

Appendix 3:

Pennsylvania IBA
Site Nomination Guidelines



An Important Bird Area Nomination Form should be completed for each IBA. Make additional copies if necessary. Complete as much of the Nomination Form as possible. In the case of a site which has been well documented, or which is the subject of special field investigation, far more information may be available than can be accommodated on the Nomination Form. Attach the additional information to your Nomination Form. Whenever possible, copies of published or unpublished papers and reports on the site should be also be attached to the Nomination Form, as well as transparencies/slides or photographs of the site. Please label all attachments with the site name and your name.

1. Name of site:

The most widely used name for the site (alternative names should be given in brackets).

2. County:

The name of the county in which the IBA is located.

3. Name of township or municipality:

The name of the township or municipality in which the IBA is located.

4. General location:

Give clear, concise directions to site from the nearest major town and highway. Describe the north, east, south, and west boundaries of the proposed site. Include a map of the area indicating this information if possible. This step is very important for future evaluation of the site.

5. Geographical coordinates (center of site):

Give the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) of the approximate center of the site, expressed in degrees and minutes. Use a standard USGS 7.5' series topographic map to estimate the location of the IBA site.

6. Approximate area:

Use the enclosed transparent grid and a USGS 7.5' series topographic map to estimate the approximate area of the site in acres.

7. Physiographic provinces:

Put a cross in one of the seven physiographic provinces in which the IBA is located. Use the enclosed physiographic map to reference your site(s).

8. Elevation range:

Indicate the approximate elevation range of the IBA site in feet from lowest to highest. One of the best publications is the U.S. Geologic Survey's *Finding Your Way With Map and Compass*.

9. USGS 7.5' quad used to delineate site:

Give the name of the topographic quad used to delineate your IBA

site(s). Attach a **same size** copy of your map section, with your site clearly marked. If you are not sure of the quad section in which your IBA is located, check your local USGS map retailer, public library, university, county courthouse, or call the Pennsylvania IBA office at 717-763-4985.

10. General description of site:

Give a general physical description of your nominated site. Possible features worthy of notation can include topography, geology, historical and man-made structures.

11. IBA site criteria:

Please read the IBA Site Criteria carefully to determine if your site is eligible. Then indicate all criteria that apply to your site.

12. Ornithological importance:

In this section, list all applicable avian species that are known to use the candidate site, according to the criterion or criteria that these species fit. Provide the best information you can on the number and activity of those species using the site.

Criterion - Provide the number(s) of the appropriate IBA Site Criterion that apply to the bird species being documented. Be prepared to justify your choice(s) with appropriate documentation.

Species using site - List the appropriate bird species using its English name. Use only one line per species.

Activity - Indicate whether the bird is B - breeding, W - wintering, MS - migrating in spring, or MF - migrating in the fall. Use the appropriate letter(s) for your selection.

Number of birds - Number of birds using the site during the appropriate season. See Site Criteria for specific requirements.

Data - Indicate the reliability of data using the numerical scale listed on the Nomination Form.

Reference sources - Use appropriate number, listed in the footnote, to indicate any reference source(s) you use to substantiate your data. If possible, also provide the author, title of article, title of publication, date of publication and page number(s).

13. Additional supporting data:

Give any additional supporting ornithological data of a general or summarized nature. Possible comments could include overall total number of raptors migrating through a bottleneck site, the total number of waterfowl wintering at the site, and notable off-season activity. Comments concerning the quality of existing data, additional published reports or local news articles, copies of photographs, or other graphic material would also be appropriate.

14. Habitats:

Mark the appropriate box(es) with P - Primary and S - Secondary habitat types that best describe the IBA site.

Deciduous woods - Forest cover dominated by broadleaf trees such as oak, maple, or beech.

Coniferous woods - Forest cover dominated by cone-bearing, needle leaf trees such as pine, hemlock, or larch.

Mixed woods - Forest consisting of at least several mature trees of each of the aforementioned types.

Shrub/scrub - Area containing woody plants of relatively low height.

Grassland - An area, such as a field or meadow, with grass or grass-like vegetation.

Cultivated field - Improved and prepared land, used for raising crops.

Fallow field - Land left unseeded during a growing season.

Swamp - Any seasonally flooded bottom land with more woody plants than a marsh.

Marsh - An area of soft, wet, low-lying land, characterized by grassy vegetation and often forming a transition zone between water and land.

Intertidal marsh - An area with deep water tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semi-enclosed by land and has access to the open ocean.

Riparian - Any area parallel to the banks of a natural course of water.

Urban/suburban - Any area within the confines of concentrated human uses.

Open water - A body of water either natural or manmade that is over 1 acre in area.

15. Hydrology of IBA site in breeding season:

Indicate the appropriate box(es) that best describes the basic hydrology of the IBA site.

