

Bird Checklist for Cayler Prairie

* = likely or confirmed 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	___ Cooper's Hawk*
___ Snow Goose	___ Northern Goshawk
___ Ross's Goose	___ Broad-winged Hawk
___ Cackling Goose	___ Swainson's Hawk
___ Canada Goose*	___ Red-tailed Hawk*
___ Trumpeter Swan*	___ Rough-legged Hawk
___ Wood Duck*	___ Yellow Rail
___ Gadwall*	___ Virginia Rail*
___ American Wigeon	___ Sora*
___ American Black Duck	___ Common Gallinule*
___ Mallard*	___ American Coot*
___ Blue-winged Teal*	___ Sandhill Crane
___ Northern Shoveler*	___ Black-bellied Plover
___ Northern Pintail*	___ American Golden-Plover
___ Green-winged Teal*	___ Semipalmated Plover
___ Canvasback	___ Killdeer*
___ Redhead*	___ American Avocet
___ Ring-necked Duck*	___ Spotted Sandpiper*
___ Greater Scaup	___ Solitary Sandpiper
___ Lesser Scaup*	___ Greater Yellowlegs
___ Bufflehead	___ Willet
___ Common Goldeneye	___ Lesser Yellowlegs
___ Hooded Merganser*	___ Upland Sandpiper*
___ Common Merganser	___ Hudsonian Godwit
___ Red-breasted Merganser	___ Marbled Godwit
___ Ruddy Duck*	___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
___ Gray Partridge*	___ Western Sandpiper
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	___ Least Sandpiper
___ Wild Turkey*	___ White-rumped Sandpiper
___ Common Loon	___ Baird's Sandpiper
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	___ Pectoral Sandpiper
___ Horned Grebe	___ Stilt Sandpiper
___ Red-necked Grebe*	___ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
___ Eared Grebe*	___ Short-billed Dowitcher
___ Western Grebe*	___ Long-billed Dowitcher
___ American White Pelican	___ Wilson's Snipe
___ Double-crested Cormorant	___ American Woodcock
___ American Bittern*	___ Wilson's Phalarope
___ Least Bittern*	___ Franklin's Gull
___ Great Blue Heron*	___ Ring-billed Gull
___ Great Egret	___ Herring Gull
___ Cattle Egret	___ Caspian Tern
___ Green Heron*	___ Black Tern*
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	___ Common Tern
___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	___ Forster's Tern*
___ White-faced Ibis*	___ Rock Pigeon*
___ Turkey Vulture*	___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___ Osprey*	___ Mourning Dove*
___ Bald Eagle*	___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
___ Northern Harrier*	___ Black-billed Cuckoo*
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	___ Eastern Screech-Owl*
	___ Great Horned Owl*
	___ Burrowing Owl

___ Snowy Owl	___ Carolina Wren
___ Barred Owl*	___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*
___ Long-eared Owl	___ Golden-crowned Kinglet
___ Short-eared Owl	___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
___ Northern Saw-whet Owl	___ Eastern Bluebird*
___ Common Nighthawk*	___ Veery
___ Eastern Whip-poor-will	___ Gray-cheeked Thrush
___ Chimney Swift*	___ Swainson's Thrush
___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	___ Hermit Thrush
___ Belted Kingfisher*	___ Wood Thrush
___ Red-headed Woodpecker*	___ American Robin*
___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*	___ Gray Catbird*
___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	___ Brown Thrasher*
___ Downy Woodpecker*	___ European Starling*
___ Hairy Woodpecker*	___ American Pipit
___ Northern Flicker*	___ Cedar Waxwing*
___ Pileated Woodpecker	___ Lapland Longspur
___ American Kestrel*	___ Smith's Longspur
___ Merlin	___ Snow Bunting
___ Peregrine Falcon	___ Ovenbird*
___ Olive-sided Flycatcher	___ Northern Waterthrush
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	___ Blue-winged Warbler
___ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	___ Black-and-white Warbler
___ Acadian Flycatcher	___ Prothonotary Warbler
___ Alder Flycatcher	___ Tennessee Warbler
___ Willow Flycatcher*	___ Orange-crowned Warbler
___ Least Flycatcher	___ Nashville Warbler
___ Eastern Phoebe*	___ Mourning Warbler
___ Say's Phoebe	___ Common Yellowthroat*
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	___ American Redstart*
___ Western Kingbird	___ Cerulean Warbler
___ Eastern Kingbird*	___ Northern Parula
___ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	___ Magnolia Warbler
___ Loggerhead Shrike	___ Bay-breasted Warbler
___ Northern Shrike	___ Blackburnian Warbler
___ White-eyed Vireo	___ Yellow Warbler*
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	___ Chestnut-sided Warbler
___ Blue-headed Vireo	___ Blackpoll Warbler
___ Warbling Vireo*	___ Palm Warbler
___ Philadelphia Vireo	___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	___ Yellow-throated Warbler
___ Blue Jay*	___ Black-throated Green Warbler
___ American Crow*	___ Wilson's Warbler
___ Horned Lark*	___ Eastern Towhee*
___ Purple Martin*	___ American Tree Sparrow
___ Tree Swallow*	___ Chipping Sparrow*
___ N. Rough-winged Swallow*	___ Clay-colored Sparrow*
___ Bank Swallow*	___ Field Sparrow*
___ Cliff Swallow*	___ Vesper Sparrow*
___ Barn Swallow*	___ Lark Sparrow*
___ Black-capped Chickadee*	___ Savanna Sparrow*
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	___ Grasshopper Sparrow*
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	___ Henslow's Sparrow*
___ Brown Creeper	___ Fox Sparrow
___ House Wren*	___ Song Sparrow*
___ Winter Wren	___ Lincoln's Sparrow
___ Sedge Wren*	___ Swamp Sparrow*
___ Marsh Wren*	___ White-throated Sparrow
	___ Harris's Sparrow
	___ White-crowned Sparrow
	___ Dark-eyed Junco

