

Field Checklist for Lake Sugema-Lacey-Keosauqua 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
- ___ Snow Goose
- ___ Cackling Goose
- ___ Canada Goose*
- ___ **Trumpeter Swan***
- ___ Wood Duck*
- ___ Gadwall
- ___ **American Wigeon**
- ___ Mallard*
- ___ **Blue-winged Teal***
- ___ Northern Shoveler
- ___ **Northern Pintail**
- ___ Green-winged Teal
- ___ **Canvasback**
- ___ **Redhead**
- ___ **Ring-necked Duck**
- ___ **Lesser Scaup**
- ___ **Greater Scaup**
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Hooded Merganser*
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Red-breasted Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck
- ___ **Northern Bobwhite***
- ___ Ring-necked Pheasant*
- ___ Wild Turkey*
- ___ **Common Loon**
- ___ Pied-billed Grebe*
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ Eared Grebe
- ___ Double-crested Cormorant
- ___ **American White Pelican**
- ___ **American Bittern**
- ___ Great Blue Heron*
- ___ Great Egret
- ___ Cattle Egret
- ___ Green Heron*
- ___ **Black-crowned Night-Heron**
- ___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- ___ Turkey Vulture*
- ___ Osprey
- ___ **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
- ___ Virginia Rail
- ___ Sora
- ___ American Coot
- ___ Sandhill Crane
- ___ American Avocet
- ___ **American Golden-Plover**
- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Killdeer*
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper*
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ Willet
- ___ **Lesser Yellowlegs**
- ___ **Upland Sandpiper***
- ___ **Stilt Sandpiper**
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ **White-rumped Sandpiper**
- ___ Pectoral Sandpiper
- ___ **Semipalmated Sandpiper**
- ___ **Short-billed Dowitcher**
- ___ **Long-billed Dowitcher**
- ___ **Wilson's Snipe**
- ___ **American Woodcock***
- ___ **Wilson's Phalarope**
- ___ Bonaparte's Gull
- ___ **Franklin's Gull**
- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ Herring 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*
- ___ 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
- ___ House Wren*
- ___ Winter Wren
- ___ **Sedge Wren***
- ___ Marsh Wren*
- ___ Carolina Wren*

- ___ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*
- ___ Golden-crowned Kinglet
- ___ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- ___ Eastern Bluebird*
- ___ **Veery**
- ___ Gray-cheeked Thrush
- ___ Swainson's Thrush
- ___ Hermit Thrush
- ___ **Wood Thrush***
- ___ American Robin*
- ___ Gray Catbird*
- ___ Northern Mockingbird*
- ___ **Brown Thrasher***
- ___ European Starling*
- ___ American Pipit
- ___ Cedar Waxwing*
- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ 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*
- ___ Prairie Warbler
- ___ Black-throated Green Warbler
- ___ **Canada Warbler**
- ___ Wilson's Warbler
- ___ Yellow-breasted Chat*
- ___ 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**
- ___ Nelson'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*
- ___ Great-tailed Grackle
- ___ Brown-headed Cowbird*
- ___ Orchard Oriole*
- ___ **Baltimore Oriole***
- ___ Purple Finch
- ___ House Finch*
- ___ Red Crossbill
- ___ Common Redpoll
- ___ Pine Siskin
- ___ American Goldfinch*
- ___ House Sparrow*
- ___ Eurasian Tree Sparrow



Henslow's Sparrow
- Jim Durbin

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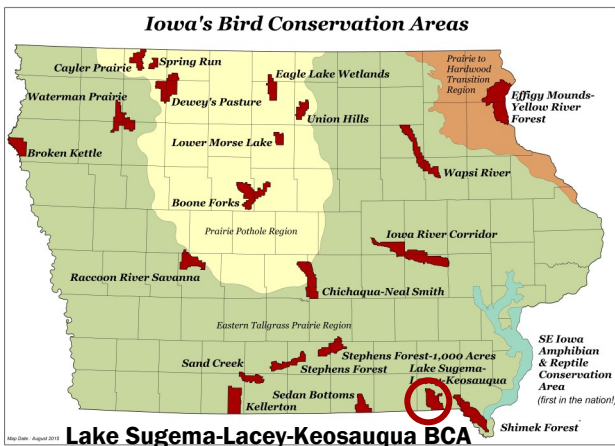
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Lake Sugema-Lacey-Keosauqua

