

So if you know of a site like this and you get a fallout, counting/estimating numbers provides invaluable data in support of an IBA.

Organize a dedication/celebration ceremony

Dedication ceremonies have been held at only 20 of the 48 IBAs.

Table 1 shows which of the 48 have already been dedicated. If you attended one of those events, you know how inspiring they were. Landowners especially appreciate the recognition for their efforts to manage their land for the birds. Pick a site near you that you know well, but has not yet been formally dedicated, and put together a plan, a date and a team of interested people/organizations/clubs. Local media love stories like these.

Adopt an IBA, then volunteer to do bird surveys, site maintenance and restoration work

Landowners and managers need and value information on the status of the birds. Bird monitoring observations are critical for tracking the short and long-term population cycles of the bird species using an IBA site. Though a site may have formal protection as a state park or preserve, information on the bird population trends helps the site manager to understand how management and restoration activities are impacting the birds. Overall protection of a site may be already in place, but the IBA program is a great chance to increase awareness of the manager on how the birds are being impacted by decisions made. Many demands are being placed on the wildlife professionals, and there is inadequate time and money for management and restoration. Volunteers have become an increasingly important asset for land managers and owners. Cutting brush may be less exciting than bird monitoring, but the help we provide in support of restoration is greatly valued by the manager. Plus, it provides you with a close look at the ecosystem that is being maintained or restored.

Table 1 – Illinois Important Bird Areas designated as of October 2005

(Numbers reference the site's location on Figure 1. Notes identify the 20 sites where dedication ceremonies have been held; F 04 equals a ceremony held in the fall of 2004, S = spring and W = Winter)

	Site	Criteria	
1	Anderson Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating waterfowl	S 05
2	Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating shorebirds	S 05
3	Bartel Grassland	breeding Bobolink	S 05
4	Cache River State Natural Area	migrating and breeding wading birds; breeding Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Brown Creeper, Prairie Warbler	S 05
5	Calhoun Division of the Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge incl. Mississippi SFWA	migrating waterfowl; Brown Creeper, migrating and breeding wading birds, Prothonotary Warbler	
6	Castle Rock State Park & Lowden-Miller SF	breeding Cerulean Warbler	
7	Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge	migrating shorebirds and waterfowl; migrating and breeding wading birds	S 05
8	Crab Orchard NWR	migrating waterfowl and wading birds	
9	Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge	migrating waterfowl; breeding Barn Owl, Henslow's Sparrow, Orchard Oriole	S 05
10	Des Plaines State Conservation Area	breeding Orchard Oriole	
11	Donnelly and Lake Depue State Fish and Wildlife Areas	migrating and breeding wading birds	
12	Double T Fish and Wildlife Area	breeding Upland Sandpiper	
13	Douglas - Goose Lake & Woodford CCA	migrating waterfowl	
14	Goose Lake Prairie State Park	breeding American Bittern, King Rail, Wilson's Snipe, Sedge Wren, Henslow's Sparrow	
15	Grassy Slough Preserve	wintering Short-eared Owl; breeding Barn Owl	F 05
16	Hennepin and Hopper Lake	migrating waterfowl; breeding Pied-billed Grebe	F 05
17	Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating waterfowl; breeding Brown Creeper	
18	Illinois Beach State Park	migrating raptors	
19	Iroquois County State Conservation Area	breeding Red-headed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren	
20	Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area	breeding Yellow-breasted Chat, Dickcissel	
21	Kane/McHenry Swainson's Hawk Habitat	breeding Swainson's Hawk	F 04
22	Kaskaskia River Corridor	breeding Brown Creeper, Cerulean Warbler	
23	Lake Calumet Area	breeding Black-crowned Night-Heron, Common Moorhen, Willow Flycatcher	F 04
24	Lake-McHenry wetlands complex	breeding Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Common Moorhen, Forster's Tern, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird	
25	LaRue/Pine Hills Ecological Station, Shawnee National Forest	breeding Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler	
26	Lost Mound Unit, Savanna District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	migrating waterfowl, raptors, wading birds; breeding Upland Sandpiper, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow	W 05
27	Mark Twain NWR Long Island Division	migrating wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl	