



Audubon IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Program Achievements

- March 2011 -

IBA SCORECARD

- 47 States with Sites Identified
- >2,500 State-level IBAs
- >370 Million Acres Encompassed in Identified IBAs
- 424 Global-level IBAs
- 15 Continental-level IBAs
- >270 IBA Adoption Groups

- Enhanced the IBA web site to provide more information and tools for the public and conservationists about Important Bird Areas .
- Contributed to the seminal publication, Important Bird Areas Americas with a chapter on the U.S. IBA network.

- Increased the number of recognized Globally Significant Important Bird Areas to more than 400.
- Developed GIS boundaries for the 400 plus Global IBAs and have begun delineating extent of protection.
- Piloted in three states an IBA Assessment and conservation planning framework designed to engage volunteers in conservation at Important Bird Areas



- Responded to the BP Oil spill by prioritizing 20 focal bird species for more intense conservation and advocacy and made available information on the network of Important Bird Areas in the Gulf in a special section of the IBA website, <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/gulfIBAs.html>

- Completed seven TogetherGreen Volunteer Day projects in Arizona, Illinois, North Carolina, and Virginia involving more than 160 volunteers. Volunteers engaged in habitat cleanup and restoration, bird monitoring, inventory of sites, mapping, outreach activities and various training exercises.



IBA Achievements—Local Examples



Audubon California, with partners, is working to engage private landowners, specifically rice farmers, on innovative conservation practices to help Tricolored Blackbirds at Important Bird Areas such as the Surprise Valley and Tejon Ranch.

In **Connecticut**, Madison voters choose to *protect lands* adjacent to the Hammonasset Beach State Park, a Globally Significant Important Bird Area

In **Louisiana**, the presence of IBAs has been cited by the Army Corps of Engineers as rationale for closing the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, a ship channel that contributed to flooding New Orleans and destroyed thousands of acres of wetlands.

Through **Audubon Maryland/DC** efforts, IBAs are incorporated into a local planning process, helping to curb sprawl in the county.

In **Maryland**, an agreement between two environmental trusts and the county is approved, *preserving* more than 600 acres along Bacon Ridge Branch at the South River Greenway IBA.

Efforts by **Audubon Minnesota** have resulted in an agreement by a developer to deed acreage to a city park and the placing of *easements* on wetlands and private lands adjacent to an IBA.



Audubon Missouri partnered with Audubon chapters, the State University, and Missouri Department of Conservation to *restore* 100-150 acres of *habitat* within an IBA.

In **Montana**, efforts by Five Valleys Audubon Chapter in coordination with Montana Audubon, helped *stop proposed development* at Clark Fork River-Grass Valley IBA, a Continentally significant IBA for Lewis' Woodpecker, and led to conservation *easements* and new partnerships.



Audubon New York partnered with New York City Audubon and New York City Parks and Recreation to undertake *habitat restoration* at North Brother Island IBA, removing invasive trees and shrubs and planting natives.

Efforts in **North Carolina** have led to IBAs being included in the statewide comprehensive conservation planning tool.



In **Oregon**, volunteers were recruited and trained to conduct surveys for the Marbled Murrelet. This has served to raise awareness in the community and has initiated a *citizen science monitoring* effort at the Marbled Murrelet Important Bird Area.

Efforts of **Audubon South Carolina** have resulted in the expansion of Beidler Forest IBA through three *land acquisitions*, protecting more than 2,500 acres.

Through a series of Volunteer Day events at specific IBAs in **Arizona, Illinois, North Carolina, and Virginia**, volunteers were engaged in removal of invasive plants, cleanup, bird monitoring, education and outreach activities.

