

___ Ruddy Duck	___ <b>Marbled Godwit</b>
___ <b>Northern Bobwhite*</b>	___ Ruddy Turnstone
___ Gray Partridge*	___ Sanderling
___ Ring-necked Pheasant*	___ Semipalmated Sandpiper
___ <b>Ruffed Grouse*</b>	___ Least Sandpiper
___ Wild Turkey*	___ White-rumped Sandpiper
___ Common Loon	___ Baird's Sandpiper
___ Pied-billed Grebe*	___ Pectoral Sandpiper
___ Red-necked Grebe	___ Dunlin
___ Horned Grebe	___ Stilt Sandpiper
___ Eared Grebe	___ <b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>
___ Double-crested Cormorant	___ Long-billed Dowitcher
___ American White Pelican	___ Wilson's Snipe*
___ <b>American Bittern*</b>	___ <b>American Woodcock*</b>
___ <b>Least Bittern</b>	___ <b>Wilson's Phalarope</b>
___ Great Blue Heron*	___ Bonaparte's Gull
___ Great Egret	___ Franklin's Gull
___ Cattle Egret	___ Ring-billed Gull
___ Green Heron*	___ Herring Gull
___ <b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>	___ Caspian Tern
___ <b>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*</b>	___ <b>Least Tern</b>
___ Turkey Vulture*	___ <b>Black Tern*</b>
___ <b>Osprey</b>	___ Common Tern
___ <b>Bald Eagle*</b>	___ <b>Forster's Tern</b>
___ <b>Northern Harrier</b>	___ Rock Pigeon*
___ Sharp-shinned Hawk	___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*
___ Cooper's Hawk*	___ Mourning Dove*
___ <b>Red-shouldered Hawk*</b>	___ <b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo*</b>
___ <b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	___ <b>Black-billed Cuckoo*</b>
___ <b>Swainson's Hawk*</b>	___ Eastern Screech-Owl*
___ Red-tailed Hawk*	___ Great Horned Owl*
___ Rough-legged Hawk	___ Barred Owl*
___ Virginia Rail*	___ <b>Long-eared Owl</b>
___ Sora*	___ <b>Short-eared Owl</b>
___ <b>Common Gallinule</b>	___ Northern Saw-Whet Owl
___ American Coot*	___ <b>Common Nighthawk*</b>
___ Sandhill Crane*	___ <b>Eastern Whip-poor-will*</b>
___ <b>American Golden-Plover</b>	___ <b>Chimney Swift*</b>
___ Killdeer*	___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
___ <b>American Avocet</b>	___ Belted Kingfisher*
___ Spotted Sandpiper*	___ <b>Red-headed Woodpecker*</b>
___ <b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>	___ Red-bellied Woodpecker*
___ <b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>	___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*
___ <b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>	___ Downy Woodpecker*
___ <b>Upland Sandpiper*</b>	___ Hairy Woodpecker*
___ <b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>	___ Northern Flicker*
	___ Pileated Woodpecker*
	___ American Kestrel*

