

Field Checklist for Soap Creek-Stephens Forest 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**
- ___ 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**
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Hooded Merganser*
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck

- ___ **Northern Bobwhite***
- ___ Ring-necked Pheasant*
- ___ Wild Turkey*

- ___ **Common Loon**
- ___ Pied-billed Grebe*
- ___ Horned 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

- ___ Turkey Vulture*
- ___ Osprey
- ___ Mississippi Kite
- ___ **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
- ___ Golden Eagle
- ___ **Yellow Rail**
- ___ Virginia Rail
- ___ Sora
- ___ American Coot*
- ___ Sandhill Crane

- ___ **Black-bellied Plover**
- ___ **American Golden Plover**
- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Killdeer*
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper*
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ **Lesser Yellowlegs**
- ___ **Upland Sandpiper***
- ___ **Hudsonian Godwit**
- ___ **Marbled Godwit**
- ___ **Stilt Sandpiper**
- ___ Dunlin
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ **White-rumped Sandpiper**
- ___ **Pectoral Sandpiper**
- ___ **Semipalmated Sandpiper**
- ___ **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***

- ___ **Barn Owl**
- ___ **Eastern Screech-Owl***
- ___ Great Horned Owl*
- ___ Snowy Owl
- ___ Barred Owl*
- ___ **Long-eared Owl**
- ___ **Short-eared Owl**
- ___ Northern Saw-Whet Owl

- ___ **Common Nighthawk***
- ___ **Chuck-will's Widow**
- ___ **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
- ___ **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
- ___ House Wren*
- ___ Winter Wren
- ___ **Sedge Wren***
- ___ Marsh Wren
- ___ Carolina Wren*
- ___ **Bewick's 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***
- ___ Northern Mockingbird*
- ___ European Starling*
- ___ American Pipit
- ___ Cedar Waxwing*
- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ **Smith's Longspur**

- ___ 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
- ___ Pine Warbler
- ___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
- ___ Yellow-throated 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**
- ___ 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*
- ___ 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*
- ___ Red Crossbill
- ___ Common Redpoll
- ___ Pine Siskin
- ___ American Goldfinch*
- ___ House Sparrow*



Red-headed Woodpecker photo
by Doug Harr

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



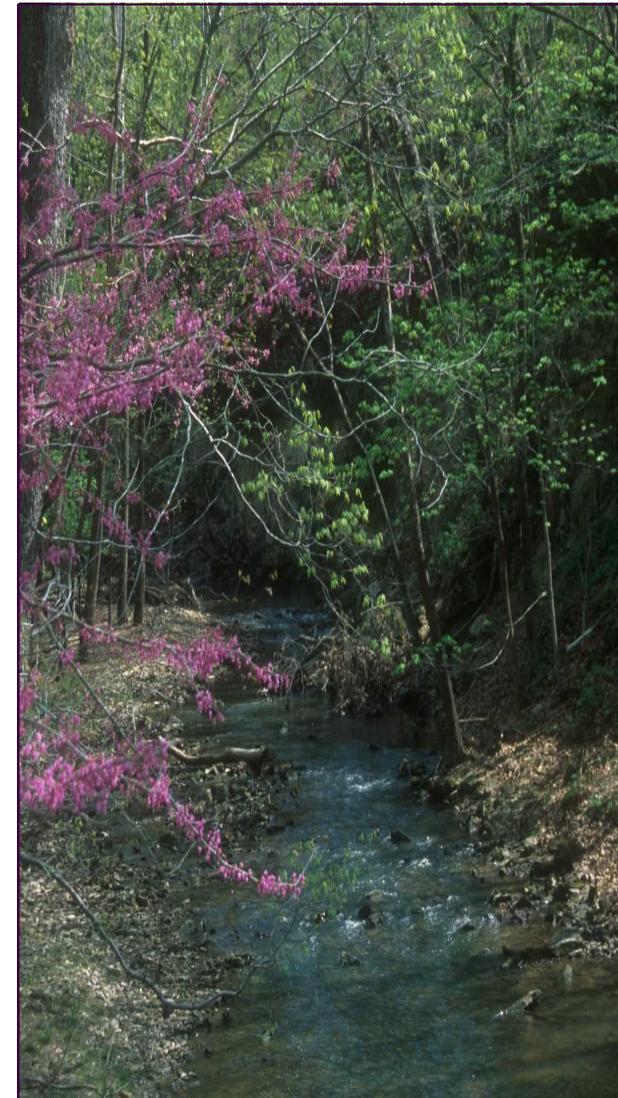
1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036
Phone: (515) 432-2823
Fax: (515) 432-2835



