

Field Checklist for Broken Kettle 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

<div><div>Greater White-fronted Goose</div><div>Snow Goose</div><div>Cackling Goose</div><div>Canada Goose*</div><div>Wood Duck*</div><div>Gadwall</div><div>American Wigeon</div><div>Mallard*</div><div>Blue-winged Teal*</div><div>Northern Shoveler*</div><div>Northern Pintail</div><div>Green-winged Teal</div><div>Redhead</div><div>Ring-necked Duck</div><div>Lesser Scaup</div><div>Bufflehead</div><div>Hooded Merganser*</div><div>Common Merganser</div><div>Ruddy Duck</div></div>	<div><div>Virginia Rail</div><div>Sora</div><div>American Coot</div></div> <div><div>Sandhill Crane</div></div> <div><div>Piping Plover</div><div>Killdeer*</div></div> <div><div>Spotted Sandpiper*</div><div>Greater Yellowlegs</div><div>Willet</div><div>Lesser Yellowlegs</div><div>Upland Sandpiper*</div><div>Semipalmated Sandpiper</div><div>Least Sandpiper</div><div>White-rumped Sandpiper</div><div>Baird’s Sandpiper</div><div>Pectoral Sandpiper</div><div>Dunlin</div><div>Wilson’s Snipe</div><div>American Woodcock*</div></div> <div><div>Bonaparte’s Gull</div><div>Franklin’s Gull</div><div>Ring-billed Gull</div><div>Herring Gull</div><div>Least Tern</div><div>Black Tern</div><div>Forster’s Tern</div></div> <div><div>Rock Pigeon*</div><div>Eurasian Collared-Dove*</div><div>Mourning Dove*</div></div> <div><div>Yellow-billed Cuckoo*</div><div>Black-billed Cuckoo*</div></div> <div><div>Barn Owl</div></div> <div><div>Eastern Screech-Owl*</div><div>Great Horned Owl*</div><div>Burrowing Owl</div><div>Barred Owl*</div><div>Long-eared Owl</div><div>Short-eared Owl</div><div>Northern Saw-whet Owl</div></div> <div><div>Common Nighthawk*</div><div>Chuck-will’s-widow</div><div>Eastern Whip-poor-will*</div></div> <div><div>Chimney Swift*</div></div> <div><div>Ruby-throated Hummingbird*</div></div>
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<div><div>Belted Kingfisher*</div></div> <div><div>Red-headed Woodpecker*</div><div>Red-bellied Woodpecker*</div><div>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*</div><div>Downy Woodpecker*</div><div>Hairy Woodpecker*</div><div>Northern Flicker*</div></div> <div><div>American Kestrel*</div><div>Merlin</div></div> <div><div>Olive-sided Flycatcher</div><div>Eastern Wood-Pewee*</div><div>Acadian Flycatcher</div><div>Alder Flycatcher</div><div>Willow Flycatcher*</div><div>Least Flycatcher</div><div>Eastern Phoebe*</div><div>Say’s Phoebe</div><div>Great Crested Flycatcher*</div><div>Western Kingbird*</div><div>Eastern Kingbird*</div></div> <div><div>Loggerhead Shrike*</div><div>Northern Shrike</div></div> <div><div>Bell’s Vireo*</div><div>Yellow-throated Vireo*</div><div>Blue-headed Vireo</div><div>Warbling Vireo*</div><div>Philadelphia Vireo</div><div>Red-eyed Vireo*</div></div> <div><div>Blue Jay*</div><div>Black-billed Magpie*</div><div>American Crow*</div></div> <div><div>Horned Lark*</div></div> <div><div>Purple Martin*</div><div>Tree Swallow*</div><div>Northern