___ Merlin	___ Gray Catbird*
___ <b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	___ <b>Northern Mockingbird*</b>
___ <b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>	___ Brown Thrasher*
___ Eastern Wood-Pewee*	___ European Starling*
___ <b>Acadian Flycatcher*</b>	___ American Pipit
___ Alder Flycatcher	___ Cedar Waxwing*
___ <b>Willow Flycatcher*</b>	___ Lapland Longspur
___ <b>Least Flycatcher*</b>	___ Snow Bunting
___ Eastern Phoebe*	___ Ovenbird*
___ Great Crested Flycatcher*	___ <b>Louisiana Waterthrush*</b>
___ Eastern Kingbird*	___ Northern Waterthrush
___ <b>Loggerhead Shrike*</b>	___ <b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>
___ Northern Shrike	___ <b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>
___ <b>White-eyed Vireo*</b>	___ <b>Black-and-White Warbler</b>
___ <b>Bell's Vireo*</b>	___ <b>Prothonotary Warbler*</b>
___ Yellow-throated Vireo*	___ Tennessee Warbler
___ Blue-headed Vireo	___ Orange-crowned Warbler
___ Warbling Vireo*	___ Nashville Warbler
___ Philadelphia Vireo	___ Connecticut Warbler
___ Red-eyed Vireo*	___ Mourning Warbler
___ Blue Jay*	___ <b>Kentucky Warbler</b>
___ American Crow*	___ Common Yellowthroat*
___ Horned Lark*	___ <b>Hooded Warbler</b>
___ Purple Martin*	___ American Redstart*
___ Tree Swallow*	___ Cape May Warbler
___ Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	___ <b>Cerulean Warbler</b>
___ Bank Swallow*	___ Northern Parula*
___ Cliff Swallow*	___ Magnolia Warbler
___ Barn Swallow*	___ Bay-breasted Warbler
___ Black-capped Chickadee*	___ Blackburnian Warbler
___ Tufted Titmouse*	___ Yellow Warbler*
___ Red-breasted Nuthatch	___ Chestnut-sided Warbler
___ White-breasted Nuthatch*	___ Blackpoll Warbler
___ <b>Brown Creeper*</b>	___ Palm Warbler
___ Carolina Wren*	___ Pine Warbler
___ House Wren*	___ Yellow-rumped Warbler
___ Winter Wren	___ Yellow-throated Warbler
___ <b>Sedge Wren*</b>	___ Prairie Warbler
___ Marsh Wren*	___ Black-throated Green Warbler
___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	___ <b>Canada Warbler</b>
___ Golden-crowned Kinglet	___ Wilson's Warbler
___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	___ <b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>
___ Eastern Bluebird*	___ Eastern Towhee*
___ <b>Veery</b>	___ American Tree Sparrow
___ Gray-cheeked Thrush	___ Chipping Sparrow*
___ Swainson's Thrush	___ Clay-colored Sparrow
___ Hermit Thrush	___ <b>Field Sparrow*</b>
___ <b>Wood Thrush*</b>	___ Vesper Sparrow*
___ American Robin*	___ Lark Sparrow*
	___ Savannah Sparrow*
	___ <b>Grasshopper Sparrow*</b>
	___ <b>Henslow's Sparrow*</b>
	___ <b>Le Conte's Sparrow</b>

___ Fox Sparrow	___ Western Meadowlark*
___ Song Sparrow*	___ Yellow-headed Blackbird*
___ Swamp Sparrow*	___ <b>Rusty Blackbird</b>
___ White-throated Sparrow	___ <b>Brewer's Blackbird</b>
___ Harris's Sparrow	___ Common Grackle*
___ White-crowned Sparrow	___ Great-tailed Grackle
___ Dark-eyed Junco	___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
___ Summer Tanager	___ Orchard Oriole*
___ Scarlet Tanager*	___ Baltimore Oriole*
___ Northern Cardinal*	___ Purple Finch
___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	___ House Finch*
___ Indigo Bunting*	___ Common Redpoll
___ <b>Dickcissel*</b>	___ Pine Siskin
___ <b>Bobolink*</b>	___ American Goldfinch*
___ Red-winged Blackbird*	___ House Sparrow*
___ <b>Eastern Meadowlark*</b>	



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Written by Jenni Dyar, AmeriCorps, 2009

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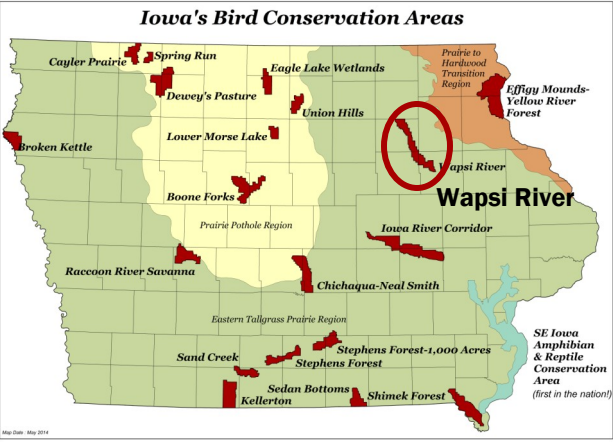
# Wapsi River

