

Field Checklist for Eagle Lake Wetlands 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	___ Broad-winged Hawk
___ Snow Goose	___ Swainson's Hawk
___ Ross's Goose	___ Red-tailed Hawk*
___ Cackling Goose	___ Rough-legged Hawk
___ Canada Goose*	
___ Trumpeter Swan*	___ King Rail
___ Tundra Swan	___ Virginia Rail*
___ Wood Duck*	___ Sora*
___ Gadwall*	___ Common Gallinule*
___ American Wigeon	___ American Coot*
___ American Black Duck	
___ Mallard*	___ Sandhill Crane*
___ Blue-winged Teal*	___ Whooping 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
	___ Least Sandpiper
___ Gray Partridge*	___ White-rumped Sandpiper
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	___ Baird's Sandpiper
___ Wild Turkey*	___ Pectoral Sandpiper
	___ Dunlin
___ Common Loon	___ Short-billed Dowitcher
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	___ Long-billed Dowitcher
___ Red-necked Grebe*	___ Wilson's Snipe
___ Eared Grebe*	___ American Woodcock*
___ Western Grebe*	___ Wilson's Phalarope*
	___ Red-necked Phalarope
___ Double-crested Cormorant*	___ Bonaparte's Gull
___ American White Pelican	___ Franklin's Gull
	___ Ring-billed Gull
___ American Bittern*	___ Herring Gull
___ Least Bittern*	
___ Great Blue Heron*	___ Caspian Tern
___ Great Egret*	___ Black Tern*
___ Cattle Egret	___ Common Tern
___ Green Heron*	___ Forster's Tern*
___ Black-crowned Night-Heron*	
	___ Rock Pigeon*
___ Turkey Vulture*	___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___ Osprey	___ Mourning Dove*
___ Bald Eagle*	
___ Northern Harrier*	___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	___ Black-billed Cuckoo*
___ Cooper's Hawk*	
___ Northern Goshawk	___ Eastern Screech-Owl*
___ Red-shouldered Hawk	

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

___ Vesper Sparrow*	___ Dickcissel*
___ Lark Sparrow*	___ Bobolink*
___ Savannah Sparrow*	___ Red-winged Blackbird*
___ Grasshopper Sparrow*	___ Eastern Meadowlark*
___ Henslow's Sparrow*	___ Western Meadowlark*
___ Le Conte's Sparrow	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*
___ Nelson's Sparrow	___ Rusty Blackbird
___ Fox Sparrow	___ Brewer's Blackbird
___ Song Sparrow*	___ Common Grackle*
___ Lincoln's Sparrow	___ Great-tailed Grackle*
___ Swamp Sparrow*	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
___ White-throated Sparrow	___ Orchard Oriole*
___ Harris's Sparrow	___ Baltimore Oriole*
___ White-crowned Sparrow	
___ Dark-eyed Junco	___ Purple Finch
	___ House Finch*
___ Summer Tanager	___ Pine Siskin
___ Scarlet Tanager*	___ American Goldfinch*
___ Northern Cardinal*	
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	___ House Sparrow*
___ Indigo Bunting*	



Gray Tree Frog
Photo by Josh Offen

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



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



Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

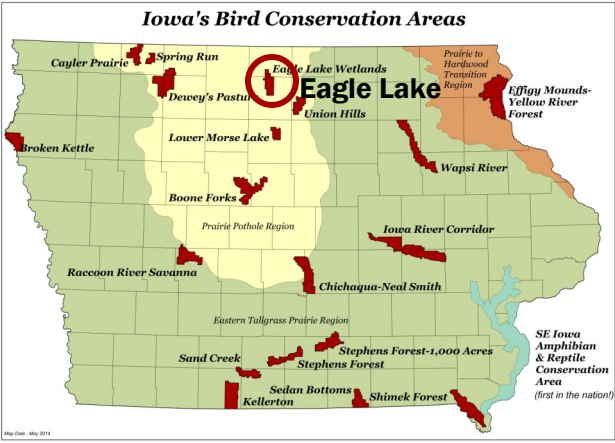
Produced by Natalie Randall, Bruce Ehresman, and Shane Patterson, AmeriCorps, 2011. Updated by Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014.



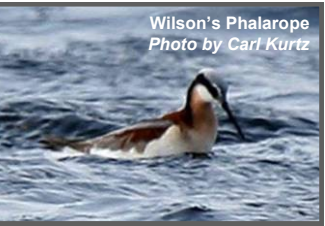
Eagle Lake
Wetlands

Bird Conservation
Area

Hancock and
Winnebago Counties



The Eagle Lake Wetland Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located just west of Forest City in north-central Hancock and south central Winnebago counties. This area, dedicated in 2007, became the 12th BCA in the state of Iowa and its boundaries encompass nearly 38,000 acres. Eagle Lake Wetlands provide important habitat for nesting and migratory grassland and wetland birds, and it is one of the largest remaining wetland complexes in the state. Northern Harrier, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, and Meadowlarks are



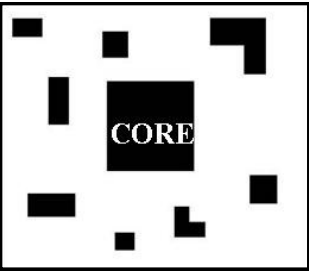
wetland species such as Black and Forster's terns, American Bittern, King Rail, Wilson's Phalarope, and Redhead ducks.

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.



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.



EAGLE LAKE WETLANDS DIVERSITY

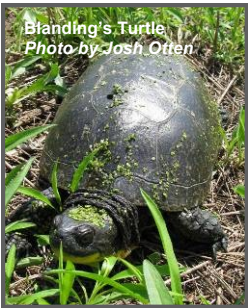
PLANTS

The landscape within the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA includes wet and upland prairies, hemi-marshes, and savannas, resulting in a wide range of flora species one may encounter while birding in this area. During the early spring months, Marsh Marigolds can be found blooming in bunches in wetland areas, followed by Swamp Milkweed in mid-summer, and Riddells' Goldenrod later in the season. In mesic to dry prairie sites, species such as Blue-eyed grass, Rattlesnake Master, and Indian Grass may be found. American Bellflower, Dutchman's Breeches, and Bloodroot are a few species making up the understory of the oak-hickory forests in this BCA.



ANIMALS

The heterogeneous landscape of the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA also provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species besides birds. Look for the attractive Painted Lady butterfly in open prairie areas, and the Blue Dasher dragonfly along marshy edges. Shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation may harbor the state threatened Blanding's Turtle, as well as provide good amphibian habitat for species such as the Cope's and Eastern Gray Tree Frogs. The scat and tracks of Gray Fox may be found while walking through wooded edges in this BCA, or one might catch a glimpse of the animal itself around dawn or dusk. More commonly, one may encounter the Meadow Jumping Mouse, which is often found foraging in low lying prairie meadows. This charismatic creature can be



identified by its large hind feet, long tail, and olive-yellow hair coat. If you encounter uncommon or rare species in this BCA, please contact the Wildlife Diversity Program to report your sightings. 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 box.



PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in the creation of the Eagle Lake Wetlands BCA include the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Duck's Unlimited, Winnebago and Hancock County Pheasant's Forever, Iowa Ornithologists Union, Iowa Audubon, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hancock County Conservation Board, Winnebago County Conservation Board, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

