy Neal Smith NWR

ANIMALS

In addition to the varied and numerous bird species that can be seen in the Dewey's Pasture BCA, other wildlife abound here. Mostly restricted to the northwest corner of Iowa, the showy Melissa Blue butterfly can be spotted in upland prairie areas of Dewey's Pasture, as can the vivid Silvery Blue, a SGCN butterfly. Nearer to the marshes, ponds, and small lakes dotting this BCA exist odonate species like the Northern Bluet and Variegated Meadowhawk, as well as the rarer Four-spotted Skimmer and Alkali Bluet, both SGCN. Mink can also be seen slinking around the edges of these water bodies while hunting for Muskrats and Northern Leopard Frogs. Badgers, the larger Iowa cousin of the Mink, feed instead upon Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels and Plains Pocket Gophers in the upland prairie areas. The western subspecies of the Plains Garter Snake may be found taking advantage of plentiful invertebrate and amphibian prey along marsh edges in the Dewey's Pasture BCA.

Melissa Blue
Photo by Aaron Brees


Mink
Photo by Peter Trimming

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 Dewey's Pasture BCA include the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service