Field Checklist for Eagle Lake Wetlands 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
___Ross's Goose
___Cackling Goose
___Canada Goose*
___**Trumpeter Swan***
___Tundra 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
___Red-breasted 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***

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

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

___**Sandhill Crane***
___**Whooping 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
___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***
___Red-necked Phalarope

___Bonaparte's Gull
___Franklin's Gull
___Ring-billed Gull
___Herring 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*
___Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
___**Acadian Flycatcher**
___Alder Flycatcher
___**Willow Flycatcher***
___**Least Flycatcher***
___Eastern Phoebe*
___Great Crested Flycatcher*
___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***

___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*
___Brown Thrasher*

___European Starling*

___American Pipit

___Cedar Waxwing*

___Lapland Longspur
___Smith's Longspur
___Snow Bunting

___Ovenbird
___**Worm-eating Warbler**
___Northern Waterthrush
___**Golden-winged Warbler**
___**Blue-winged Warbler**
___**Black-and-white Warbler**
___**Prothonotary Warbler**
___Tennessee Warbler
___Orange-crowned Warbler
___Nashville 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
___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

___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*
___Pine Siskin
___American Goldfinch*

___House Sparrow*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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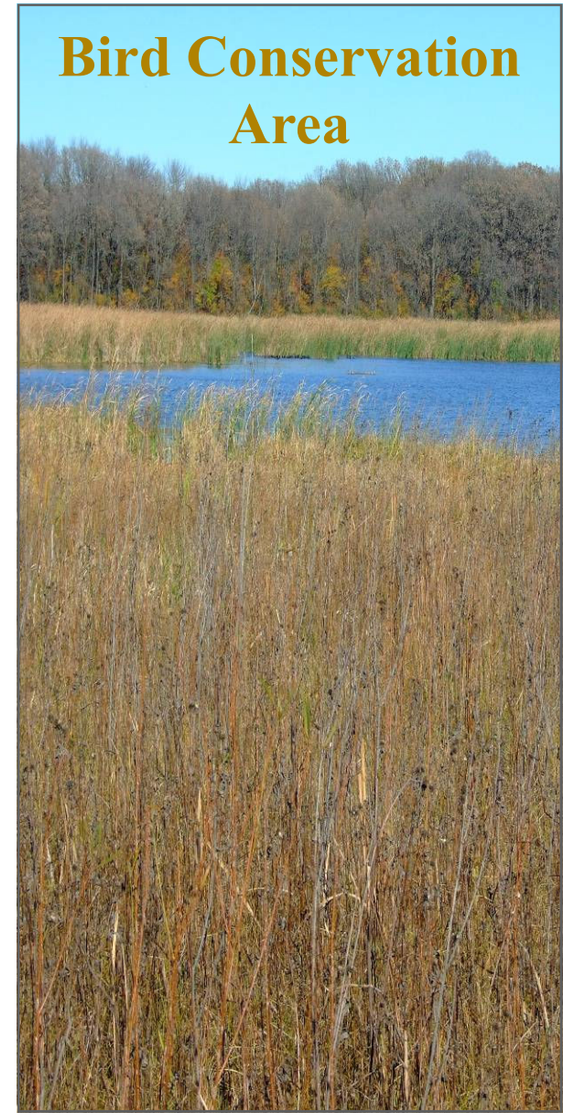
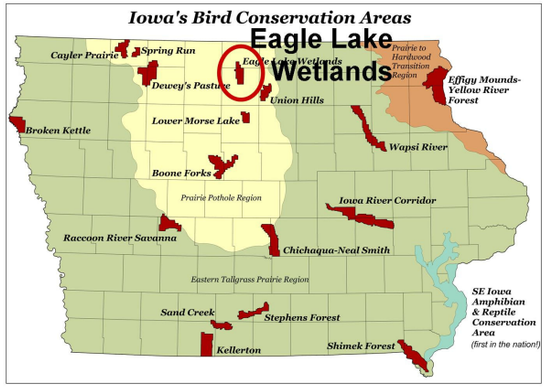
Produced by Natalie Randall, Bruce Ehresman, and Shane Patterson, 2011

Eagle Lake Wetlands

Bird Conservation Area



Hancock and Winnebago Counties



Northern Harrier
Photo by Bruce Ehresman

The Eagle Lake Wetland Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located just west of Forest City in north-central Hancock and south central Winnebago counties. This area, dedicated in 2007, became the 12th BCA in the state of Iowa and its boundaries encompass nearly 38,000 acres. Eagle Lake Wetlands provide important habitat for nesting and migratory grassland and wetland birds, being one of the largest remaining wetland complexes in the state. Northern Harrier, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, and Meadowlarks are just a few of the declining grassland species that find suitable habitat in this prairie pothole region BCA. This BCA also provides nesting and migratory stopover habitat for important wetland species such as Black and Forster's terns, American Bittern, King Rail, Wilson's Phalarope, and Redhead ducks.

Wilson's Phalarope
Photo by Carl Kurtz

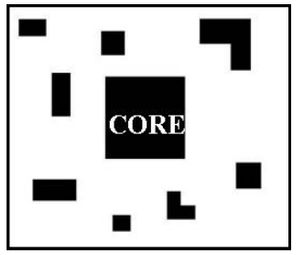
BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

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

Black Tern
Photo by Marie Read

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.

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.

Eagle Lake Wetlands viewing platform
Photo by Doug Harr

EAGLE LAKE WETLANDS DIVERSITY

PLANTS

Marsh Marigold
Photo by Doug Harr

The landscape within the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA includes wet and upland prairies, hemi-marshes, and hardwood forests, resulting in a wide range of flora species one may encounter while birding in this area. During the early spring months, Marsh Marigolds can be found blooming in bunches in wetland areas, followed by Swamp Milkweed in mid-summer, and Riddells' Goldenrod later in the season. In mesic to dry prairie sites, species such as Blue-eyed grass, Rattlesnake Master, and Indian Grass may be found. American Bellflower, Dutchman's Breeches, and Bloodroot are a few species making up the understory of the oak-hickory forests in this BCA.

Rattlesnake Master
Photo by Bill Johnson

ANIMALS

Blue Dasher
Photo by Doug Harr

The heterogeneous landscape of the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species besides birds. Look for the attractive Painted Lady butterfly in open prairie areas, and the Blue Dasher dragonfly along marshy edges. Shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation may harbor the state threatened Blanding's Turtle, as well as provide good amphibian habitat for species such as the Gray Tree Frog. The scat and tracks of Gray Fox may be found while walking through wooded edges in this BCA, or one might catch a glimpse of the animal itself around dawn or dusk. More commonly, one may encounter the Meadow Jumping Mouse, which is often found foraging in low lying prairie meadows. This charismatic creature can be identified by its large hind feet, long tail, and olive-yellow hair coat. If you encounter uncommon or rare species in this BCA, please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program to report your sightings. 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 box.

Blanding's Turtle
Photo by Josh Otten

Gray Fox
Photo by Aaron Brees

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in the creation of the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA include the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Duck's Unlimited, Winnebago and Hancock County Pheasant's Forever, Iowa Ornithologists Union, Iowa Audubon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hancock County Conservation Board, Winnebago County Conservation Board, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.