___ Scarlet Tanager*	___ Brewer's Blackbird
___ Northern Cardinal*	___ Common Grackle*
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	___ Great-tailed Grackle*
___ Blue Grosbeak*	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
___ Indigo Bunting*	___ Orchard Oriole*
___ Dickcissel*	___ Baltimore Oriole*
___ Bobolink*	___ Purple Finch
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	___ House Finch*
___ Eastern Meadowlark*	___ Pine Siskin
___ Western Meadowlark*	___ American Goldfinch*
___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*	___ House Sparrow*
___ Rusty Blackbird	



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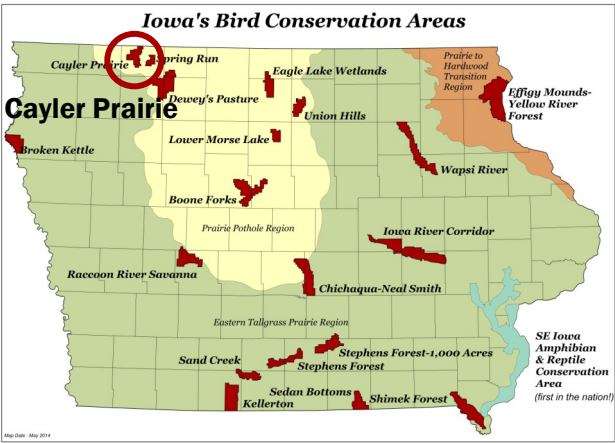
Cayler Prairie

Bird Conservation Area

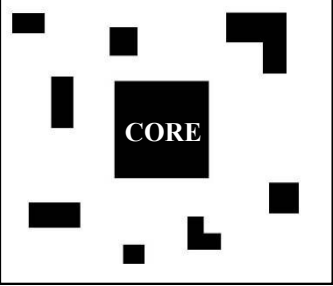
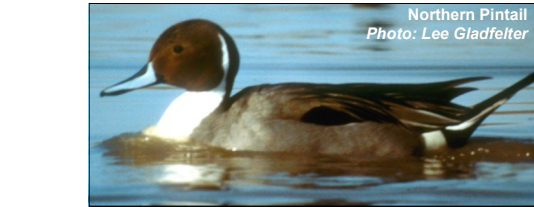


Photo by Doug Harr

Dickinson County



The Cayler Prairie Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located west of Okoboji and Spirit lakes in Dickinson County and is focused on conservation for grassland birds. This BCA contains over 37,000 acres of habitat and is the 17th created in the state of Iowa. It is the first BCA centered on a State Preserve and is the second BCA (the first being Dewey’s Pasture) to double as a National Natural Landmark. Containing both public and private land, this BCA provides a diversity of habitat for both nesting and migratory birds. The Cayler Prairie BCA is unique in that its landcover is 37% grassland. Large blocks of grassland are essential for declining nesting grassland birds, such as Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Bobolink, Dickcissel, Upland Sandpiper, Sedge Wren and the Iowa endangered Northern Harrier. Other declining grassland nesting birds that will benefit from improved habitat includes game species like the Ring-necked Pheasant and Northern Pintail.



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

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.



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BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

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.



CAYLER PRAIRIE DIVERSITY

PLANTS

The gradient from upland to lowland prairie and the rocky, irregular landscape—resulting from this area’s history as land that was once covered by glacial ice—yield a diverse mix of plant life throughout the Cayler Prairie BCA. Potholes and moist prairie exhibit species such as Arrowhead and Fringed Loosestrife, and common species in the upland prairies include Blazing Star, Prairie Rose, Lead Plant, and Gray-headed Cone-flower. This BCA is also an important location for the threatened Prairie Bush Clover.

ANIMALS

The grassland habitat throughout the Cayler Prairie BCA supports a diversity of wildlife, in addition to the many bird species found here. The area is home to 43 species of butterflies, including two species of special concern—the Regal Fritillary and Powesheik Skipperling—and many species of dragonflies and damselflies including the Sedge Sprite, Plains Clubtail, and Rainbow Bluet. Reptiles and amphibians



that may be found within the BCA’s boundary include Blanding’s Turtles, Northern Prairie Skinks, Tiger Salamanders, Gray Tree Frogs, and Northern Leopard Frogs. Small mammals such as Prairie Voles, shrews, and the Northern Grasshopper Mouse inhabit much of the grassland, along with American Badgers and White-tailed Jackrabbits.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Cayler Prairie Bird Conservation Area was created thanks to a partnership between the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Dickinson County Conservation Board, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

