

Important Bird Area Nomination Form

Colorado, Wyoming, & Utah

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 AREA 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 Rockies (rockies.audubon.org) for more information before nominating a site. Instructions for the nomination form can be found at the end of this form.
- 2. Submit nomination materials to Audubon Rockies.** They will be reviewed by a technical committee composed of ornithologists and expert birders. Nominations may require revision before a decision is made. Audubon Rockies staff will grant final approval of a site recommended by the committee. Nominators and site representatives 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.

Nominator(s) Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Organization/Affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

PLEASE ATTACH MAP OF THE SITE WITH PROPOSED BOUNDARY CLEARLY MARKED.

Preferred format is a photocopy from the appropriate ADC county atlas. USGS topo maps are also acceptable but these are more outdated and thus inaccurate than the ADC county atlases.

Return this form to Zach Hutchinson electronically at zach.hutchinson@audubon.org.
Paper versions can be sent to 215 W Oak Street, Suite 2C, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

THANK YOU!

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** or **acres** (specify).

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

Accuracy	Select (X)	Description
Poor		Not accurate to within 50%
Medium		Accurate to within 50%
Good		Accurate to within 10%
Unknown		

Elevation: Report the minimum, maximum, or average elevation of the 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 Rockies. 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 Rockies 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. (Additional owners/managers can be included in an attachment.)

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____ **Contacted? (Y/N)** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Organization/Affiliation: _____ **Contacted? (Y/N)** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Is the site protected? _____ Does the site have a management plan? _____

Designation (State Park, County Forest, etc)? _____

Is this site accessible to the public? _____

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

Site Criteria

Category 1: Sites regularly holding significant numbers of an endangered, threatened, vulnerable, or declining species.

Category 2: Sites regularly holding significant numbers of species of high conservation priority in **Colorado, Utah, or Wyoming** (Colorado - State Special Concern, Utah - Species of Concern, Wyoming - Species of Greatest Conservation Need).

Category 3: Sites where birds concentrate in significant numbers in the breeding season, in winter, or during migration.

Category 4: Sites containing assemblages of species characteristic of a representative, rare, threatened, or unique habitat within the state or region.

Category 5: Sites important for long-term research and/or monitoring projects that contribute substantially to ornithology, bird conservation, and/or education.

Category	Select all that apply (X)
Category 1: Bird species at risk or of conservation need.	
Category 2: Species of conservation need in high concentrations	
Category 3: Significant concentrations of species	
3a - Waterfowl	
3b - Seabirds	
3c - Shorebirds/Rails	
3d - Wading Birds	
3e - Raptors	
3f - Migratory Landbirds	
3g - Single Species Concentration	
Category 4: Species Assemblages	
4a - Rare habitat	
4b - Representative Habitats	
Category 5: Research, monitoring, or education	

Briefly explain how the site meets each of the criteria marked above:

Category 1

Category 2

Category 3

Category 4

Category 5

Source Details

Detail the sources of data noted in the "Species Population Data" form section above.

Habitat Details

Estimate the **%** of the total area that is made up of the following habitat types. If you are not able to estimate percentages, then please indicate whether it is a major or minor habitat type. Not all of the habitat categories are mutually exclusive. Select the category which best fits the habitat type.

<input type="checkbox"/> Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland
<input type="checkbox"/> Deciduous Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Grassland
<input type="checkbox"/> Oak-hickory	<input type="checkbox"/> Open Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Northern Hardwood forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake
<input type="checkbox"/> Hemlock	<input type="checkbox"/> Reservoir
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural lake
<input type="checkbox"/> White Pine/Red Pine	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Conifer	<input type="checkbox"/> River
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed northern hardwood/coniferous forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed deciduous/coniferous forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine
<input type="checkbox"/> Conifer plantation	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine nearshore
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrubland	<input type="checkbox"/> Marine shelf
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Scrub	<input type="checkbox"/> Bare Rock/Sand/Clay
<input type="checkbox"/> Old Field/shrub	<input type="checkbox"/> Bare ground
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrub-scrub habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal beach
<input type="checkbox"/> Woody Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal dune
<input type="checkbox"/> Cypress swamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Cliff (sand/clay)
<input type="checkbox"/> Loblolly pine hammock	<input type="checkbox"/> River bank
<input type="checkbox"/> Montane coniferous wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Rocky outcrops
<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian corridor	<input type="checkbox"/> Tidal mudflat
<input type="checkbox"/> Riparian or floodplain forest	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultivation
<input type="checkbox"/> Shrub swamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard / vineyard
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbaceous Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Grass / hay field
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergent freshwater wetland	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-native pasture
<input type="checkbox"/> Cattail marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Row crops
<input type="checkbox"/> Bog (peatland)	<input type="checkbox"/> Small grains
<input type="checkbox"/> Tidal freshwater marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Fallow field
<input type="checkbox"/> Brackish marsh (tidal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mown grass
<input type="checkbox"/> Salt marsh (tidal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

Land Use

Estimate the **%** of the total area that is made up of the following land uses. If you are not able to estimate percentages, then please indicate whether it is a major or minor land use. Since multiple uses may occur in an area the total may exceed 100%.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Agriculture | Tourism / Recreation |
| Fisheries / aquaculture | Mining / extraction / landfill |
| Forestry | Urban / industrial / transport |
| Hunting | Water management |
| Military | Other (specify) _____ |
| Nature conservation / research | Unknown |

Please add additional details of land use:

Threats

Mark each threat to the site and circle the presumed importance level. You may enter brief notes to clarify threats. However, detailed explanations of threats should be given below.

