

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF IBA NOMINATION FORM

The Important Bird Area (IBA) program is an international effort to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. Birdlife International began the IBA program in Europe in 1985. Since that time, Birdlife partners in more than 100 countries have joined together to build the global IBA network. Audubon, the BirdLife Partner in the U.S., has been working since 1995 to identify and conserve hundreds of IBAs all across the United States.

Important Bird Areas often support a significant proportion of one or more species total population. Through the IBA program, we're setting science-based conservation priorities and engaging local action to safeguard the most essential sites for America's bird populations. We work with local communities and stakeholder groups, scientists, local, state, and federal governments, and non-governmental organizations. By cooperating on essential habitat conservation, we're building a healthier world for birds and all biodiversity - including our own species.

THE IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROCESS

The process of identifying Important Bird Areas involves the following steps:

1. Nominate a site. This involves completing a nomination form and providing the appropriate supporting data. Sites can be nominated by **anyone**. Some sites that you may be interested in nominating may have been nominated already. Contact Audubon Arkansas' Bird Conservation Director for more information before nominating a site.
2. Submit nomination materials to Audubon Arkansas. They will be reviewed by a Technical Committee composed of Ornithologists and expert birders. Nominations may require revision before a decision is made. Audubon Arkansas' Board will grant final approval of a site recommended by the Committee. You will be informed of the final decision.
3. The nomination materials will be entered into the Audubon IBA Database. This information may then be shared globally, through incorporation into the World Bird Database, developed by BirdLife International. Because of the need to integrate all IBA data around the world, certain standards for data collection must be followed, which are detailed in these instructions.

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II. Site Details

Site Name: Official name of the site and any other names by which this site may be known.

Nearest Town(s): Nearest town or towns to site.

County/Counties: Counties that contain the site

Area: Report in hectares. Multiply acres by 0.4047 to convert to hectares.

Area Accuracy: Rates the exactness of the size value provided. Choose from the following:

Accuracy	Description
Good	Accurate to within 10%
Medium	Accurate to within 50%
Poor	Definitely not accurately to within 50%
Unknown	

Elevation: Report the minimum, maximum, or average elevation of this site in meters. To convert from feet to meters, multiply by 0.3048.

Central Coordinates: A latitude/longitude that defines the approximate center of the site. Report as degrees (°), minutes (′), seconds (″) (N/S, E/W). If the site is composed of separate units, also provide central coordinates for each unit under Site Description.

Ownership/Management: List titleholders to the land within the boundaries of the site. Provide contact information and specify whether the owner is aware of the nomination. Landowner notification is optional. Formal notification will be made by Audubon Arkansas. *You are encouraged to involve landowners in the site nomination process.* If you have *any* doubts about how a nomination will be received by a private landowner or manager, do not attempt to contact him/her. Audubon Arkansas respects the rights of landowners and the right of privacy. The IBA program is *not* a regulatory program, and a site's recognition as an IBA has *no* regulatory authority. Conservation objectives for IBAs will be set with the cooperation of the landowners and managers.

Site Description: General description of the site, summarizing the significance of the site overall.

III. IBA Criteria

Check all the criteria that apply to the site. Please explain your selections by summarizing the species observed, season, average number observed, etc. Additional observational details for each species will be provided in the next section. Criteria that do not apply to the site may be deleted to provide additional space for selected criteria. The codes (D1, D4i, etc.) associated with each criterion are for data entry purposes and can be ignored.

Criterion 1: Regularly supports significant populations of one or more Arkansas Birds of Conservation Interest (ABCI)

Site regularly supports a significant breeding, wintering, or migrating population of one or more of the bird species considered by Audubon as vulnerable in Arkansas. Thresholds have been developed for each species (Table 1) based on species at risk categories, dispersion pattern, taxonomic group, sources of bird population data, and expert opinion. Thresholds are guidelines in the site review process; significance of a particular population is at the discretion of the Arkansas IBA Technical Committee.

Criterion 2: Contains an assemblage of species characteristic of a representative, rare, threatened, or unique habitat.

This category is intended to cover relatively large areas capable of supporting significant bird populations of species with very particular habitat requirements. Small remnants of an exceptional habitat type may be included. Selection of sites will be based on avian assemblages present in the habitat type, not on the habitat type alone. Therefore, whenever possible, the species of birds that are characteristic of the habitat type should be identified and quantified. See Table 2 for habitat types and species assemblages.

