

Field Checklist for Shimek 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 | ___ Solitary Sandpiper |
| ___ Snow Goose | ___ Greater Yellowlegs |
| ___ Ross's Goose | ___ Lesser Yellowlegs |
| ___ Canada Goose* | ___ Upland Sandpiper |
| ___ Trumpeter Swan | ___ Semipalmated Sandpiper |
| ___ Wood Duck* | ___ Least Sandpiper |
| ___ Gadwall | ___ White-rumped Sandpiper |
| ___ American Wigeon | ___ Pectoral Sandpiper |
| ___ Mallard* | ___ Wilson's Snipe |
| ___ Northern Shoveler | ___ American Woodcock* |
| ___ Northern Pintail | ___ Franklin's Gull |
| ___ Blue-winged Teal* | ___ Ring-billed Gull |
| ___ Green-winged Teal | ___ Herring Gull |
| ___ Ring-necked Duck | ___ Caspian Tern |
| ___ Lesser Scaup | ___ Forster's Tern |
| ___ Hooded Merganser* | ___ Rock Pigeon* |
| ___ Northern Bobwhite* | ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove* |
| ___ Ring-necked Pheasant* | ___ Mourning Dove* |
| ___ Wild Turkey* | ___ Yellow-billed Cuckoo* |
| ___ Pied-billed Grebe | ___ Black-billed Cuckoo* |
| ___ American White Pelican | ___ Barn Owl |
| ___ Double-crested Cormorant | ___ Eastern Screech-Owl* |
| ___ Great Blue Heron* | ___ Great Horned Owl* |
| ___ Great Egret | ___ Barred Owl* |
| ___ Snowy Egret | ___ Long-eared Owl |
| ___ Cattle Egret | ___ Short-eared Owl |
| ___ Green Heron* | ___ Northern Saw-Whet Owl |
| ___ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron | ___ Common Nighthawk* |
| ___ Turkey Vulture* | ___ Chuck-will's-widow* |
| ___ Osprey | ___ Eastern Whip-poor-will* |
| ___ Bald Eagle* | ___ Chimney Swift* |
| ___ Northern Harrier | ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird* |
| ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk | ___ Belted Kingfisher* |
| ___ Cooper's Hawk* | ___ Red-headed Woodpecker* |
| ___ Red-shouldered Hawk* | ___ Red-bellied Woodpecker* |
| ___ Broad-winged Hawk* | ___ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker |
| ___ Red-tailed Hawk* | ___ Downy Woodpecker* |
| ___ Rough-legged Hawk | ___ Hairy Woodpecker* |
| ___ Sora | ___ Northern Flicker* |
| ___ American Coot | ___ Pileated Woodpecker* |
| ___ American Golden-plover | ___ American Kestrel* |
| ___ Semipalmated Plover | ___ Merlin |
| ___ Killdeer* | ___ Peregrine Falcon |
| ___ Spotted Sandpiper* | |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ Grasshopper Sparrow* | ___ Dickcissel* |
| ___ Henslow's Sparrow* | ___ Bobolink* |
| ___ LeConte's Sparrow | ___ Red-winged Blackbird* |
| ___ Fox Sparrow | ___ Eastern Meadowlark* |
| ___ Song Sparrow* | ___ Western Meadowlark |
| ___ Lincoln's Sparrow | ___ Rusty Blackbird |
| ___ Swamp Sparrow | ___ Common Grackle* |
| ___ White-throated Sparrow | ___ Brown-headed Cowbird* |
| ___ Harris's Sparrow | ___ Orchard Oriole* |
| ___ White-crowned Sparrow | ___ Baltimore Oriole* |
| ___ Dark-eyed Junco | ___ Purple Finch |
| ___ Summer Tanager* | ___ House Finch* |
| ___ Scarlet Tanager* | ___ Red Crossbill |
| ___ Northern Cardinal* | ___ Pine Siskin* |
| ___ Rose-breasted Grosbeak* | ___ American Goldfinch* |
| ___ Blue Grosbeak* | ___ House Sparrow* |
| ___ Indigo Bunting* | ___ Eurasian Tree Sparrow |



Iowa Department of Natural Resources

DNR

1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036
Phone: (515) 432-2823
Fax: (515) 432-2835

Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Produced by Natalie Randall, Bruce Ehresman, and Shane Patterson, 2012
Updated by Julia Dale, AmeriCorps, 2014

