



# Iowa Species Nesting Dates and Habitats

Species	Early Date	Late Date	Habitat	Species	Early Date	Late Date	Habitat
Canada Goose	15-Mar	15-Jul	Wetlands				Woodlands; coniferous and others
Trumpeter Swan	15-Mar	15-Jul	Dense marsh vegetation	Sharp-shinned Hawk	1-May	15-Jul	Others
Wood Duck	15-Apr	31-Aug	Woods near water	Cooper's Hawk	15-Apr	15-Jul	Timber
Gadwall	20-May	31-Jul	Wetlands	Red-shouldered Hawk	10-Apr	31-Jul	Riverbottom timber
American Wigeon	15-May	31-Jul	Wetland-open water				
American Black Duck	1-May	30-Jun	Wetland-open water	Broad-winged Hawk	10-May	15-Aug	Timber
Mallard	1-May	31-Jul	Wetlands	Swainson's Hawk	1-May	15-Aug	Timber
Blue-winged Teal	20-May	31-Jul	Wetlands	Red-tailed Hawk	15-Mar	31-Jul	Timber
Northern Shoveler	1-Jun	15-Aug	Wetlands				Open country with scattered trees
Northern Pintail	1-May	30-Jun	Wetlands	American Kestrel	1-Apr	31-Jul	
Green-winged Teal	20-May	31-Jul	Wetlands				
Canvasback	20-May	31-Jul	Prairie Marshes	Merlin	15-Apr	15-Jul	Woodland
Redhead	20-May	31-Jul	Wetlands	Peregrine Falcon	15-Apr	31-Jul	Urban sites
Ring-necked Duck	20-May	31-Jul	Sedge Meadow Marshes	King Rail	5-May	15-Aug	Marsh edges
Lesser Scaup	20-May	31-Jul	Marshes, ponds	Virginia Rail	10-May	31-Aug	Marshes
Bufflehead	20-May	31-Jul	Tree cavities	Sora	15-May	15-Aug	Marshes, wet fields
Hooded Merganser	1-May	15-Jul	Woods near water	Common Moorhen	20-May	31-Aug	Ponds, marshes
Ruddy Duck	1-Jun	15-Aug	Wetlands	American Coot	15-May	15-Aug	Ponds, marshes
Gray Partridge	15-May	15-Aug	Farmland	Sandhill Crane	1-Apr	31-Jul	Wetland, open water
Ring-necked Pheasant	15-Apr	31-Aug	Farmland, brush				Sandy, gravel beaches or sandbars
Ruffed Grouse	15-Apr	15-Aug	Upland timber	Piping Plover	10-May	20-Jul	
Greater Prairie-Chicken	15-Apr	15-Aug	Open grasslands	Killdeer	20-Apr	15-Aug	Bare ground, roadsides
Wild Turkey	15-Apr	31-Aug	Extensive forest	Spotted Sandpiper	20-May	31-Jul	Pond or stream edge
Northern Bobwhite	1-May	31-Aug	Farmland, brush	Upland Sandpiper	20-May	20-Jul	Pastures, meadows
Pied-billed Grebe	5-May	15-Aug	Marshes, ponds	Wilson's Snipe	5-May	15-Jul	Shallow waters
Red-necked Grebe	15-Apr	15-Aug	Wetland, open water	American Woodcock	1-Apr	15-Jul	Moist woods
Eared Grebe	15-May	15-Aug	Wetland, open water				Low, grassy areas near wetlands
Western Grebe	10-May	31-Aug	Marshes, lakes	Wilson's Phalarope	10-May	10-Jul	
American White Pelican	15-Apr	31-Jul	Wetland, open water	Franklin's Gull	15-May	15-Jul	Wetland, open water
Double-crested Cormorant	15-Apr	31-Jul	Wetland, open water	Ring-billed Gull	15-Apr	31-Jul	Wetland, open water
American Bittern	1-May	31-Jul	Marshes, wet fields				Sandy, gravel beaches or sandbars
Least Bittern	15-May	31-Aug	Marshes	Least Tern	20-May	31-Jul	
Great Blue Heron	20-Mar	31-Jul	Wooded river bottoms	Black Tern	20-May	31-Jul	Marshes
Great Egret	5-Apr	31-Jul	Woods near water	Forster's Tern	15-May	31-Jul	Marshes
Cattle Egret	20-May	31-Aug	Wetlands	Rock Pigeon	1-Apr	31-Aug	Buildings, bridges, cliffs
Green Heron	10-May	15-Aug	Woods near water	Eurasian Collared-Dove	1-Apr	31-Aug	Urban sites
Black-crowned Night-Heron	5-May	31-Jul	Shrubs or trees near water				
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	15-May	31-Jul	Trees near water	Mourning Dove	10-Apr	31-Aug	Yards, woodlots, farms