Bird Conservation Area

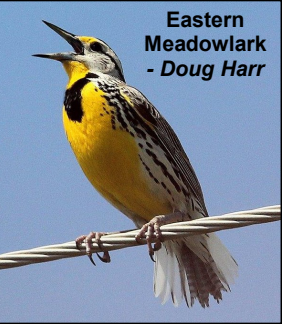


Van Buren County



Dedicated in 2015, the Lake Sugema-Lacey-Keosauqua Bird Conservation Area (BCA) occupies a total of 51,492 acres in south-central Van Buren County. This unique landscape is comprised of 43% grassland, 35% woodland, and 5% aquatic habitat, which supports a spectacular amount of wildlife diversity. With 18% of the land in some form of permanent protection, the existence of this valuable habitat is guaranteed for years to come. Out of the 251 bird species documented thus far,

81 are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including four state-listed endangered and two state-listed threatened species. The grasslands in this BCA support declining nesting species such as Henslow's Sparrow (threatened), Northern Harrier (endangered) Eastern Meadowlark, and Bobolink. Wooded areas provide key habitat for the Red-shouldered Hawk (endangered), Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher, and the globally important Cerulean Warbler. Savanna habitat supports the Red-headed Woodpecker and the Barn Owl (endangered). Species like the Bell's Vireo, Yellow and Black-



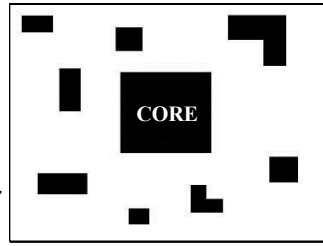
billed Cuckoos, and Loggerhead Shrike prefer shrub habitat, which is also found within this BCA. In addition, the diverse habitat in this area provides important stopover locations for migrating species including the Canada and Bay-breasted warblers, American Golden Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper.



This area is an important part of human history, as well, and features Native American burial mounds along the Des Moines River in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. A picnic area within the park marks the river crossing point of the Mormon Trail at Ely Ford. Lacey-Keosauqua State Park was named in honor of Major John Fletcher Lacey, a member of the Iowa House of Representatives, who later served eight terms in the United States Congress. Major Lacey was passionately dedicated to passing crucial conservation legislation (i.e. Lacey Act) and played a significant role in the establishment of Iowa's state park system.

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 35 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.

PLANT AND ANIMAL DIVERSITY

PLANTS

This BCA is located within the Southern Iowa Drift Plain which is characterized by distinct river valleys and softly rolling hills. In 2015 only 13% of the land within the BCA was used for row crops, leaving the vast majority of this area available to support a wide variety of plant diversity, including three state threatened species. In wetter areas it is possible to find the Winged Monkey Flower (threatened), Pale Green Orchid, and False Hellebore (threatened). The rich black prairie soils support Downy Wood Mint and Eared False Foxglove. Slender Ladies' Tresses (threatened) and Smooth Blackhaw grow in the drier woodland soils. Contributing to the historical significance of this area, some of the Bur and White Oak trees in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park are known to be several hundred years old.



ANIMALS

Many species of wildlife utilize the important habitat within this BCA. The Slender Glass Lizard, Smooth Earth Snake, Black Rat Snake, Cricket Frog, and Smallmouth Salamander are amphibian and reptile SGCN that live in this BCA. The federally endangered Topeka

Shiner has been documented within the aquatic areas of this BCA, as well. The federally threatened Northern



Long-eared Bat, as well as Little Brown Bat, can be seen flying at night, catching insects. Woodland Voles scurry about the understory in the forested areas, and bobcats can be found

throughout the area. A list of Iowa's 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.

PARTNERSHIPS

The Lake Sugema-Lacey-Keosauqua Bird Conservation Area was made possible through partnership among the Van Buren County Conservation Board, Iowa Audubon, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Local citizens have shown extraordinary support for this BCA, and the opportunities for future collaborative efforts to improve bird habitat and bird appreciation are promising.