Criterion 3: Regularly supports more than 1% of a single species' state population during some portion of the year. In practice it will be difficult to estimate state population sizes for most species so expert opinion will play a role. This criterion might be applied to any species that congregates, including those that nest in colonies, forage in flocks, or roost communally.

Criteria 4-12: Regularly supports significant congregations of birds.

These criteria cover sites where native bird species regularly concentrate in significant numbers when breeding (e.g. wading birds), in winter (e.g. waterfowl), or during migration (e.g. shorebirds). Human-made food sources for gulls (landfills, dumpsites, sewage treatment plants or outflows, etc.) or man-made structures (dams, bridges, buildings, etc.) will not be considered as IBAs. Exceptions will be considered for habitat restoration projects due to their relative permanence and resemblance to natural habitats. The numerical thresholds are guidelines only, and the Technical Committee may consider other factors (quality and location of habitat, distribution and importance of species, etc.).

Criterion 13: Regularly contains exceptional numbers or diversity of migratory landbirds other than raptors. Concentrations refer to seasonal totals rather than those occurring over brief period of time. This includes sites that provide important habitat for more landbirds than are found at most other sites during migration. No absolute thresholds have been set due to the scarcity of quantitative data. Sites should be clearly unique from other sites in the local area.

Criterion 14: Supports long-term avian research efforts.

Includes sites with a long record of data collection that have resulted in papers published in peer-reviewed ornithological journals, or sites that afford us the ability to collect a unique and significant set of bird population data that are likely to be published, synthesized, and used for scientific purposes. Includes sites where a standardized system of monitoring has resulted in a significant and high quality set of bird population data, which are published in some form, and are scientifically useful for conservation planning purposes. Because these sites may not provide essential habitats for significant populations of birds, a site might not qualify as an IBA by this criterion alone. Recognition of this status is meant to facilitate continued study of bird populations and a continuing contribution to bird conservation.

Criterion 15: Provides important, bird-specific educational opportunities.

Includes sites with a long record of unique educational opportunities regarding birds and bird conservation, especially for a state or regional audience. Because these sites may not provide essential habitats for significant populations of birds, a site might not qualify as an IBA by this criterion alone.

Criterion 16: Regularly supports significant populations of one or more Audubon WatchList species.

Site regularly supports a significant breeding, wintering, or migrating population of one or more of the bird species considered by Audubon to be of global (red) or national (yellow) conservation concern. These species are not of high conservation concern at the state level because they are fairly common, but should be monitored due to their status at broader levels. A site may be recognized by the National IBA Technical Committee as a Global or Continental IBA if it supports at least the threshold population size (Table 3).

IVA. Species Population Data

Data should be reported as a count of a particular species' population at the site during a particular season of a given year. The database will not accept averages of multiple years, though you may average across observations within a season or year. The thoroughness and accuracy of the data will aid in identifying the site as an IBA. Lack of data will not necessarily diminish the importance of the site as an IBA. Rather, it may draw attention to needs such as increased avian monitoring at the site. See below for the details of each data field.

Species Data Fields:

Species Name: Common name of the species.

Season and Year, or Date (month/date/year) of Observation: Note the season and year the particular species was observed at the site, or the date if a single survey was conducted in a season.

Season Status: Choose one of the following codes to describe the season in which the bird population was noted:

Code	Season Status	Description
B	Breeding	Species breeds at site but is not present for parts of the year.
N/B	Non-breeding (during breeding season)	Species visits regularly during breeding season but does not attempt to breed (congregations at the end of breeding season or foraging breeders away from breeding site)
N	Non-breeding	Species occurs at site but does not breed (usually over-summering immature birds or post-breeding molt-gatherings)
W	Wintering	Species spends a substantial part of the winter at site.
FP	Fall Passage	Species occurs regularly at site during short periods of time between breeding and winter ranges.
SP	Spring Passage	Species occurs regularly at site during short periods of time between winter and breeding ranges.
R	Resident	Species breeds at site and remains throughout the year.
Un	Unknown	Breeding or seasonal status of species at site is unknown or uncertain.