Check Here	Threat	Importance				Notes
		Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Abandonment / reduction of land management	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Afforestation	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Agricultural intensification / expansion	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Aquaculture / fisheries	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Burning of vegetation	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Deforestation	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Disease	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Disturbance to birds	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Drainage	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Dredging / canalization	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Extraction industry	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Filling-in of wetlands	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Forest browsing / grazing	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Forest management	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Industrialization / urbanization	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Infrastructure	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Natural events	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Pollution	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Recreation / tourism	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Other (specify)	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	
	Unknown	Low	Medium	High	Unknown	

Provide detailed explanations of threats and any measures being taken to address them:

Is habitat restoration or enhancement of this site needed? _____

If so, what actions need to be taken (e.g. fencing, planting, stream bank stabilization, erosion checks, exotic species management, etc)?

Research/Other Interests

Is there any historical ornithological research or monitoring at the site? Please give details:

Are there any areas of similar habitat adjacent or nearby the site, which should be considered for potential inclusion with the site? If so, please mark these on your site map and provide any useful details below (e.g. owner's name, potential source of bird data etc):

Local individuals/groups with an interest in this site:

<p>Group _____</p>	<p>Group _____</p>
<p>Contact _____</p>	<p>Contact _____</p>
<p>Address _____</p>	<p>Address _____</p>
<p>City/State/Zip _____</p>	<p>City/State/Zip _____</p>
<p>Phone _____</p>	<p>Phone _____</p>
<p>Interest _____</p>	<p>Interest _____</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>Group _____</p>	<p>Group _____</p>
<p>Contact _____</p>	<p>Contact _____</p>
<p>Address _____</p>	<p>Address _____</p>
<p>City/State/Zip _____</p>	<p>City/State/Zip _____</p>
<p>Phone _____</p>	<p>Phone _____</p>
<p>Interest _____</p>	<p>Interest _____</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>

Important Bird Area Nomination Instructions

Colorado, Wyoming, & Utah

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 AREA 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 Rockies (rockies.audubon.org) for more information before nominating a site. Instructions for the nomination form can be found at the end of this form.
- 2. Submit nomination materials to Audubon Rockies.** They will be reviewed by a technical committee composed of ornithologists and expert birders. Nominations may require revision before a decision is made. Audubon Rockies staff will grant final approval of a site recommended by the committee. Nominators and site representatives 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.

Site Details

Site Name: Use the official name of the site or, if no official name exists, use the most common name by which the site is known. For larger sites, use the name of the largest single unit within the area, or most easily recognized name, such as a national forest, lake, or other geographic feature.

Area: For many public sites (parks, refuges) this information, and much of the other information needed for this form, is available from the land manager. Report area in hectares if possible. 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
Poor	Not accurate to within 50%
Medium	Accurate to within 50%
Good	Accurate to within 10%
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.

Species Population Data

IBA Criteria: IMPORTANT: After carefully reviewing the criteria for site selection (available from Audubon Maryland-DC's Director of Bird Conservation at the address at the front of this document), check the box or boxes for the criteria that you think your site meets.

Category Description: Briefly summarize how your site meets each of the criteria you marked. Example: "This is an exceptional migratory corridor for raptors with an average of 12,000 birds of 8 species each fall."

Species Population Data

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

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.

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.

Relative Abundance: When complete counts cannot be obtained, such as when a species is dispersed throughout its habitat or if you visit only part of a site, relative abundance may be the best guide to the numbers of birds present. Use the scale below to describe relative abundance.

Code	Relative Abundance	Description
A	Abundant	Encountered in large numbers and through most areas of preferred habitat.
C	Common	Encountered in small numbers and through most areas of preferred habitat.
F	Frequent	Often, but not always, met within preferred habitat.
U	Uncommon	Encountered sporadically in preferred habitat.
R	Rare	Rarely seen, often implying less than 10 or so records.
Un	Unknown	Not possible to assess abundance on available information.

Counts and estimates: Ideal data would be a complete and accurate count of the population of each species that you list. This is rarely possible for most species – for these try to provide counts of some kind and also an estimate of the total population. Use different lines for counts and estimates. For migrating raptors, please provide a cumulative total for an entire season.

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

Details of count: Report what was counted, which technique was used, the area or distance covered by the count, and whether the number is a total or an average, e.g. “singing males on a 3km transect”, “average # of individuals per point count over 12 points, 3 visits each”, or “Christmas Bird Census total; 40% of site’s suitable habitat covered”. Use the metric system, e.g. “5 individuals/km”.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Research/Other Interests

Local individuals: Please fill in the information as indicated. Include birders with an especially high level of interest in the site, bird clubs and other groups that regularly hold field trips to the site, landscape/historical preservation groups active at the site, developers with a known commercial interest etc.

Land Ownership Guidelines

The cooperation and participation of private landowners and public land managers is key to the success of the IBA Program. When considering any site as an Important Bird Area, whether public or private, great discretion should be exercised in order to respect the right and authority of landowners and managers, and to avoid the creation or perception of potential conflict. The IBA Program offers potential recognition and assistance for good land stewardship, and should be used to foster trust and cooperation with landowners and managers.

Please keep the following points in mind when nominating a site:

- Whenever possible and/or practical, private landowners and/or public land managers should be notified in person if their land is being considered as a potential IBA.
- Whenever possible and/or practical, private landowners and/or public land managers should be invited to participate in the IBA process.
- Whenever possible and/or practical, private landowners and/or public land managers should be given every opportunity to participate in any discussions concerning their land, especially conservation planning or habitat management.
- Volunteers should never trespass on private property or enter public lands unauthorized, where authorization is required; always respect property rights and posted signs; and never engage in activities likely to arouse suspicion or hostility.
- If you encounter any negative reaction, or even anticipate such a reaction, on the part of a landowner or land manager, contact the IBA Coordinator. Do not try to pursue contact on your own if you are unsure of the response.