Rough-winged Swallow*</div><div>Bank Swallow*</div><div>Cliff Swallow*</div><div>Barn Swallow*</div></div> <div><div>Black-capped Chickadee*</div></div> <div><div>Red-breasted Nuthatch</div><div>White-breasted Nuthatch*</div></div> <div><div>Brown Creeper</div></div> <div><div>House Wren*</div><div>Sedge Wren*</div><div>Marsh Wren*</div><div>Carolina Wren</div></div> <div><div>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*</div><div>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</div></div> <div><div>Eastern Bluebird*</div><div>Veery</div></div>	<div><div>Gray-cheeked Thrush</div><div>Swainson’s Thrush</div><div>Hermit Thrush</div><div>Wood Thrush*</div><div>American Robin*</div></div> <div><div>Gray Catbird*</div><div>Northern Mockingbird*</div><div>Brown Thrasher*</div></div> <div><div>European Starling*</div></div> <div><div>Cedar Waxwing*</div></div> <div><div>Lapland Longspur</div></div> <div><div>Ovenbird*</div><div>Louisiana Waterthrush*</div><div>Northern Waterthrush</div><div>Blue-winged Warbler</div><div>Black-and-White Warbler</div><div>Prothonotary Warbler</div><div>Tennessee Warbler</div><div>Orange-crowned Warbler</div><div>Nashville Warbler</div><div>Mourning Warbler</div><div>Kentucky Warbler*</div><div>Common Yellowthroat*</div><div>American Redstart*</div><div>Cerulean Warbler</div><div>Northern Parula</div><div>Magnolia Warbler</div><div>Yellow Warbler*</div><div>Blackpoll Warbler</div><div>Palm Warbler</div><div>Yellow-rumped Warbler</div><div>Wilson’s Warbler</div><div>Yellow-breasted Chat*</div></div> <div><div>Spotted Towhee</div><div>Eastern Towhee*</div><div>American Tree Sparrow</div><div>Chipping Sparrow*</div><div>Clay-colored Sparrow*</div><div>Field Sparrow*</div><div>Vesper Sparrow*</div><div>Lark Sparrow*</div><div>Lark Bunting</div><div>Savannah Sparrow*</div><div>Grasshopper Sparrow*</div><div>Henslow’s Sparrow</div><div>Le Conte’s Sparrow</div><div>Nelson’s Sparrow</div><div>Fox Sparrow</div><div>Song Sparrow*</div><div>Lincoln’s Sparrow</div><div>Swamp Sparrow</div><div>White-throated Sparrow</div><div>Harris’s Sparrow</div><div>White-crowned Sparrow</div><div>Dark-eyed Junco</div></div> <div><div>Summer Tanager*</div><div>Scarlet Tanager*</div><div>Northern Cardinal*</div><div>Rose-breasted Grosbeak*</div></div>
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<div><div>Blue Grosbeak*</div><div>Lazuli Bunting</div><div>Indigo Bunting*</div><div>Dickcissel*</div></div> <div><div>Bobolink*</div><div>Red-winged Blackbird*</div><div>Eastern Meadowlark*</div><div>Western Meadowlark*</div><div>Yellow-headed Blackbird</div><div>Rusty Blackbird</div></div>	<div><div>Common Grackle*</div><div>Great-tailed Grackle</div><div>Brown-headed Cowbird*</div><div>Orchard Oriole*</div><div>Baltimore Oriole*</div></div> <div><div>House Finch*</div><div>Purple Finch</div><div>Pine Siskin</div><div>American Goldfinch*</div></div>
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Bobolink
Photo by Carl Kurtz