## Bird Conservation Area



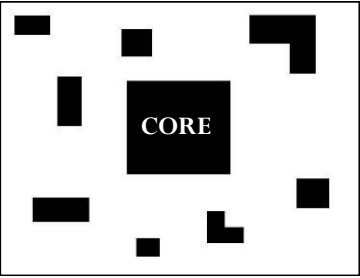
## Bremer, Black Hawk, & Buchanan Counties





The Wapsi River Bird Conservation Area (BCA) was the 11th BCA to be dedicated in Iowa. Located in Bremer, Black Hawk, and Buchanan counties, its core is made up of the Sweet Marsh Wildlife Area and the Wapsipinicon River Greenbelt. The area has a great variety of habitats—including vital floodplain wetlands, forests, and grasslands.

Containing approximately 88,000 acres, the Wapsi River BCA contains valuable riparian habitat that is home to such species as the Sandhill Crane, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Bald Eagle. The bottomland timber lining the river corridor is important to a number of birds who rely on standing dead trees like those in floodplain forests to nest successfully. Marsh birds find suitable breeding habitat in the delicate wetlands along the Wapsipinicon river, and numerous shorebirds and waterfowl use the area as a stopover point on their long migrations to their northern breeding grounds. River corridors around the state contain some of Iowa’s best preserved wildlife habitat, and the Wapsi River BCA is a shining example of a healthy riparian ecosystem.



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

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**

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

**BIRD  
CONSERVATION  
AREAS**

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.

**WAPSI RIVER DIVERSITY**

The area around the Wapsipinicon River is characterized by long, gradually inclined slopes and broad, shallow valleys. This region of the state (known as the “Iowan Surface”) remained glacier-free during the most recent Ice Age 10,000 years ago. Left exposed during this cold period, erosion created the gently rolling landscape.

**PLANTS**

The Wapsi River BCA contains a mixture of habitats, including river, wetland, forest, grassland, and savanna. Because the landscape is so diverse, it contains a wide variety of representative plant species from each habitat, including oaks, maples, willow, hickory, Riverbank Grape, Tufted Lake Sedge, Panicked Aster, Giant Goldenrod, Sensitive Fern, Saw-tooth Sunflower, Blue Flag, Common Tussock Sedge, Orange Touch-me-not, and Purple Meadow-rue.



**ANIMALS**

Birds are not the only interesting animals found in the Wapsi River BCA. Notable reptiles in the area include the Smooth Green Snake, the state-threatened Blanding’s Turtle, and the state-endangered Eastern Massasauga Snake (also a candidate for the federal Endangered Species List). On the river itself you can see Mink, River Otters, Muskrat, and Beavers.



**PARTNERSHIPS**

The Wapsi River Bird Conservation Area was made possible due to a partnership between the Bremer, Blackhawk and Buchanan County Conservation Boards, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Audubon and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



**Field Checklist for Wapsi River Bird Conservation Area**

\*=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**

<input type="checkbox"/> Greater White-fronted Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> Green-winged Teal
<input type="checkbox"/> Snow Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Canvasback</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ross's Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Redhead</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Cackling Goose	<input type="checkbox"/> Ring-necked Duck
<input type="checkbox"/> Canada Goose*	<input type="checkbox"/> Greater Scaup
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trumpeter Swan*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesser Scaup
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Duck*	<input type="checkbox"/> Bufflehead
<input type="checkbox"/> Gadwall*	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Goldeneye
<input type="checkbox"/> American Wigeon	<input type="checkbox"/> Hooded Merganser*
<input type="checkbox"/> Mallard*	<input type="checkbox"/> Common Merganser
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue-winged Teal*	<input type="checkbox"/> Red-breasted Merganser
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Shoveler	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Northern Pintail</b>	

(Continued on Reverse)