

Site criteria list

For a site to be considered for IBA status, it must meet at least one of the following five criteria:

I) Threatened and endangered species

Sites should consistently support significant breeding densities of one or more of the following federal or state listed species. Sites should not be imminently imperiled with destruction or major alteration, or be areas of infrequent or historical occurrence for the species.

Piping Plover Mountain Plover Interior Least Tern

II) Species of significant concern

a) Sites should attract regularly occurring, significant breeding densities of any one of the following species. Special consideration will be made for sites with 3 or more species, or those with the highest known regularly occurring populations.

Eared Grebe	Black Tern	Cerulean Warbler
Western Grebe	Black-billed Cuckoo	Prothonotary Warbler
American Bittern	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Kentucky Warbler
Least Bittern	Burrowing Owl	Cassin's Sparrow
Trumpeter Swan	Short-eared Owl	Brewer's Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Whip-poor-will	Lark Bunting
Red-shouldered Hawk	Lewis's Woodpecker	Grasshopper Sparrow
Swainson's Hawk	Red-headed Woodpecker	Henslow's Sparrow
Ferruginous Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Greater Prairie-Chicken	Acadian Flycatcher	McCown's Longspur
Willet	Cordilleran Flycatcher	Chestnut-collared Longspur
Upland Sandpiper	Loggerhead Shrike	Dickcissel
Long-billed Curlew	Bell's Vireo	Bobolink
Wilson's Phalarope	Pygmy Nuthatch	
Forster's Tern	Wood Thrush	

b) Sites should contain a significant proportion of any of the following species' flyway population during spring or fall migration (non-breeding occurrences). Special consideration will be made for sites with 3 or more species, or those with the highest known regularly occurring populations. (Species listed in both 'a' and 'b' sections of Category 2 would be found in different habitats during breeding and migration seasons.)

Greater White-fronted Goose	Long-billed Curlew	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Sandhill Crane	Hudsonian Godwit	Wilson's Phalarope
Whooping Crane	White-rumped Sandpiper	Franklin's Gull
American Golden-Plover	Baird's Sandpiper	
Piping Plover	Stilt Sandpiper	

c) Sites attracting species of which knowledge of their life histories in Nebraska (breeding records, migration patterns, overall population trends) is limited and education/research is needed.

Clark's Grebe	Black Rail	Baird's Sparrow
Hooded Merganser (breeding)	Sandhill Crane (breeding)	Smith's Longspur
Mississippi Kite	Long-eared Owl	
Yellow Rail	Sprague's Pipit	

III) Birds that congregate in significant numbers

Sites should consistently attract high densities, high diversities, or both of one or more species in any of the following categories. Occurrences can be during breeding season, migration, or winter. Introduced or nuisance species—European starling, Canada goose (non-migratory), et al.—should not be included.

a) Aquatic habitats:

- 1) Waterfowl (loons, grebes, cormorants, geese, ducks, swans, and coots)
- 2) Shorebirds (plovers, sandpipers, snipe, woodcock, and phalaropes)
- 3) Waders (bitterns, herons, egrets, cranes, and ibises)
- 4) Gulls and terns

b) Terrestrial habitats: (for example, important migratory stopovers where geographical features concentrate large numbers of birds)

- 1) Raptors
- 2) Passerines

IV) Public education and research of birds

Sites that are natural areas where long-term avian research, monitoring projects, or both take place, or that contribute substantially to ornithology, bird conservation, and education.

V) Rare or vulnerable habitat(s), or exceptional habitats

Sites that contain rare or vulnerable habitats within the state/region or an exceptional representative of a natural habitat (containing high species and natural habitat diversity), and that hold important species or species assemblages largely restricted to a distinctive habitat type.