The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™
nature.org

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Written by Jenni Dyar, AmeriCorps, 2009

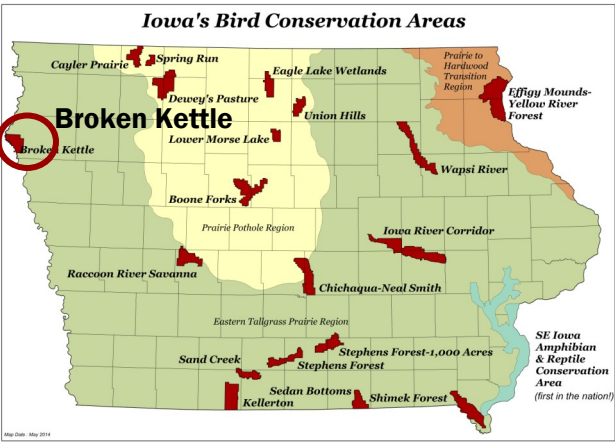
Updated by Natalie Randall, 2012 & Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014

Broken Kettle Grasslands

Bird Conservation Area



Plymouth County



The Broken Kettle Grasslands Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located in the northern portion of Loess Hills of western Iowa. Its 24,500 acres contain the largest remaining contiguous prairie tracts in Iowa. Much of the land is managed by The Nature Conservancy, and the BCA provides prime habitat for such grassland bird species as the Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Kingbird, and Upland Sandpiper. This unique region plays host to Iowa’s only population of Black-billed Magpies. An eye-catching bird common in the mountain west, the Magpie is known for its gregarious behavior and massive, domed nests. Recent research has indicated that these birds had a historical association with Bison, a captive population of which now roams the Broken Kettle Grasslands.

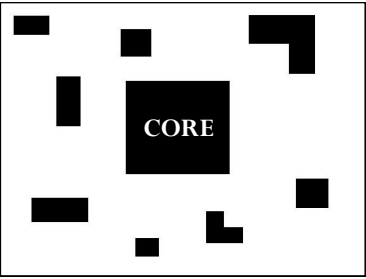


Black-billed Magpie
Photo by Dan Dzurisin

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. 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 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 habitat protected for birds;

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.

IOWA’S LOESS HILLS

Loess (pronounced “luss”) is a German word meaning “loose,” and it is used to describe a type of soil. Loess deposits are made up of fine, yellowish-gray, clay-like sediment and are often found at the edges of large river basins. Loess deposits are common in the Midwest; it’s what helps make our land so rich for farming. The Loess Hills of Iowa are unique in their depth of loess; only deposits near the Yellow River in China are greater than the 100-200 foot depths found in Iowa’s Loess Hills.



Photo by Roger Hill

BROKEN KETTLE DIVERSITY

Tallgrass prairie historically covered 25 million acres across parts of Iowa and Minnesota. Today, less than one percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains. At Broken Kettle Grasslands, extensive prairie ridgetops support a variety of plants and animals typically found further west in the Great Plains, such as the Yucca Plant and Prairie Rattlesnake. In fact, you will not find the Prairie Rattlesnake any further east in North America than Iowa’s Loess Hills.



Le Conte's Sparrow
Photo: Ashley Messina

PLANTS

Plant life at Broken Kettle includes Big Bluestem, Silky Aster, Ground Plum, Downy Painted Cup, Purple Coneflower, Snow-on-the-mountain, Dotted Blazing Star, Ten-petaled Mentzelia, Purple Locoweed, Pasque Flower, Bur Oak, Tumblegrass, Lead Plant, Little Bluestem, Buffalo Berry, and Scarlet Globe Mallow.



Springwater Dancer
Photo: Ryan Rassmussen

ANIMALS

In addition to birds, there are many interesting animals living in Broken Kettle. Badgers and Coyote can be found here, and a herd of Bison have also been reintroduced. Herpetiles in the area include the Great Plains Toad, Spadefoot, and Prairie Rattlesnake. Several prairie butterfly species of special concern are here, too, such as the Dusted Skipper, Regal Fritillary, and Ottoo and Pawnee Skippers.

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.



Regal Fritillary



Prairie Rattlesnake



Plains Spadefoot
Photo by Jeff LeClere

PARTNERSHIPS

The Broken Kettle Bird Conservation Area was made possible due to a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Plymouth County Conservation Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Iowa Audubon, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Department of Natural Resources.

