



INDIAN BLUFFS-PICTURED ROCKS BCA

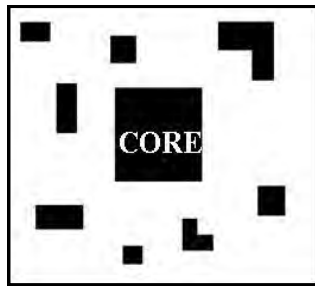
The Indian Bluffs-Pictured Rocks Bird Conservation Area (BCA) is located in the northeastern edge of the Southern Iowa Drift Plain landform region and contains the deep, narrow valley of the South Fork of the Maquoketa River, which carved through 430 million years-old Silurian dolomite, forming the tall bluffs and rugged topography that makes this area unique. American Indians inhabited this area for thousands of years. Several rock shelters and campsites remain as evidence of previous occupation by these woodland people. This BCA contains 30,680 acres, of which about 3,600 acres are protected by conservation easements or are publicly owned. At its core is privately owned Indian Bluffs State Preserve, as well as Indian Bluffs and Pictured Rocks public wildlife areas.

Bird diversity here is exceptional, with 243 species identified. This includes 79 Iowa Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Currently, 118 species are known to nest in this BCA's woodlands, savannas, grasslands, and wetlands. This same crucial habitat supplies important bird wintering grounds and migratory stopover sites. Some special birds of this area include Bobolink, Eastern & Western Meadowlarks, Iowa Threatened Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper and Field Sparrows, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bell's Vireo, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kentucky and Prothonotary Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher and Baltimore Oriole.



Eastern Meadowlark

Western Meadowlarks, Iowa Threatened Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper and Field Sparrows, Wood Thrush, Veery, Bell's Vireo, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Kentucky and Prothonotary Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher and Baltimore Oriole.



The BCA Model: shaded areas depict special habitat

In recent 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** (NABCI) to "conserve all birds in all habitats." As part of this initiative and in an effort to protect dwindling populations of many Iowa birds, Iowa's **Bird Conservation Area** (BCA) program was established by the Iowa DNR Wildlife Bureau in 2001.



Carl Kurtz Photo

The present model BCA encompasses at least 10,000 acres of public and/or private lands with 35% or more of the area as key bird habitat. Research suggests that healthy bird populations require conservation efforts at a landscape-oriented level. Each BCA should also include a large "core" area (at least 2,000 acres) of protected high-quality habitat. Around this core is both private land and additional public tracts, managed for good bird habitat or at least maintained to be neutral in how they affect bird life.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global effort initiated by the National Audubon Society 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 working to identify and implement conservation

BIRD CONSERVATION AREAS

strategies, the IBA Program hopes to minimize the effects of habitat degradation and loss on birds and other wildlife. All Iowa BCAs are also considered IBAs.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY PLANTS

This BCA contains many unique species. Remnant prairies, like Hamilton-Tapken and Breen, contain several colorful milkweed species that help sustain Monarch Butterflies, and they support other showy plants such as Pasque Flower, Compass Plant, Pale Purple Coneflower, Hairy Puccoon, and Shooting Star. Oak Savanna, another unique and threatened Iowa ecosystem –is represented by sprawling Bur Oaks and includes prairie plants such as Virginia Wild Rye, Lead Plant, Indian Paintbrush, Black-eyed Susan, and Wild Strawberry—a favorite food of the Ornate Box Turtle.



