(continued)

___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

___Sora
___American Coot

___Killdeer*

___Spotted Sandpiper
___**Solitary Sandpiper**
___**Greater Yellowlegs**
___**Lesser Yellowlegs**
___**Upland Sandpiper***
___Semipalmated Sandpiper
___Least Sandpiper
___Pectoral Sandpiper
___Wilson's Snipe
___**American Woodcock***

___Ring-billed Gull

___Rock Pigeon*
___Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___Mourning Dove*

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

___Eastern Screech-Owl*
___Great Horned 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***

___**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***

___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*

___Bohemian Waxwing
___Cedar Waxwing*

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

___**Eastern Towhee***
___American Tree Sparrow
___Chipping 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
___White-throated Sparrow
___Harris's Sparrow
___White-crowned Sparrow
___Dark-eyed Junco

___Summer Tanager*
___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**
___Common Grackle*
___Great-tailed Grackle
___Brown-headed Cowbird*
___Orchard Oriole*
___Baltimore Oriole*

___Purple Finch
___House Finch*
___Pine Siskin
___American Goldfinch*

___House Sparrow*

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Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program

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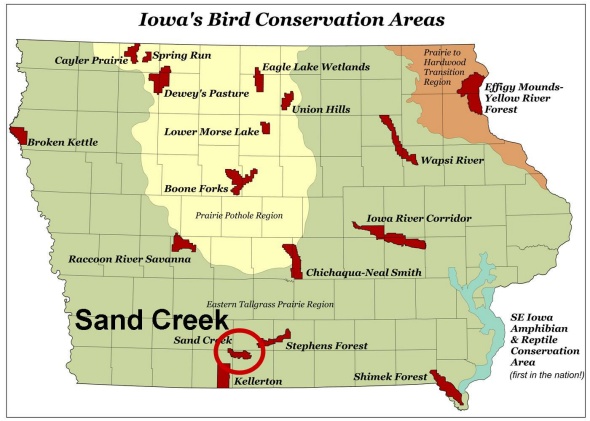
Written by Jenni Dyar, AmeriCorps, 2010
Updated by Natalie Randall, 2012

Sand Creek Woodland Savanna

Bird Conservation Area

Decatur, Ringgold, & Union Counties



Sand Creek Woodland Savanna is the 15th bird conservation area (BCA) to be dedicated in Iowa. Located in Decatur, Ringgold and Union counties, the BCA encompasses more than 30,000 acres. In contrast with the nearby Kellerton BCA which is mostly grassland, nearly 1/3 of the Sand Creek BCA is woodland. Northern Bobwhite, Great Crested Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Lark Sparrow all nest within the BCA.

Great Crested Flycatcher
Photo by Jerry Oldenettel

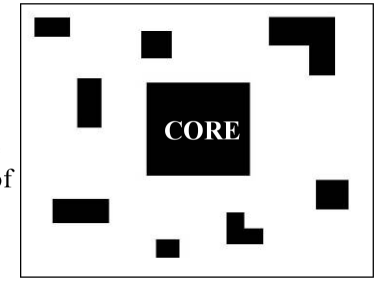
BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

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.

Wood thrush
Photo by P. Slocum

Loggerhead Shrike
Photo by Jenni Dyar

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 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

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global effort initiated by the National Audubon Society to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. Designated IBAs include sites for breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds. By working to identify and implement conservation strategies, the IBA Program hopes to minimize the effects of habitat degradation and loss on birds and other wildlife. All Iowa BCAs are also considered IBAs.

Lark Sparrow
Photo by Linda Tanner

SAND CREEK DIVERSITY

PLANTS

Oak, walnut, hickory, and maple make up most of the canopy, while the ground layer is dominated by grasses, sedges and forbs such as Big and Little Bluestem, Purple Milkweed, Bottle Brush Grass, Pennsylvania Sedge, and Virginia Wild Rye.

ANIMALS

In addition to birds, you can find many interesting animals in the Sand Creek BCA. Bobcats, Coyotes, Red and Gray Fox, various weasels and Mink roam the area. You can also find Smooth Green Snakes, both softshell turtle species, Iowa's critically imperiled Slaty Skimmer dragonfly, and the rare Hayhurst's Scallopwing butterfly.

Bobcat
Photo by Matt Knoth

Smooth Green Snake
Photo by Jeff LeClere

Slaty Skimmer
Photo by Jerry Oldenettel

Field Checklist for Sand Creek 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

___Cackling Goose
___Canada Goose*
___Wood Duck*
___Mallard*
___Blue-winged Teal
___Hooded Merganser
___**Northern Bobwhite***
___Ring-necked Pheasant*
___**Ruffed Grouse**
___Wild Turkey*
___Pied-billed Grebe
___Great Blue Heron*
___Great Egret
___Green Heron*

(continued on back)