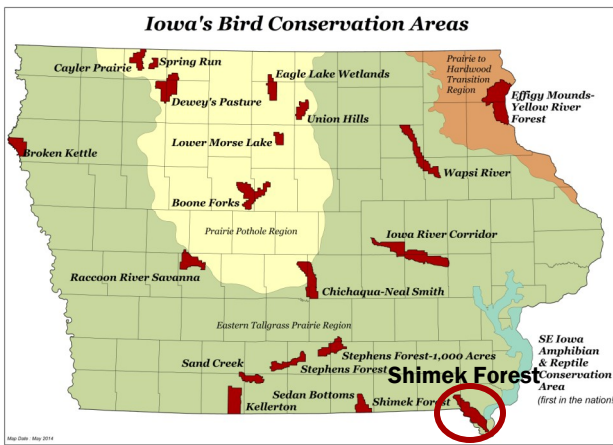
Shimek Forest

Bird Conservation Area



Photo by Doug Har...

Lee and Van Buren Counties



The Shimek Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located in the far southeast corner of Iowa and runs parallel along the east side of the Des Moines River near where it drains into the Mississippi River. Dedicated in 2006, this was Iowa's eighth official BCA. With portions of the boundary in both Lee and Van Buren counties, this BCA encompasses over 80,000 acres of land, of which over 8,000 acres are protected. Although the majority of the land cover here is forest (~44%), about 35% of the area is classified as grassland/savanna. Because of this habitat diversity, a broad range of avian assemblages can be found within the Shimek Forest BCA.

Because Shimek Forest makes up one of the largest tracts of contiguous woodland in the state of Iowa, it is considered critical nesting habitat for large-forest species like the Cerulean Warbler, Veery, Acadian Flycatcher, and Broad-winged Hawk (all of which are Species of Greatest Conservation Need [SGCN] in Iowa). Many migratory SGCN also use the



Veery
Jim Durbin

Shimek Forest BCA, such as the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rusty Blackbird, Golden-winged Warbler, and Canada Warbler. With regards to warblers, this is one of two BCAs where all of Iowa's regularly

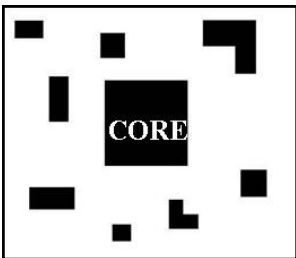
occurring warbler species can be found, including the relatively rare Pine Warbler! May is usually the best month to observe the warbler migration.



Pine Warbler
Photo courtesy
USFWS

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



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

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 at least 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.



Broad-winged Hawk
Bob MacInnes

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.

SHIMEK FOREST DIVERSITY

PLANTS

Much of the Shimek Forest BCA is composed of deciduous oak-hickory species like Black, Bur, and Shingle Oak, as well as Butternut and Shagbark Hickory. Bottomland hardwood areas include Red and White Elm, Green Ash, and Black Walnut. However, this BCA also includes some coniferous forest made up of pine, spruce, and larch, a result of plantations created by the



False Hellebore
Mark Leoschke

Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. Understory flora of upland forest areas include the Iowa threatened False Hellebore, as well as the more common Hepatica, Bloodroot, and Solomon's Seal. The Iowa endangered Virginia Snakeroot, a type of "pipevine", can be found under dense stands of oak-hickory forest. Look for Wild Garlic and Monkey Flower in bottomland hardwood forests and Tick Trefoil and Wild Geranium in woodland-to-prairie transition areas.

ANIMALS

The mix of deciduous and coniferous forest and grassland making up this BCA provides a diverse suite of habitat for a variety of animals. Southern Flying Squirrels take advantage of the acorns and nuts produced by the oak-hickory forests, and Evening Bats use the



Pipevine Swallowtail
Bill Weaver



Southern Leopard Frog
Ryan Rasmussen

hollow branches and cavities in these woodlands to set up nursery colonies. Bottomland forest pools support Smallmouth Salamanders and Plains Leopard Frogs, both relatively common in the southern third of the state. Smooth Earth Snakes, Speckled King Snakes, and Slender Glass

Lizards, all SGCN, may be seen in woodland and woodland edge habitats within the Shimek Forest BCA. Ponds along these woodland edges may also harbor the Blue Corporal, a dragonfly species that has only been documented in the far southeast corner of Iowa. Records of SGCN butterflies like the Ozark Baltimore Checkerspot, found in dry upland forest, and the Pipevine Swallowtail, found in old-growth woodlands, have also been reported in this area of the state.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partners in the creation of the Shimek Forest BCA include the Lee and Van Buren County Conservation Boards, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Iowa chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Iowa Audubon, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and various private landowners.

