



Connecting Owners and Managers of Iowa Important Bird Areas (IBAs) to the Global Network of IBAs

Habitat Management Recommendations for 37 of Iowa's Most Seriously Declining Birds

Part 4: Species Accounts

Biology and Life Histories of Iowa's 37 Identified IBA Criteria Species

Part 4 provides 37 species accounts which summarize available information on the biology and life histories for each bird species that's at the core of the Iowa IBA Program. While each description was derived from data found within excellent references, the accounts are summaries only. When used in conjunction with popular field guides for the identification of birds (which are readily available to everyone who is interested in Iowa's birdlife), these accounts will provide landowners, land managers and others with the information needed to develop a good understanding of each species.

For consistency, and to meet our goal of being user-friendly, each species account consists of the following sections: common name, scientific name, photo, population status, introduction, habitat preference, feeding habits, breeding biology, concerns and limiting factors, and habitat management recommendations.

Owners and managers of IBAs and potential IBAs are urged to go first to the species account for the species or members of a suite of species for which they are interested in managing. They can then refer to the appropriate section within Part 3 (management of wetlands, woodlands or grasslands) for more habitat management recommendations.

Space limitations prevent an in-depth discussion of the fascinating individual physical characteristics and behaviors of each of the 37 species Iowa Audubon's Technical Committee identified as IBA Criteria Species. However, for those who wish to know our state's endangered, threatened, and high conservation priority species in more intimate detail, the following references, listed in order of helpfulness, are recommended:

Birds of North America Online This comprehensive resource from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology was used extensively to compile species accounts. It contains dozens of intricate details about the lives of all North American birds, and is highly recommended for those seeking more specific and little known details about the biology and life histories of various bird species: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>

Lives of North American Birds, 1996. Kenn Kaufman.

The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas, 1996. Laura Spess Jackson, Carol A. Thompson and James J. Dinsmore.

Birds in Iowa, 1996. Thomas H. Kent and James J. Dinsmore.

Species accounts for each of the following Iowa IBA Criteria Species are provided in this section.

Endangered Species

1. Bald Eagle
2. Northern Harrier
3. Red-shouldered Hawk
4. Peregrine Hawk
5. King Rail
6. Piping Plover
7. Least Tern
8. Barn Owl
9. Short-eared Owl

Threatened Species

10. Long-eared Owl
11. Henslow's Sparrow

Species of High Conservation Priority

12. American Bittern
13. Least Bittern
14. Black-crowned Night-Heron
15. Broad-winged Hawk
16. Greater Prairie-Chicken
17. Common Moorhen
18. American Woodcock
19. Forster's Tern
20. Black Tern
21. Black-billed Cuckoo
22. Chuck-will's-widow
23. Pileated Woodpecker
24. Loggerhead Shrike
25. White-eyed Vireo
26. Bell's Vireo
27. Bewick's Wren
28. Veery
29. Wood Thrush
30. Cerulean Warbler
31. Prothonotary Warbler
32. Worm-eating Warbler
33. Kentucky Warbler
34. Hooded Warbler
35. Yellow-breasted Chat
36. Grasshopper Sparrow
37. Bobolink

Sound Recordings in this Document

Sound recordings of bird calls and song are imbedded in each species account.

Click the title name of each species located on the first page of each species account to trigger an MP3 recording.

For example, click on the words Bald Eagle below:

Bald Eagle

You should begin hearing a recording of a Bald Eagle

If you do not hear any sound check your computer's volume control or, you may need to update your computer's media playback software depending on your computer's operating system.