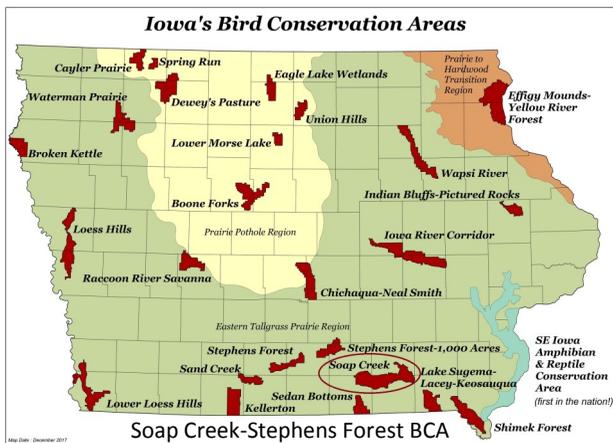
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Produced by: Bruce Ehresman: Wildlife Diversity Bird Biologist & Julia Baker: ISU Research Associate

Soap Creek- Stephens Forest Bird Conservation Area



Wapello, Monroe, Davis, & Appanoose Counties



Dedicated in 2018, the Soap Creek-Stephens Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) occupies a total of 145,886 acres in portions of Wapello, Davis, Appanoose, and Monroe counties. This unique landscape is comprised of



35% grassland, 45% woodland, and 3% aquatic habitat, which supports at least 116 species of nesting birds and a spectacular amount of wildlife diversity. Out of the 256 bird species documented, 88 are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including four state-endangered and two state-threatened species.

The grasslands in this BCA support declining nesting species such as Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Henslow's Sparrow (threatened), Field Sparrow, and Upland Sandpiper. Wooded areas provide key nesting habitat for the Red-shouldered Hawk (endangered), Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and Worm-eating Warbler. Savanna habitat supports the Red-headed Woodpecker and Barn Owl (endangered), Northern Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. Species like the Bell's Vireo, Yellow and Black-billed Cuckoos, Yellow-



Bobolink photo by Doug Harr

breasted Chat, and Loggerhead Shrike prefer shrub habitats, which are also well represented within this BCA. In addition, the diverse habitat in this area provides important stopover locations for migrating woodland species including the Golden-winged, Canada and Bay-breasted warblers, and for wetland birds like Blue-winged Teal, American Woodcock, American Golden Plover, and Lesser Yellowlegs.

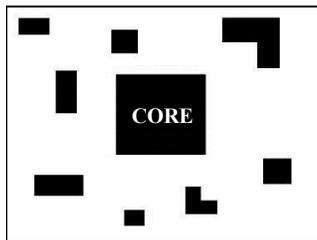


Yellow-breasted Chat photo by Doug Harr

This area is an important part of Iowa's history; it is in the part of the state that was settled earliest by Euro-Americans, who closely interacted with American Indians, inhabitants of this state for thousands of years prior to settlers arriving.

BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

Within the last three 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. The present model BCA encompasses at least 10,000 acres of public and/or private lands with approximately 35 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 also includes a large "core" area of protected high-quality habitat. Surrounding this core are private lands, plus additional public tracts, all managed to provide good bird habitat.



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.

PLANT AND ANIMAL DIVERSITY

PLANTS

This BCA is located within the Southern Iowa Drift Plain which is characterized by wooded river valleys, softly rolling hills, and an abundance of green pastures. With only 14% of the land within the BCA used for row crops, the vast majority of this area is available to support a wide variety of plant diversity, including five state threatened species. In wetter areas it is possible to find the Winged Monkey Flower (threatened), Oval Ladies' Tresses (threatened), and False Hellebore (threatened). The rich black prairie soils support Prairie Blazing Star, Downy Wood Mint (threatened), Virginia Spiderwort, and Eared False Foxglove. Slender Ladies' Tresses (threatened), Broom Sedge, and Little Ladies' Tresses grow in the drier soils. Several species of oak and hickory trees provide most of the woodland over-story, with Bur and White Oak trees providing the main shade for grazing animals in the savanna pastures.



Monarch on Milkweed photo by Ryan Rasmussen

ANIMALS

Many species of wildlife utilize the important existing habitat within this BCA. The Slender Glass Lizard, Smooth Earth Snake, Eastern Hognose Snake, Cricket Frog, Cope's Gray Treefrog, and Smallmouth Salamander are reptile and amphibian SGCN that live in this BCA. The Orangethroat Darter has been documented within



Cope's Gray Treefrog photo by Ryan Rasmussen

the aquatic areas of this BCA. All nine Iowa bat species are found here and can be seen flying at night, catching insects. This includes nursery colonies of the federally endangered Indiana Bat and federally threatened Northern Long-eared Bat. Woodland Voles scurrying about in the forest understory are preyed upon by Gray Foxes, and Southern Flying Squirrels are active in these woodlands at night. Southern Bog Lemmings and Meadow Jumping Mice can be found in grasslands, as can Plains Pocket Gophers and Badgers. A list of Iowa's 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.



Big Brown Bats photo by Carl Kurtz

PARTNERSHIPS

The Soap Creek-Stephens Forest Bird Conservation Area was made possible through partnership among the Wapello and Davis County Conservation Boards, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Local citizens have shown extraordinary support for this BCA, and there are promising opportunities for future collaborative efforts to improve bird habitat and bird appreciation.



Davis County Conservation

