

Bird Checklist for Spring Run

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

Common Nighthawk	Lapland Longspur
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Smith's Longspur
	Snow Bunting
Chimney Swift*	Ovenbird
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	Black-and-white Warbler
	Prothonotary Warbler
Belted Kingfisher*	Tennessee Warbler
	Orange-crowned Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker*	Nashville Warbler
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	Common Yellowthroat*
Downy Woodpecker*	Yellow Warbler*
Hairy Woodpecker*	Blackpoll Warbler
Northern Flicker*	American Redstart*
	Northern Parula
American Kestrel*	Magnolia Warbler
Merlin	Palm Warbler
Prairie Falcon	Yellow-rumped Warbler
	Yellow-throated Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee*	
Alder Flycatcher	Eastern Towhee
Willow Flycatcher*	American Tree Sparrow
Least Flycatcher*	Chipping Sparrow*
Eastern Phoebe*	Great Crested Flycatcher*
Great Crested Flycatcher*	Western Kingbird
Western Kingbird	Eastern Kingbird*
Eastern Kingbird*	
Loggerhead Shrike	Eastern Towhee
Northern Shrike	American Tree Sparrow
	Chipping Sparrow*
Yellow-throated Vireo*	Great Crested Flycatcher*
Blue-headed Vireo	Western Kingbird
Warbling Vireo*	Eastern Kingbird*
Red-eyed Vireo*	
	Field Sparrow*
Blue Jay*	Vesper Sparrow*
American Crow*	Lark Sparrow*
	Savanna Sparrow*
Horned Lark*	Grasshopper Sparrow*
	Henslow's Sparrow*
Purple Martin*	Le Conte's Sparrow
Tree Swallow*	Nelson's Sparrow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	Fox Sparrow
Bank Swallow*	Song Sparrow*
Cliff Swallow*	Lincoln's Sparrow
Barn Swallow*	Swamp Sparrow*
	White-throated Sparrow
Black-capped Chickadee*	Harris's Sparrow
White-breasted Nuthatch*	White-crowned Sparrow
	Dark-eyed Junco
House Wren*	
Winter Wren	Summer Tanager
Sedge Wren*	Scarlet Tanager
Marsh Wren*	Northern Cardinal*
	Rose-breasted Grosbeak*
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	Blue Grosbeak*
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Lazuli Bunting
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Indigo Bunting*
	Dickcissel*
Eastern Bluebird*	
Swainson's Thrush	Bobolink*
Wood Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird*
American Robin*	Eastern Meadowlark*
	Western Meadowlark*
Gray Catbird*	Yellow-headed Blackbird*
Brown Thrasher*	Rusty Blackbird
	Brewer's Blackbird
European Starling*	Common Grackle*
	Great-tailed Grackle*
Cedar Waxwing*	Brown-headed Cowbird*
	Orchard Oriole*
	Baltimore Oriole*
	Purple Finch
	House Finch*
	Pine Siskin
	American Goldfinch*



Smooth Green Snake
Photo By J. LeClere



Yellow-headed Blackbird
Photo by Doug Harr



Red Fox Kits
Photo By Joni Siebenlist

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Spring Run Grasslands

Bird Conservation Area



Photo by Jennifer Vogel

Dickinson County



The Spring Run Grasslands Bird Conservation Area (BCA), dedicated in 2002, was the second to be created in the state of Iowa. This roughly 14,000 acre BCA is one of two in Dickinson County and is located east of Okoboji Lake. The Spring Run Wetlands Complex, also the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's second largest Waterfowl Production Area in the state, is a 4,000 acre complex of both state and federally owned land within this BCA. It provides wetland nesting habitat for bird species such as American Bitterns, Marsh Wrens, and Black Terns. The surrounding mixture of public and privately-



Great Blue Heron
Photo: Carl Murtz

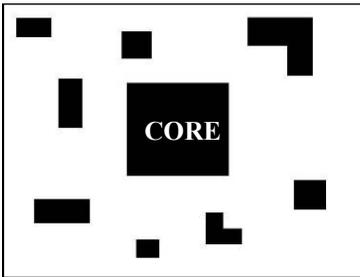
owned grasslands also serves as important habitat for migratory and grassland nesting birds in need of conservation efforts, such as Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows, Bobolinks, and Northern Harriers. Meadowlarks, Henslow's Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats and Upland Sandpipers are also likely to nest in these grasslands, along with game species such as Northern Pintails, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Pheasants.



Grasshopper Sparrow young and eggs
Photo by T. Walker

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



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

conservation organizations and enthusiasts have worked together under an umbrella called the North American



Common Yellowthroat
Photo by Josh Otten

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 should also 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

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.



Sora
Doug Harr

SPRING RUN DIVERSITY

PLANTS



Great Blue Lobelia
Photo by Doug Harr

As part of the prairie pothole region, the vegetation varies within the rolling landscape from shallow pools and marshes to upland prairie. Wetland plants such as sedges and cattail stands provide year-round cover for wildlife. The gradient of dry to moist prairies yields a diversity of grasses, such as Big Bluestem and Indian Grass, and forbs that flower in spring and summer, like Compass Plant, Great Blue Lobelia, and Culver's Root.

Occasionally, rare species have been sighted within the BCA, including Small White Lady's Slipper, an orchid species of special concern, and threatened plants such as Rush Aster and Leafy Northern Green Orchid.

ANIMALS

Amphibians such as Tiger Salamanders, Chorus Frogs, Northern Leopard Frogs, American Toads, and aquatic reptiles, like Painted Turtles, enjoy the moisture of the potholes and marshy areas within this BCA. Other reptiles—Smooth Green Snakes, a species of greatest conservation need, and several species of garter snakes, to name a few—are also well-adapted to an array of habitats in Spring Run. Muskrats build homes near



Twelve-spotted Skimmer
Photo by Josh Otten

potholes and marshes, and many small mammals such as voles, shrews, and Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels that frequent the prairie habitat are often hunted by Red Fox and American Badgers. Although overlooked by many, a diversity of invertebrate species can be spotted, including the Monarch butterfly and the threatened Powesheik Skipperling. Common dragonfly species include the Blue Dasher, Twelve-spotted Skimmer, and Common Green Darner.

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.



Sandhill Cranes
Lowell Washburn

PARTNERSHIPS

The Spring Run Bird Conservation Area was made possible due to a partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dickinson County Conservation Board, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, Iowa Audubon, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