16. Major flora (including rare and /or endemic):

List any significant plants located in the proposed IBA site. Give its species using the English name, followed by a brief description of its importance to the site.

17. Non-avian fauna (especially rare and /or endemic):

List any significant animals located in the proposed IBA site. Give its species using the English name, followed by a brief description of its importance to the site.

18. Ownership:

Indicate the category that best describes the ownership status of the nominated site. Information on land ownership of a proposed IBA site, including the name of the landowner, the address, and maps showing the location of the property, is a matter of public record and can be researched at your county courthouse, library, or university. Soil and wetlands maps as well as aerial photos and satellite/remote sensing data are also public information.

19. Land Use(s):

Mark the appropriate box(es) with *P* (Primary) and *S* (Secondary) land use types that best describe the IBA site.

Agriculture/cultivation - Land currently used for commercial production of food/cash crops.

Pasture - Used for the pasturing of domestic livestock.

Water supply - Commercial or private water supply.

Forestry - Land used for the commercial production of timber and/or timber products.

Mining - Extractive surface and/or sub-surface mining operations.

Residential development - Any land area used for human habitation and associated activities.

Commercial development - Any land area used in conjunction with commercial enterprise.

Recreation - Urban and suburban parks, neighborhood open space, etc.

Urban/industrial/utility - Any land associated with industrial use including but not limited to utility right-of-ways, factory sites, hydroelectric power reservoirs, etc.

Wildlife conservation - Areas including but not limited to wildlife sanctuaries, wildlife management areas, gamelands, etc.

Conservation/natural area - Areas including but not limited to state or federal forest land, national parks, state parks, national recreation areas, natural areas, arboretums, environmental education areas, nature centers, etc.

Other - List any other land use activity that is not described above.

20. Threats:

Classify as *C* (Critical), *M* (Major), *L* (Local) or *P* (Potential). Indicate any activities at the site and in the surrounding area, which have, are having or may have a harmful effect on the natural ecological character of the site, including any proposed changes in land use and any planned development projects involving the site:

Natural pests/disease - Any naturally occurring pest or disease that is considered to have a destructive influence on the current ecosystem.

Over-extraction of ground water - Private or public well drilling for private, public, or commercial use.

Pollution - Contamination of soil, water, or the atmosphere by the discharge of harmful substances.

Deliberate persecution of birds - Deliberate killing of birds by commercial fish hatcheries, birds of prey shot at bird feeders, birds perceived as “pest” species, contests such as “pigeon shoots”, deliberate killing of threatened or endangered species, etc.

Commercial development - Any commercial development and/or associated activity that threatens habitat/birds. This can include but is not limited to shopping centers, golf courses, industrial sites/parks, etc.

Residential development - Any development of private/public housing and associated activity that threatens habitat/birds. This can include but is not limited to tract housing, apartments, condominiums, etc.

Infrastructure development - Activity such as power lines, power plants, bridge and road building, dams, parks, pipelines, etc.

Recreational development/overuse - Nature trails through sensitive areas, ATVs, dirt bikes, mountain bikes, snowmobiles, hiking trails, unauthorized camping.

Excessive or irresponsible hunting - Inappropriate elimination or reduction through sport hunting of key non-avian components of the IBA site.

Introduction of non-indigenous flora/fauna - Areas that have experienced damage from non-endemic wildlife such as domestic pets or displacement of native plants by domestic exotics.

Excessive or inappropriate forestry practices - Timber harvests or management practices that have a *permanent* detrimental effect on avian habitat/species.

Extraction industry (mines, quarries, etc.) - Extraction practices that have a *permanent* detrimental effect on avian habitat/species.

Succession - Habitat that is threatened due to development brought about by changes in community composition.

Overgrazing/browse - Overgrazing or browse by domestic or endemic species.

Conversion to agriculture - Areas that have recently been disturbed, damaged, or destroyed due to agricultural activity.

Other - Any other activity or condition that constitutes a threat that is not listed above but directly affects the welfare of the proposed site.

21. Conservation measures taken, in progress, or proposed:

Give details of any conservation measures which have been taken, are in progress, or are proposed that directly affect the IBA site. This can include proposals for legislation, protection or management. Give details of any protection for nature conservation established at or around the site. State whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been or is being implemented and by whom. Also note any other conservation measure taken at the site such as restrictions on development, closures of hunting, or management practices beneficial to wildlife. An assessment of the effectiveness of measures should be given whenever possible.

22. Additional supporting comments:

Please supply any other relevant information about the proposed IBA site. This may include, but not be limited to, ecological, economical, cultural, and social values of the site.

23. Compiler information:

Supply the appropriate information including your state legislative districts. This information is available at your county court house or

through the League of Women Voters at 717-761-4632.

Questions

Call Pennsylvania Important Bird Areas Coordinator, 1104 Fernwood Ave. #300, Camp Hill, PA 17011, 717-763-4985.