			Rocks, stumps, sheds;	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	25-May	31-Aug	Forests, edges
Turkey Vulture	15-Apr	15-Aug	uplands	Black-billed Cuckoo	1-Jun	31-Aug	Forests, edges
			Woodlands, swamps,	Barn Owl	10-Apr	15-Aug	Farmland, open country
Mississippi Kite	15-May	31-Aug	rangelands	Eastern Screech-Owl	15-Apr	31-Jul	Open woods, groves
			Large forest tracts, near	Great Horned Owl	15-Feb	30-Jun	Woods
Bald Eagle	1-Mar	31-Jul	water	Burrowing Owl	15-May	15-Aug	Grassland, prairie
Northern Harrier	5-Apr	31-Jul	Grassland	Barred Owl	20-Apr	31-Jul	Riverbottom woods
				Long-eared Owl	15-Apr	15-Jul	Conifer groves, woodland
				Short-eared Owl	15-Apr	15-Jul	Grassland
				Common Nighthawk	1-Jun	15-Aug	Bare ground, gravel roofs
				Chuck-will's-widow	15-May	31-Jul	Woodland



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Whip-poor-will	15-May	31-Jul	Dry, open woods	Barn Swallow	5-May	15-Aug	Buildings, bridges
Chimney Swift	10-May	31-Jul	Towns, buildings	Black-capped Chickadee	10-Apr	15-Aug	Woods, suburbs
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	25-May	31-Jul	Woods, towns, edges	Tufted Titmouse	15-Apr	15-Aug	Woods
Belted Kingfisher	15-Apr	15-Aug	Banks of lakes or streams	Red-breasted Nuthatch	15-Apr	31-Jul	Coniferous woods, groves
Red-headed Woodpecker	15-May	15-Aug	Open woods, farmland	White-breasted Nuthatch	15-Apr	15-Aug	Woods
Red-bellied Woodpecker	5-May	15-Aug	Woodland	Brown Creeper	1-May	15-Jul	Woodlands
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5-May	31-Jul	Woodland	Carolina Wren	25-Apr	31-Jul	Thickets, wood edges, gardens
Downy Woodpecker	1-May	15-Aug	Woods, edges	Bewick's Wren	1-May	31-Jul	Open woodlands, residential
Hairy Woodpecker	1-May	15-Aug	Woods	House Wren	15-May	15-Aug	Open woods, gardens
Northern Flicker	5-May	15-Aug	Woods, scattered trees	Winter Wren	10-May	15-Jul	Coniferous/deciduous woodlands
Pileated Woodpecker	25-Apr	15-Aug	Extensive mature forest	Sedge Wren	25-May	31-Aug	Wet meadows, prairies
Eastern Wood-Pewee	25-May	15-Aug	Open woods, parks	Marsh Wren	15-May	15-Aug	Cattails, tall marsh vegetation
Acadian Flycatcher	20-May	31-Jul	Moist woods	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	10-May	31-Jul	Woods near water
Willow Flycatcher	25-May	31-Jul	Willows, brush, hedgerows	Eastern Bluebird	15-Apr	15-Aug	Wood edges, farms, suburbs
Least Flycatcher	1-Jun	31-Jul	Open woodland, edges	Veery	20-May	31-Jul	Moist woods
Eastern Phoebe	15-Apr	31-Jul	Open woodland, farmland, suburbs	Wood Thrush	15-May	15-Aug	Moist woods
Great Crested Flycatcher	25-May	15-Aug	Woodland	American Robin	10-Apr	31-Aug	Open woods, yards, parks
Western Kingbird	20-May	31-Aug	Scattered trees, hedgerows	Gray Catbird	25-May	15-Aug	Thickets, hedgerows
Eastern Kingbird	20-May	31-Aug	Scattered trees, edges	Northern Mockingbird	15-May	15-Aug	Shrubby pastures, hedgerows
Loggerhead Shrike	15-Apr	15-Aug	Hedgerows, thickets	Brown Thrasher	20-May	15-Aug	Thickets, hedgerows
White-eyed Vireo	25-May	31-Jul	Dense thickets	European Starling	15-Apr	31-Aug	Nearly everywhere
Bell's Vireo	25-May	15-Aug	Brushy fields, thickets	Cedar Waxwing	20-May	31-Jul	Open woods, scattered trees
Yellow-throated Vireo	20-May	15-Aug	Mature woods	Blue-winged Warbler	20-May	31-Jul	Brushy fields, clearings
Warbling Vireo	20-May	15-Aug	Open woods, scattered trees	Northern Parula	20-May	31-Jul	Woodland
