

Field Checklist for Sand Creek 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**

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose | <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Pigeon* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose | <input type="checkbox"/> Eurasian Collared-Dove* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose* | <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck* | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-billed Cuckoo* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-billed Cuckoo* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard* | <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal* | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Screech-Owl* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Horned Owl* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck | <input type="checkbox"/> Barred Owl* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-eared Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Bobwhite* | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Saw-whet Owl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Pheasant* | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Nighthawk* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruffed Grouse* | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Whip-poor-will* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Turkey* | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney Swift* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pied-billed Grebe | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-throated Hummingbird* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Blue Heron* | <input type="checkbox"/> Belted Kingfisher* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Egret | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-headed Woodpecker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Heron* | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-bellied Woodpecker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Vulture* | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey | <input type="checkbox"/> Downy Woodpecker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle | <input type="checkbox"/> Hairy Woodpecker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Harrier* | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Flicker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp-shinned Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Pileated Woodpecker* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper's Hawk* | <input type="checkbox"/> American Kestrel* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Goshawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Merlin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-shouldered Hawk* | <input type="checkbox"/> Peregrine Falcon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broad-winged Hawk* | <input type="checkbox"/> Olive-sided Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Wood-Pewee* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk* | <input type="checkbox"/> Acadian Flycatcher* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rough-legged Hawk | <input type="checkbox"/> Alder Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sora | <input type="checkbox"/> Willow Flycatcher* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Coot | <input type="checkbox"/> Least Flycatcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Killdeer* | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Phoebe* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spotted Sandpiper* | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Crested Flycatcher* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solitary Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Kingbird* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Yellowlegs | <input type="checkbox"/> Loggerhead Shrike* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Yellowlegs | <input type="checkbox"/> White-eyed Vireo* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Upland Sandpiper* | <input type="checkbox"/> Bell's Vireo* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Semipalmated Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Vireo* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least Sandpiper | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-headed Vireo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pectoral Sandpiper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Snipe | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Woodcock* | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ring-billed Gull | |

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warbling Vireo* | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia Vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-eyed Vireo* | <input type="checkbox"/> American Redstart* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Jay* | <input type="checkbox"/> Cerulean Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Crow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Parula* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horned Lark* | <input type="checkbox"/> Magnolia Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Martin* | <input type="checkbox"/> Bay-breasted Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Swallow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Blackburnian Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N. Rough-winged Swallow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow Warbler* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank Swallow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Chestnut-sided Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Swallow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Palm Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barn Swallow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-capped Chickadee* | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-throated Warbler* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tufted Titmouse* | <input type="checkbox"/> Black-throated Green Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Nuthatch | <input type="checkbox"/> Canada Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-breasted Nuthatch* | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilson's Warbler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Creeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-breasted Chat* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Wren* | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Towhee* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> American Tree Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sedge Wren* | <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolina Wren* | <input type="checkbox"/> Field Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bewick's Wren | <input type="checkbox"/> Vesper Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-gray Gnatcatcher* | <input type="checkbox"/> Lark Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-crowned Kinglet | <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruby-crowned Kinglet | <input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Bluebird* | <input type="checkbox"/> Henslow's Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veery | <input type="checkbox"/> Le Conte's Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray-cheeked Thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swainson's Thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Song Sparrow* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hermit Thrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln's Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Thrush* | <input type="checkbox"/> White-throated Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Robin* | <input type="checkbox"/> Harris's Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Catbird* | <input type="checkbox"/> White-crowned Sparrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mockingbird* | <input type="checkbox"/> Dark-eyed Junco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Thrasher* | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Tanager* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> European Starling* | <input type="checkbox"/> Scarlet Tanager* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bohemian Waxwing | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Cardinal* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cedar Waxwing* | <input type="checkbox"/> Rose-breasted Grosbeak* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ovenbird* | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Grosbeak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worm-eating Warbler* | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigo Bunting* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Waterthrush* | <input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Waterthrush | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-winged Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged Blackbird* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Warbler* | <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Meadowlark* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-and-white Warbler* | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Meadowlark* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-headed Blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orange-crowned Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Rusty Blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nashville Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Grackle* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Warbler | <input type="checkbox"/> Great-tailed Grackle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Warbler* | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown-headed Cowbird* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Sparrow* | <input type="checkbox"/> Orchard Oriole* |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore Oriole* |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Finch |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> House Finch* |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Siskin |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> American Goldfinch* |