Count: Provide the greatest level of detail available. You may average over several observations made within a season: **Density:** Indicate number per unit area. Specify the units (km² preferred). **OR Total Number Per Season:** Total count for the whole season, especially applicable to migrating raptors and cranes. **OR Min/Max:** A conservative estimate of the minimum and maximum number of birds counted at one given time or a whole season. **OR Order of Magnitude:** Estimates of individuals in the absence of real counts. Select from the following range of numbers:

- <50
- 50-249
- 250-999
- 1000-2499
- 2500-9999
- >10,000
- 10,000 -19,999
- 20,000-49,999

- 50,000-99,999
- 100,000-499,999
- 500,000-999,999
- 1,000,000-2,499,999
- 2,500,000-4,999,999
- 5,000,000-9,999,999
- >10,000,0000

Units: Describe the types of birds counted with one of the following units: Individuals= I; Breeding Pairs=B; Adults Only=A; Males Only=M; Females Only=F; Immature Only=IM; Nests=N; Unknown=Un

Data Quality: Quality of the observation data. Because data can be obtained from many sources, this indicator describes the reliability of the data.

Code	Data Quality	Description
G	Good	Based on reliable and complete or representative quantitative data.
M	Medium	Based on reliable but incomplete or partially representative quantitative data.
P	Poor	Based on qualitative information, but no (or potentially unreliable/unrepresentative) quantitative data.
Un	Unknown	

Derivation: Refers to method by which data were obtained, reflecting the overall reliability of the data.

Code	Relative Abundance	Description
O	Observation	Based on complete population counts.
I	Inferred	Based on indirect evidence in units of numbers of individuals.
EI	Estimated Indirectly	Based on an explicit calculation of estimated population density derived from related species
ED	Estimated directly	Based on surveys
S	Suspected	Best guess based on circumstantial evidence in units other than numbers of individuals. For example, the best guess based on intuitive understanding of the species' ecology and range.

Source: For each entry (row), enter the source number that corresponds with the listed source in the following section, IVB. Source Details.

IVB. Source Details

List the sources of data for entries in the previous section, IVA – Species Population Data. Sources may include personal field notes, surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts or Breeding Bird Surveys, or publications. Include the following in your citation: **Source Type, Authors (publication, report)/ Observers (field notes), Year, Title of Source, Journal, Volume, Pages** (if applicable). See examples below.

1. Publication: James, D. A, C. J. Kellner, J. Self, and J. Davis. 2001. Breeding season distribution of Cerulean Warblers in Arkansas in the 1990s. *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science* 55:66-74.
2. Personal Field Notes: Scheiman, D. M. 2005. Notes on breeding passerines at Bell Slough Wildlife Management Area, summer 2005.

V. Habitat

Habitat Description: Define the habitat composition of the site. Select the habitat types that are present by estimating the percent of the total site area that is characterized by these habitats. The total of all percentages indicated should not exceed 100%. Providing additional written details will help us further understand the habitats.

VI. Land Use

Land Use Description: Define how the land is used at the site. Select the land uses that occur at the site by estimating the percent of the total usage that is characterized by the selected uses. The total of all percentages indicated should not exceed 100%. Providing additional written details will help us further understand the land uses.

VII. Threats and Conservation

Threats Description: Define the threats to the site. Indicate to what extent each threat affects the site using a scale from 1 to 10, one being minor, ten being serious. Threats that do not apply should be left blank. The same score can be assigned to different threats. Providing additional written details will help us further understand the threats.

Conservation/Resource/Restoration Issues: Providing details in these sections, if applicable, will help determine what management actions may be required to protect birds and their habitats.

Interest Groups: Provide contact information for local individuals or groups that may be interested in participating in the IBA program for this site.

Supporting Documentation: These materials should support the IBA criteria. If submitting a map please mark the site boundaries.

Table 1. Thresholds for triggering Criterion 1 for Arkansas Birds of Conservation Interest. These are guidelines for site review.

Common Name	Breeding Threshold Individuals	Nonbreeding Threshold Individuals	Qualifier
Trumpeter Swan		30	
Mottled Duck	2	4	
Hooded Merganser	2	10	breeding
Northern Bobwhite	40	60	
Pied-billed Grebe	2	60	breeding
Anhinga	10	15	
American Bittern		6	
Least Bittern	4	6	
Little Blue Heron	40	60	
Tricolored Heron	2	4	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	10	20	
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	10	20	
White Ibis	40	60	
Osprey	2	4	
Swallow-tailed Kite	2	2	
Mississippi Kite	10	15	natural areas
Northern Harrier	2	10	breeding
Yellow Rail		1	
King Rail	2	4	
Purple Gallinule	4	6	
Common Gallinule	40	60	
Piping Plover		2	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		5	
American Woodcock	5	10	
“Interior” Least Tern	10	25	
Short-eared Owl		5	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	4	6	
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	1	1	
Willow Flycatcher	2	4	
Loggerhead Shrike	5	15	
Bell’s Vireo	10	15	
Bank Swallow	10	50	
Bewick's Wren	2	2	
Sedge Wren	2	10	
Marsh Wren		10	
Sprague’s Pipit		2	
Black-throated Green Warbler	5	30	breeding
Cerulean Warbler	5	10	
Worm-eating Warbler	10	15	