Red-eyed Vireo	25-May	15-Aug	Woodlands	Yellow Warbler	20-May	5-Aug	Willows, brush
Blue Jay	15-Apr	31-Jul	Woods, farms, suburbs	Chestnut-sided Warbler	25-May	31-Jul	Early successional habitat
Black-billed Magpie	1-Apr	31-Jul	Grasslands to suburbs	Yellow-throated Warbler	10-May	31-Jul	Sycamores along streams
American Crow	1-Apr	31-Jul	Woods, farms, suburbs	Pine Warbler	20-May	31-Jul	Pines, mixed woodlands
Horned Lark	1-Apr	15-Jul	Short grass, bare ground	Prairie Warbler	25-May	31-Jul	Early successional habitat
Purple Martin	15-Apr	15-Jul	Martin houses, open country	Cerulean Warbler	20-May	31-Jul	Mature forest
Tree Swallow	1-May	31-Jul	Open areas near water	Black-and-white Warbler	25-May	31-Jul	Mixed woodlands
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	15-May	31-Jul	Cutbanks	American Redstart	25-May	10-Aug	Moist forest
Bank Swallow	15-May	31-Jul	Steep banks	Prothonotary Warbler	20-May	31-Jul	Dead trees at edges of water
Cliff Swallow	10-May	15-Aug	Cliffs, bridges, buildings				



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Worm-eating Warbler	20-May	5-Aug	Hilly woodlands	Brown-headed Cowbird	15-Apr	31-Aug	Nearly everywhere except urban areas
Ovenbird	20-May	31-Jul	Extensive forest	Orchard Oriole	20-May	31-Aug	Scattered trees, roadsides
Louisiana Waterthrush	5-May	31-Jul	Streams in mature forest	Baltimore Oriole	20-May	15-Aug	Shade trees, open woods
Kentucky Warbler	20-May	31-Jul	Moist forest	House Finch	15-Apr	31-Aug	Open woods, suburbs
Common Yellowthroat	20-May	15-Aug	Brush, wet thickets	Pine Siskin	10-Apr	15-Jul	Coniferous woods, groves
Hooded Warbler	25-May	31-Jul	Large forests	American Goldfinch	25-May	31-Aug	Brushy fields, hedgerows
Yellow-breasted Chat	20-May	31-Jul	Brush, thickets	House Sparrow	1-Apr	31-Aug	Farms, urban areas
Summer Tanager	20-May	20-Jul	Mature forest	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	15-Apr	31-Aug	Wooded urban, rural woodlots
Scarlet Tanager	25-May	31-Jul	Mature forest				
Eastern Towhee	15-May	15-Aug	Brush, open woods				
Chipping Sparrow	1-May	15-Aug	Yards, open woods				
Clay-colored Sparrow	15-May	31-Jul	Successional scrub				
Field Sparrow	1-May	15-Aug	Brushy fields				
Vesper Sparrow	1-May	15-Aug	Fields, pastures				
Lark Sparrow	15-May	15-Aug	Sandy grasslands with shrubs or saplings				
Savannah Sparrow	20-May	31-Jul	Grasslands				
Grasshopper Sparrow	15-May	31-Aug	Grasslands				
Henslow's Sparrow	10-May	31-Aug	Grassland				
Song Sparrow	1-May	15-Aug	Brush, field edges, hedgerows, suburbs				
Swamp Sparrow	10-May	31-Aug	Brush at edges of wetland				
Northern Cardinal	15-Apr	15-Aug	Brush, parks, yards				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	20-May	15-Aug	Woods				
Blue Grosbeak	25-May	31-Aug	Brush, farmland				
Indigo Bunting	25-May	31-Aug	Forest edge, scattered trees, brush				
Dickcissel	20-May	31-Aug	Grasslands, roadsides				
Bobolink	20-May	31-Jul	Pastures, meadows, prairies				
Red-winged Blackbird	15-Apr	31-Aug	Marshes grasslands, roadsides				
Eastern Meadowlark	10-Apr	31-Jul	Pastures, grasslands				
Western Meadowlark	10-Apr	31-Jul	Pastures, grasslands				
Yellow-headed Blackbird	10-May	31-Jul	Cattail marshes				
Common Grackle	15-Apr	15-Aug	Conifers, shelterbelts				
Great-tailed Grackle	20-Apr	31-Jul	Freshwater marshes, partially disturbed areas				