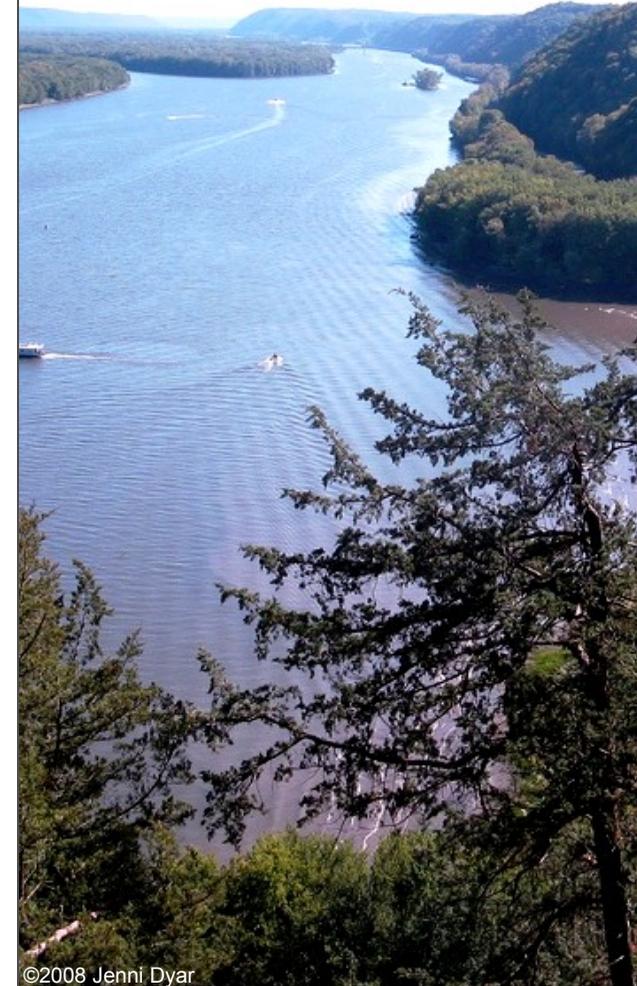


Effigy Mounds- Yellow River Forest

Bird Conservation Area & Audubon Globally Important Bird Area



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Clayton and Allamakee Counties

- ___ Hooded Merganser*
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Red-breasted Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck
- ___ **Northern Bobwhite***
- ___ Gray Partridge*
- ___ Ring-necked Pheasant*
- ___ **Ruffed Grouse***
- ___ Wild Turkey*
- ___ Common Loon
- ___ Pied-billed Grebe*
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ Red-necked Grebe
- ___ Eared Grebe
- ___ **American White Pelican**
- ___ Double-crested Cormorant*
- ___ **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
- ___ **King Rail**
- ___ Virginia Rail*
- ___ Sora*
- ___ Common Gallinule
- ___ 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**
- ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ White-rumped Sandpiper
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ___ Dunlin
- ___ **Stilt Sandpiper**
- ___ **Short-billed Dowitcher**
- ___ Long-billed Dowitcher
- ___ Wilson's Snipe*
- ___ **American Woodcock***
- ___ **Wilson's Phalarope**
- ___ Franklin's Gull
- ___ Bonaparte's Gull
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ Herring Gull
- ___ Thayer's Gull
- ___ Caspian Tern
- ___ **Black Tern**
- ___ Common 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***
- ___ **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*
- ___ N. Rough-winged Swallow*
- ___ Bank Swallow*
- ___ Cliff Swallow*
- ___ Barn Swallow*
- ___ Black-capped Chickadee*
- ___ Tufted Titmouse*
- ___ Red-breasted Nuthatch
- ___ White-breasted Nuthatch*
- ___ **Brown Creeper***
- ___ Carolina Wren*
- ___ House Wren*
- ___ Winter Wren*
- ___ **Sedge Wren***
- ___ Marsh Wren*
- ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*
- ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- ___ Eastern Bluebird*
- ___ **Veery***
- ___ Gray-cheeked Thrush
- ___ Swainson's Thrush
- ___ Hermit Thrush
- ___ **Hairy Woodpecker***
- ___ **Wood Thrush***
- ___ American Robin*
- ___ Gray Catbird*
- ___ **Northern Mockingbird***
- ___ Brown Thrasher*
- ___ European Starling*
- ___ American Pipit
- ___ Bohemian Waxwing
- ___ Cedar Waxwing*
- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ Snow Bunting
- ___ 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**
- ___ 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*
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
- ___ Orchard Oriole*
- ___ Baltimore Oriole*
- ___ Purple Finch
- ___ House Finch*
- ___ White-winged Crossbill
- ___ Red Crossbill
- ___ Common Redpoll
- ___ Pine Siskin*
- ___ American Goldfinch*
- ___ House Sparrow*



Scarlet Tanager
Photo by Lowell Washburn

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

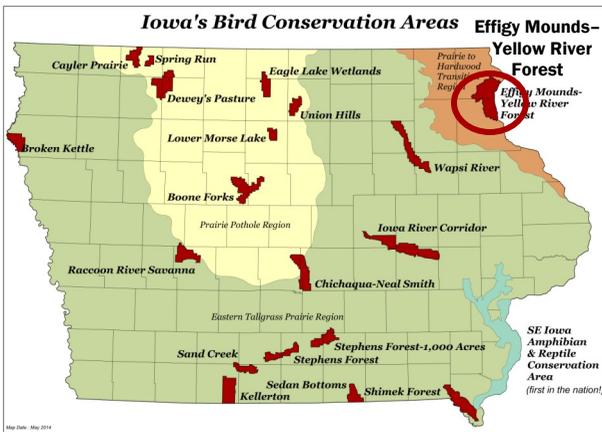


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Written by Jenni Dyar, AmeriCorps, 2009
Updated by Natalie Randall, 2012 and Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014



Located along the Upper Mississippi River in Clayton and Allamakee counties, the Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) was dedicated in July 2003. Also designated as a Globally Important Bird Area, due to the abundance of a Species of Global Conservation Concern, the Cerulean Warbler, this BCA totals 135,000 acres and contains the largest unfragmented forest remaining in Iowa. Every species of warbler regularly seen in Iowa can be found in this BCA, making it an ideal place for spring and fall birding. Peregrine Falcons are once again nesting in the cliffs along the river, and the state-endangered Red-shouldered Hawk also nests within the BCA.

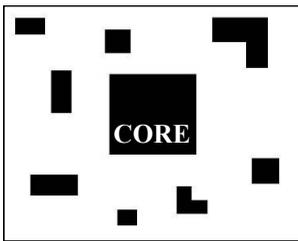


Cerulean Warbler
Photo by Stuart Tingley

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



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

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

The 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. By working to identify and implement conservation strategies, the IBA Program hopes to minimize the effects of habitat degradation and loss of birds and other wildlife.

EFFIGY MOUNDS-YELLOW RIVER FOREST DIVERSITY



Peregrine Falcon
Photo by Lowell Washburn

The Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest BCA is part of a region called the Driftless Area. Bypassed by the last continental glacier, which flattened much of the Midwest and left behind large deposits of soil and rock (or “drift”), this area remains steep and rugged. Encompassing more than 24,000 square miles in



Red-shouldered Hawk
Photo by Marlene Ehresman

Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa, the Driftless Area is a unique natural resource treasure that supports a wide variety of plants and animals.

PLANTS

The area is mostly wooded, and common tree species include oaks, maples, ash, basswood, elms, and hickory.

Jeweled Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon amethystinum*), a state-endangered species, is found in the forest. Prairie species such as Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Prickly Pear can be found on dry bluff tops, rock outcroppings, and steep slopes that face south and west.



Jeweled Shooting Star
Photo by Peter Gorman

ANIMALS

Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest BCA is home to White-tailed Deer, Red and Gray Fox, Bobcat, Coyote, Beaver, Woodchuck, Muskrat, Raccoon, Fox Squirrels, Cottontail Rabbits, Virginia Opossum, and other small mammals. Notable amphibians and reptiles in the area include the Five-lined Skink, Pickerel Frog, and Black Rat Snake. Unique invertebrates can also be found within the BCA, including dragonflies like the Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) Canada Darner and Stygian Shadowdragon, and SGCN butterflies including the Common Roadside-Skipper and Sleepy Duskywing.



Black Rat Snake
Photo by Matt Reinbold

A list of Iowa’s Species of Greatest Conservation Need 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.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Effigy Mounds– Yellow River Forest Bird Conservation area was created thanks to a partnership between the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Audubon, the National Audubon Society, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Allamakee and Clayton County Conservation Boards, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Nature Conservancy.



Bird List for Effigy Mounds-Yellow River Forest

* = 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 | ___ Northern Shoveler |
| ___ Snow Goose | ___ Northern Pintail |
| ___ Ross’s Goose | ___ Green-winged Teal |
| ___ Cackling Goose | ___ Canvasback |
| ___ Canada Goose* | ___ Redhead |
| ___ Mute Swan | ___ Ring-necked Duck |
| ___ Trumpeter Swan* | ___ Greater Scaup |
| ___ Tundra Swan | ___ Lesser Scaup |
| ___ Wood Duck* | ___ Surf Scoter |
| ___ Gadwall | ___ White-winged Scoter |
| ___ American Wigeon | ___ Black Scoter |
| ___ American Black Duck | ___ Long-tailed Duck |
| ___ Mallard* | ___ Bufflehead |
| ___ Blue-winged Teal* | ___ Common Goldeneye |