



BIRD FRIENDLY IOWA

County Designation Program

Bird Friendly County, a community education and action program of Bird Friendly Iowa, mobilizes citizens and public officials who already know that birds are more than beautiful - they are an important part of a healthy ecosystem and critical to our quality of life.

Counties can apply for designation and, if selected, would receive outreach materials and support to celebrate recognition as a Bird Friendly County.

Steps to Becoming A Bird Friendly County



Review the criteria at birdfriendlyiowa.org

Inventory what the county is currently doing and what could be implemented. Consider initiatives led by county departments, cities, or private groups. Explore opportunities to offer new bird-related programming.

Counties must be able to document how they meet criteria in three categories.

- Protect, restore, & enhance bird habitat
- Reduce threats to birds
- Educate & engage people in birding and conservation



Approach your Conservation Board and County Board of Supervisors

Gauge interest in the designation. Explain the significance and why this education and action program would benefit the environment, economy, and quality of life in your county.



Complete the application & narrative online

Applications are made through the County Board of Supervisors, but may be prepared by the Conservation Board/Department. Consider other entities who could support or contribute (County Extension, Audubon/Birding groups, etc.). The narrative format allows you to articulate all the unique ways in which your county is bird friendly.

The application must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on the second Friday of December. Designations will be made in February. A limited number of applications will receive designation each year (designations will recognize counties with populations above and below 20,000). If chosen, the county agrees to pay a \$100 enrollment fee to Bird Friendly Iowa. Annual recertification is a simple process.

When getting started, reach out to: Dan Cohen (DCohen@co.buchanan.ia.us), Ned Parker (NParker@co.franklin.ia.us), Wes Wiese (hardinccb@gmail.com), Erica Place (eplace@storycountyia.gov), Kent Rector (Kent.Rector@linncounty.org), or Kaitlyn Andersen (PACCB@ruthventel.com).