

Publicize your local/ favorite IBA

Take a reporter out on a bird walk or monitoring session. Give them an anecdote about your favorite bird. Call them when the breeding or wintering birds first

return to your site. If a large number are currently on your site, or an unexpected bird appears, let them know. Big numbers and rare species can be featured in local newspapers. Columnists are also seeking material for a future column; an IBA story is interesting material if you point

the columnist in the right direction and provide the writer with facts and figures. Your local elected officials, chambers of commerce, and other town organizations may be interested as well. Tell them how important your IBA is to the local economy, or how its existence in their back yard demonstrates their commitment to wildlife and green space.

Table 1 – Continued

	Site	Criteria	
28	Marshall State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating waterfowl	
29	Meredosia Lake	migrating waterfowl	S 05
30	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie	breeding Upland Sandpiper, Willow Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Bell's Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Bobolink	S 05
31	Mississippi Palisades State Park	migrating raptors; breeding Cerulean Warbler	
32	Great Lakes Naval Station	breeding Common Tern	
33	Oakwood Bottoms, Shawnee National Forest	migrating waterfowl and shorebirds; breeding Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	
34	Pekin Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating wading birds	S 05
35	Pomona Nongame Bird Management Area	breeding Cerulean Warbler, Kentucky Warbler	
36	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area - Jasper unit and Marion Unit	migrating shorebirds; breeding Greater Prairie-Chicken, American Bittern, King Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow's Sparrow, Dickcissel	S 05
37	Pratt's Wayne /Pate Phillip State Park Grassland Complex	breeding Sandhill Crane, Yellow-headed Blackbird	F 05
38	Pyramid State Park	migrating waterfowl; breeding Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow's Sparrow, Northern Harrier; wintering Short-eared Owl	
39	Red's Landing State Fish and Wildlife Area and Batchtown division of Two Rivers NFWF	migrating waterfowl; migrating and breeding wading birds; breeding Prothonotary Warbler	
40	Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating shorebirds	S 05
41	Rollins Savanna	breeding Yellow-headed Blackbird	
42	Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve	breeding Red-headed Woodpecker	S 05
43	Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area	migrating waterfowl; migrating and breeding wading birds; breeding Prothonotary Warbler	S 05
44	Spoon River - Emiquon NWR	migrating waterfowl	S 05
45	Trail of Tears State Forest	breeding Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler	
46	Trelease Woods	Research Site	
47	Union County State Conservation Area	migrating waterfowl	
48	Upper Mississippi NWR	migrating waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and raptors; breeding Sandhill Crane, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper	



The Des Plaines State Conservation Area provides breeding habit to the Orchard Oriole.

This photo was taken by Jerry Kumery at the Paul Douglas Forest Preserve in Cook County.

The future of IBAs in Illinois

For birders and bird conservation advocates, both amateur and professional, IBAs provide a great opportunity to highlight the protection and enhancement of critical bird habitat throughout our state. But that will only happen if we, the birding community, embrace the concept and actively work to promote it. Will we someday have a network of IBAs encompassing 7% of the area within Illinois' borders, as has occurred in Europe? Perhaps the more relevant question may be: Is there 7% of the state left which could qualify for IBA designation? Certainly 7% is not a magic number. We know with equal certainty that many other sites remain to be identified and designated. If at some future date, we are actually struggling to identify new candidate sites because all the good ones are already designated, that will be a nice problem to have.

One thing is for sure. An active, vital IBA program can be a key component as we work to keep our state's natural areas intact. Dewey