Slaty Skimmer
Jerry Oldenettel



Yellow-rumped Warbler
Jim Durbin

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



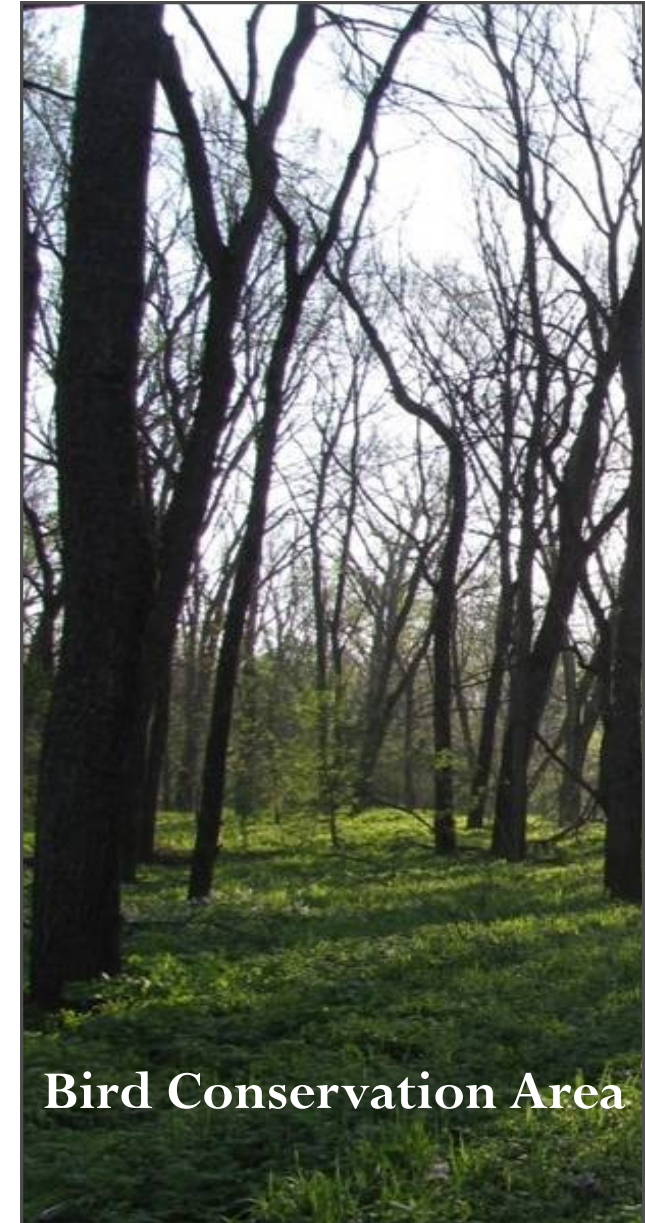
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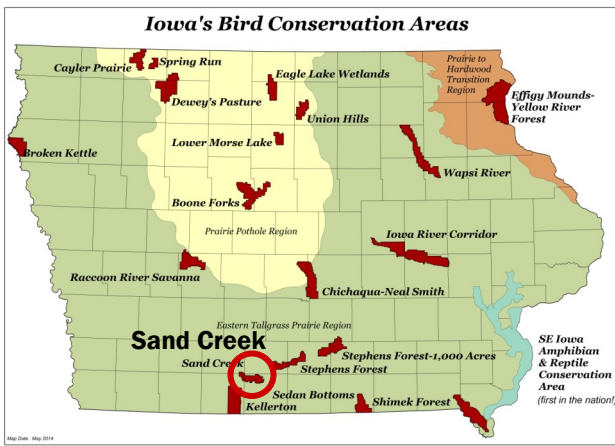
Written by Jenni Dyar, AmeriCorps, 2010
Updated by Natalie Randall, 2012 and Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014

Sand Creek Woodland Savanna



Bird Conservation Area

Decatur, Ringgold, & Union Counties



Sand Creek Woodland Savanna is the 15th bird conservation area (BCA) to be dedicated in Iowa. Located in Decatur, Ringgold and Union counties, the BCA encompasses more than 30,000 acres. In contrast with the nearby Kellerton BCA which is mostly grassland, nearly 1/3 of the Sand Creek BCA is woodland. Northern Bobwhite, Great Crested Flycatcher, Black-and-white Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Lark Sparrow all nest within the BCA.



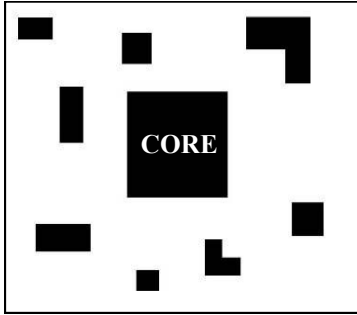
Great Crested Flycatcher
Photo by Jerry Oldenettel

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



Wood thrush
Photo by P. Slocum



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

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 should include a large “core” area of protected high-quality habitat. Surrounding this core are private lands, plus additional public tracts, managed for good bird habitat or at least maintained to be neutral in how they affect bird life.



Loggerhead Shrike
Photo by Jenni Dyar

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.

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

SAND CREEK DIVERSITY



Lark Sparrow
Photo by Linda Tanner

Oak Savanna once covered much of southern Iowa. This unique ecosystem is characterized by a widely spaced hardwood canopy and an understory that includes native grasses and tallgrass prairie forbs. Historically, these open woodlands were maintained by regular fires and grazing. Today, much of the savanna landscape has been converted to row crops, and large tracts of what remains have become dense woodlands in the absence of fire, allowing the canopy to close and the grassland plants to die out. The Sand Creek BCA includes woodland, grassland, and savanna species.

PLANTS

Oak, walnut, and hickory make up most of the woodland and savanna canopy within the BCA. The diverse understory is dominated by grasses, sedges and forbs. Iconic prairie species such as Big and Little Bluestem, Purple Milkweed, Bottle Brush Grass, Pennsylvania Sedge, and Virginia Wild Rye can be found blanketing the gently rolling hills. During the spring and summer

months, delicate wildflowers like wood sorrel, mountain mint, and prairie violet.

ANIMALS



Bobcat
Photo by Matt Knoth

In addition to birds, you can find many other interesting animals in the Sand Creek BCA, many of which rely at least in part on intact savanna ecosystems. Bobcats, Coyotes, Red and Gray Fox, various weasels and Mink roam the area. You can also find Smooth Green Snakes, both softshell turtle

species, Iowa’s critically imperiled Slaty Skimmer dragonfly, and the rare Hayhurst’s Scallopwing butterfly.

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.



Smooth Green Snake
Photo by Jeff LeClerc

PARTNERSHIPS

The Sand Creek Woodland Savanna Bird Conservation Area was made possible due to a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Quail Forever, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Decatur County Conservation Board, Iowa Audubon, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