Common Name	Breeding Threshold Individuals	Nonbreeding Threshold Individuals	Qualifier
Swainson's Warbler	3	6	
Bachman's Sparrow	3	6	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	2	5	
Grasshopper Sparrow	5	10	
Henslow's Sparrow	3	5	
Smith's Longspur		15	
Rusty Blackbird		60	

Table 2. Characteristic bird species of important habitat types in Arkansas. The lists below include all species of habitat specialist (species that are largely dependent on the habitat in question) that occur in the relevant habitat and are ABCI species or Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Some species can be dependent on multiple similar habitats so will appear in more than one list. Not every species needs to occur in a habitat to qualify.

Glade

Greater Roadrunner	Prairie Warbler	Henslow's Sparrow
Bewick's Wren	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	

Cypress-tupelo Swamp

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Winter Wren
Wood Duck	White Ibis	Northern Parula
Anhinga	Wood Stork	Yellow-throated Warbler
Snowy Egret	Purple Gallinule	Prothonotary Warbler
Little Blue Heron	Common Gallinule	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Ivory-billed Woodpecker	

Bottomland Hardwood Forest

Wood Duck	Barred Owl	Kentucky Warbler
Swallow-tailed Kite	Ivory-billed Woodpecker	Hooded Warbler
Mississippi Kite	Winter Wren	Swainson's Warbler
American Woodcock	Yellow-throated Warbler	Rusty Blackbird
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Prothonotary Warbler	

Prairie

Greater Prairie-Chicken	Eastern Kingbird	Lark Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Grasshopper Sparrow
American Golden-Plover	Loggerhead Shrike	Henslow's Sparrow
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Sedge Wren	Le Conte's Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper	Sprague's Pipit	Smith's Longspur
Barn Owl	Field Sparrow	Dickcissel
Short-eared Owl	Vesper Sparrow	Eastern Meadowlark

Pine Savanna/Woodland

Northern Bobwhite	Brown-headed Nuthatch	Prairie Warbler
Red-headed Woodpecker	Bachman's Sparrow	Yellow-breasted Chat
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Pine Warbler	

Oak Savanna/Woodland

Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite
Ruffed Grouse
Greater Roadrunner
Red-headed Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee

Red-eyed Vireo
Bewick's Wren
Wood Thrush
Black-throated Green Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler
Kentucky Warbler

Hooded Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Towhee
Bachman's Sparrow

Shrub-Scrub

Northern Bobwhite
Willow Flycatcher
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo

Bewick's Wren
Gray Catbird
Blue-winged Warbler
Prairie Warbler

Yellow-breasted Chat
Painted Bunting
Eastern Towhee

Canebrake

Swainson's Warbler
Hooded Warbler

Marsh / Emergent Wetland

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck
Mottled Duck
Pied-billed Grebe
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron

Tricolored Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Wood Stork
Yellow Rail
Black Rail

King Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
Purple Gallinule
Common Gallinule
Black-necked Stilt

Sandbar/Mudflat

Black-bellied Plover
Piping Plover
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Greater Yellowlegs

Lesser Yellowlegs
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper

Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Wilson's Snipe
Wilson's Phalarope
Least Tern

Natural Lake (oxbow, meander scar)

Trumpeter Swan
Wood Duck
American Black Duck
Mottled Duck
Northern Pintail
Hooded Merganser

Pied-billed Grebe
Anhinga
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Wood Stork
Osprey
Bald Eagle
American Coot

Table 3. WatchList species.

Species	WatchList Status	Breeding Threshold Individuals	Nonbreeding Threshold
American Golden-Plover	Yellow		480
Sanderling	Yellow		120
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Yellow		480
Western Sandpiper	Yellow		480
White-rumped Sandpiper	Yellow		480
Stilt Sandpiper	Yellow		480
Red-headed Woodpecker	Yellow	90	90
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Yellow		90
Wood Thrush	Yellow	480	480
Blue-winged Warbler	Yellow	240	240
Prairie Warbler	Yellow	360	360
Prothonotary Warbler	Yellow	360	360
Kentucky Warbler	Yellow	360	360
Le Conte's Sparrow	Yellow	360	360
Painted Bunting	Yellow	90	90