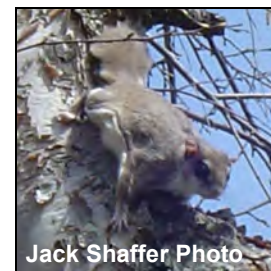
Monarch Butterfly Michele Olson Photo



Michele Olson Photo

ANIMALS

Besides birds, this BCA is home to a diverse group of other animals. These include numerous butterfly species, such as Monarch and Regal Fritillary. Bumble Bees, Long-horned Bees and Mason Bees are important prairie flower pollinators. While strolling through prairies, keep an eye open for unique reptiles, such as the Iowa Threatened Ornate Box Turtle, Bullsnake, and Five-lined Skink. Watch for small mammals, like the Southern Flying Squirrel, Meadow Jumping Mouse, Least Weasel, and Prairie Vole. Many



Jack Shaffer Photo

amphibians call this part of Iowa home, including Iowa Threatened Mudpuppy and Eastern Newt; and Tiger Salamander, Green Frog, Pickerel Frog, Spring Peeper, Cope's and Eastern Gray Tree Frogs, Chorus Frog, and American Toad— whose nearly-continuous trill, on a warm spring night, is well-known by many a farm kid.



Ornate Box Turtle Michele Olson Photo

PARTNERSHIPS

The Indian Bluffs-Pictured Rocks Bird Conservation Area is made possible by many partnerships, including: Jones County Conservation Board, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and numerous caring public citizens.



Bird Checklist for Indian Bluffs-Pictured Rocks BCA
***= Confirmed or probable 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
- ___ Ross's Goose
- ___ Cackling Goose
- ___ Canada Goose*
- ___ **Trumpeter Swan***
- ___ Tundra Swan
- ___ Wood Duck*
- ___ Gadwall
- ___ **American Wigeon**
- ___ Mallard*
- ___ **Blue-winged Teal***
- ___ Northern Shoveler
- ___ **Northern Pintail**
- ___ Green-winged Teal
- ___ **Canvasback**
- ___ **Redhead**
- ___ **Ring-necked Duck**
- ___ **Greater Scaup**
- ___ **Lesser Scaup**
- ___ Bufflehead
- ___ Common Goldeneye
- ___ Hooded Merganser*
- ___ Common Merganser
- ___ Ruddy Duck

- ___ **Northern Bobwhite***
- ___ Gray Partridge*
- ___ Ring-necked Pheasant*
- ___ Ruffed Grouse
- ___ Wild Turkey*

- ___ Pied-billed Grebe*
- ___ Horned Grebe
- ___ **Eared Grebe**

- ___ Rock Pigeon*
- ___ Eurasian Collared-Dove*
- ___ Mourning Dove*
- ___ **Yellow-billed Cuckoo***
- ___ **Black-billed Cuckoo***

- ___ **Common Nighthawk***
- ___ **Eastern Whip-poor-will***
- ___ **Chimney Swift***
- ___ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

- ___ **Yellow Rail**
- ___ Virginia Rail
- ___ Sora
- ___ American Coot*
- ___ Sandhill Crane

- ___ **American Golden Plover**
- ___ Semipalmated Plover
- ___ Killdeer*
- ___ **Upland Sandpiper***
- ___ Baird's Sandpiper
- ___ Least Sandpiper
- ___ **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**
- ___ **Pectoral Sandpiper**
- ___ **Semipalmated Sandpiper**
- ___ **Short-billed Dowitcher**
- ___ **Wilson's Snipe**
- ___ **American Woodcock***
- ___ Spotted Sandpiper*
- ___ Solitary Sandpiper
- ___ Greater Yellowlegs
- ___ **Lesser Yellowlegs**
- ___ **Wilson's Phalarope**

- ___ Ring-billed Gull
- ___ Herring Gull
- ___ **Caspian Tern**
- ___ **Black Tern**
- ___ Common Tern
- ___ **Forster's Tern**

- ___ Double-crested Cormorant
- ___ **American White Pelican**

- ___ **American Bittern**
- ___ **Least Bittern**
- ___ Great Blue Heron*
- ___ Great Egret
- ___ Green Heron*
- ___ **Black-Crowned Night-Heron**
- ___ Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron

- ___ Turkey Vulture*
- ___ Osprey
- ___ **Bald Eagle***
- ___ **Northern Harrier**
- ___ Sharp-shinned Hawk
- ___ Cooper's Hawk*
- ___ **Red-shouldered Hawk**
- ___ **Broad-winged Hawk***
- ___ Red-tailed Hawk*
- ___ Rough-legged Hawk
- ___ Golden Eagle

- ___ **Barn Owl**
- ___ **Eastern Screech-Owl***
- ___ Great Horned Owl*
- ___ Snowy Owl
- ___ Barred Owl*

- ___ **Long-eared Owl**
- ___ **Short-eared Owl**
- ___ Northern Saw-whet Owl

- ___ **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*
- ___ Northern 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*
- ___ **Brown Thrasher***
- ___ Northern Mockingbird
- ___ European Starling*
- ___ Cedar Waxwing*

- ___ House Sparrow*
- ___ House Finch*
- ___ Purple Finch
- ___ Common Redpoll
- ___ Pine Siskin*
- ___ American Goldfinch*

- ___ Lapland Longspur
- ___ Snow Bunting

- ___ 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
- ___ 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
- ___ 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***



Carl Kurtz Photo

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



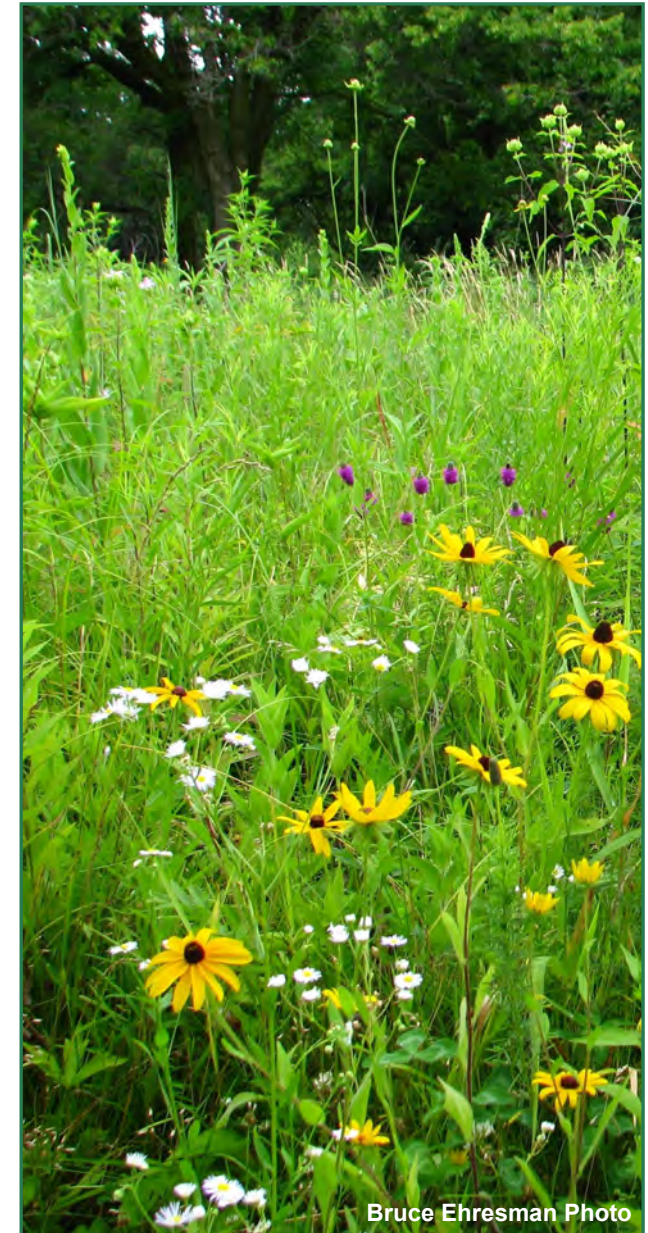
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Bruce Ehresman Photo

Jones County