

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

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


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



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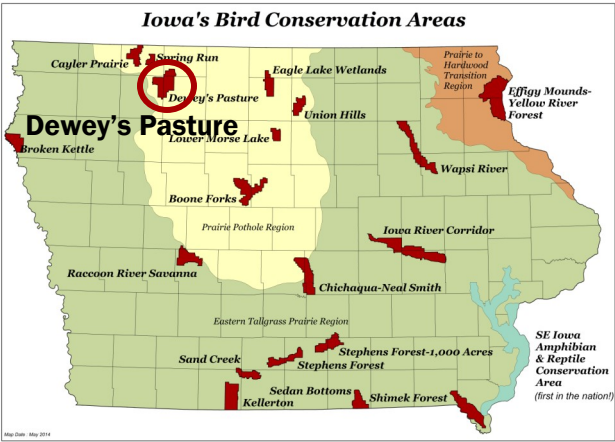


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**Dewey’s Pasture**  
**Bird Conservation Area**  
**Clay, Emmet, and Palo Alto Counties**





The Dewey’s Pasture Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located just east of Spencer, Iowa, and has boundaries lying within Clay, Emmet, and Palo Alto counties. This area, dedicated in 2006, became the 9th BCA in the state of Iowa and its boundaries encompass nearly 79,000 acres. Nearly a quarter of this BCA is grassland, much



of which includes pothole wetlands and lowland marshes. This diverse landscape provides habitat to the 236 migratory and breeding bird species listed on this brochure’s checklist. Sixty of these birds are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including nesters such as American Bittern, Redhead, Northern Harrier, Black Tern, Sedge Wren, Bobolink, and Grasshopper Sparrow. Records of breeding birds from the first half of the 1900s for Dewey’s Pasture indicate there were 100 to 200 nests found annually of both Forster’s Tern and Least Bittern, now listed as SGCN. During the 1930s, 30 to 40 King Rail nests were reported annually in the vicinity of Dewey’s Pasture, but this SGCN has since declined and are now rarely observed. Historically, the grassy wetlands here



also supported nesting populations of Marbled Godwit, which now only pass through during migration. The American Golden Plover, Hudsonian Godwit, Nelson’s Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird are other SGCN that may be seen in the Dewey’s Pasture BCA during migration.

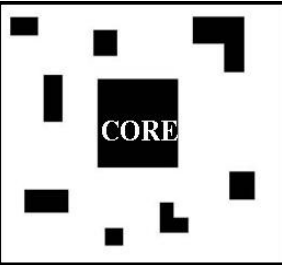


**BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS**

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 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.

**DEWEY’S PASTURE DIVERSITY**

**PLANTS**

The lakes, marshes, sloughs, and prairies making up the Dewey’s Pasture BCA host a variety of colorfully named plant species. While exploring this BCA in the spring, look for Hoary Puccoon, Bastard Toadflax, Porcupine Grass, Prairie Larkspur, and Prairie Turnip (a starchy root Native Americans used in their winter food supply) in upland prairie sites. During mid-summer, Marsh Skullcap, Hedge Nettle, Lacustrine Sedge, Prairie Cord Grass, Hard and Soft Stemmed Bulrush, and Blue Vervain may be found in and along wetland areas. In drier locales, Silver-leaf Scurf Pea and Roundhead Lespedeza can be found blooming at this time.



**ANIMALS**

In addition to the varied and numerous bird species that can be seen in the Dewey’s Pasture BCA, other wildlife abound here. Mostly restricted to the northwest corner of Iowa, the showy Silvery Blue butterfly (A GCN species) can be spotted in upland prairie areas of Dewey’s Pasture. Nearer to the marshes, ponds, and small lakes dotting this BCA exist dragonflies and damselflies like the Northern Bluet and Variegated Meadowhawk, as well as the rarer Four-spotted Skimmer and Alkali Bluet, both SGCN. Mink can also be seen slinking around the edges of these water bodies while hunting for Muskrats and



Northern Leopard Frogs. Badgers, the larger Iowa cousin of the Mink, feed instead upon Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels and Plains Pocket Gophers in the upland prairie areas. The western subspecies of the Plains Garter Snake may be found taking advantage of plentiful invertebrate and amphibian prey along marsh edges in the Dewey’s Pasture BCA.



A list of Iowa’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://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.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

Partners in the creation of the Dewey’s Pasture BCA include the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Clay, Emmet and Palo Alto County Conservation Boards, Iowa Audubon, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

