Audubon IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF IBA NOMINATION FORM

The Important Bird Areas (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 AREAS PROCESS

1. A site is nominated by completing a nomination form and providing the appropriate supporting data. Nominations are reviewed and IBA's are identified by a technical committee. Once an IBA is designated, conservation teams may be formed to address threats.
2. Sites can be nominated by anyone. Contact your state IBA coordinator before nominating a site for helpful resources and to avoid duplicate nominations.
3. The nomination materials will be entered into the "World Bird Database". This global database, developed by BirdLife International, is the means by which information is stored for all sites internationally. Because of the need to integrate all IBA data around the world, certain standards for data collection are necessary, which are spelled out in these instructions.

LAND OWNERSHIP GUIDELINES

The cooperation and participation of private landowners and public land managers is key to the success of the IBA Program. The IBA Program offers recognition and assistance for good land stewardship, and should be used to foster trust and cooperation with landowners and land managers.

Private landowners and/or public land managers will be notified if their land is being considered as a potential IBA, and invited to participate in the IBA process. If the nominator has a good working relationship with the landowner, he or she is encouraged to notify the landowner. The IBA coordinator will contact any landowners not notified by the nominator.

Private landowners and/or public land managers will be given every opportunity to participate in any discussions concerning their land, especially conservation planning or habitat management.

While collecting data, please do not trespass on private property or enter public lands unauthorized (where authorization is required), and always respect property rights and posted signs.

INSTRUCTION I – Nominator Information

Provide the name(s) and contact information of the individual(s) preparing and submitting the nomination of this site. List the primary contact first. Additional pages may be attached if more than two individuals or groups are involved in the nomination.

The majority of the fields in this section are self-explanatory.

Date: This is the date that the nomination form was completed.

Organization/ Affiliation: List any organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy or Audubon chapter, with which the nominator is affiliated.

INSTRUCTION II – Site Details

Site Name: Provide the official name of the site and any other names by which this site may be known.

Area: Report in hectares. Multiply acres by 0.4047 to convert to hectares.

Area Accuracy: Choose from the following descriptions.

Accuracy	Description
Good	Accurate to within 10%
Medium	Accurate to within 50%
Poor	Definitely not accurately to within 50%
Unknown	

Altitude (m): Report the minimum and maximum elevation at this site. To convert from feet to meters, multiply by 0.3048.

Central Coordinates – latitude/longitude:
Report coordinates as degrees (°), minutes (′), seconds (″) (N/S, E/W)

Ownership: Choose all that apply.
Communal lands are owned by a single public entity and are not federal or state property. Examples would be county parks, property owned by townships and municipalities, or tribes

Ownership Details: Provide names of organizations or groups owning this land. If private owners are named, provide contact information and state whether they have been informed of this nomination.

Management Plan, Agreed Boundary, and Digitized Boundary fields to be completed by State IBA coordinator.

INSTRUCTION IIIA – Species List and Population

Ornithological 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. 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 sample entries.

Species Name	Species[1] Status	Season or Month/ Day of Observation	Year of Observation	Relative Abundance[2]	Counts[3]				Types of Birds Counted (Required for All)[4]	Reliability/ Data Quality[5]	Principal Data Collector	Source[6]
					All Groups Except Migrating Raptors			Raptors Only				
					Density # / _____ or	Min #	Max #	Total Season Count				
Snowy Plover	B	August 15	1999				14		B	M		1
Brown Pelican	FP	Summer	2001			413	1700		AJ	G		2

Species Name: Enter the common name of the species.

Species Status: Choose one of the following to describe the condition of the bird population noted:

Code	Species Status	Description
B	Breeding Visitor	Species breeds in IBA but is not present for parts of the year.
W	Wintering Visitor	Species spends a substantial part of the winter in IBA.
N	Non-breeding Visitor	Species occurs in IBA but does not breed (usually over-summering immature birds or post-breeding gatherings).
FP	Fall Passage	Species stages in IBA during fall migration.
SP	Spring Passage	Species stages in IBA during spring migration.
R	Resident	Species breeds in IBA and remains throughout the year.
Un	Unknown	Breeding or seasonal status of species in IBA is unknown or uncertain.

Season or Month/ Day of Observation: Note the season or month and day the particular species population was observed at the site.

Year of Observation: Report the year in which data were collected for the particular bird population noted.

Relative Abundance: Enter the relative abundance of the species for the reported year and species status.

Code	Relative Abundance	Description
A	Abundant	Encountered in large numbers in preferred habitat.
C	Common	Encountered singly or in small numbers in 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.

Count: Report counts either as Density (e.g. number per km^2) or as a total count, with Minimum and Maximum numbers. Minimum number is the minimum high count throughout a given season and cannot equal zero. Maximum number is the highest number observed in a given season. For raptors, total season counts are preferred.

Types of Birds Counted: Describe the types of birds counted with one of the following units –

Adults and juveniles = AJ
Breeding Pairs = B
Males only = M
Adults only = A
Unknown = Un

Reliability/ Data Quality: Qualify the reliability of the data with one of the following –

Data Quality	Description
Good	Accurate to within 10%
Medium	Accurate to within 50%
Poor	Definitely not accurate to within 50%
Unknown	

Principal Data Collector: Enter the name of the primary data collector if data are from personal observations.

Source: For each species population entry, enter the source number that corresponds with the listed source in the following section, IIIB – Source Details.

INSTRUCTION IIIB – Source Details

List the sources of data for entries in the previous section, IIIA – Species List and Population. Sources may include personal field notes, surveys such as Christmas Bird Counts or Breeding Bird Surveys, or publications. Please 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, COX, J.A. 1987. *Status and Distribution of the Florida Scrub Jay*. Florida Ornithological Society Special Publication Number 3. Gainesville, FL.

2. Personal Field Notes, Farley, G.H. and S. Newland. 1999. *Notes on breeding passerines at Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, summer 1999.*

INSTRUCTION IV - IBA Criteria

Mark with an "X" all the criteria that apply to the site. For more information on how these criteria were derived, see www.habitatproject.org.

Criteria Definitions

Code	Category	State Definitions
D1	Species of State Conservation Concern	The site regularly is one of most important breeding population sites for a species of state conservation concern, for which the site protection approach is thought to be appropriate. The most important 3 to 7 sites will be chosen, depending on species and details. **Category 1 – State and/or Federal Endangered or Threatened** Pied-billed Grebe American Bittern Least Bittern Snowy Egret Little Blue Heron Black-crowned Night Heron Yellow-crowned Night Heron Mississippi Kite Bald Eagle Osprey Northern Harrier Red-shouldered Hawk Swainson's Hawk Peregrine Falcon Greater Prairie-Chicken King Rail Black Rail Common Moorhen Sandhill Crane Piping Plover Upland Sandpiper Wilson's Phalarope Common Tern Forster's Tern Least Tern Black Tern Barn Owl Short-eared Owl Loggerhead Shrike Brown Creeper Bewick's Wren Henslow's Sparrow Yellow-headed Blackbird Swainson's Warbler **Category 2 – Partners in Flight, Audubon Watch List, and Fish and Wildlife Birds of Conservation Concern** Hooded Merganser American Woodcock Black-billed Cuckoo Whip-poor-will Chuck-will's-widow Red-headed Woodpecker Willow Flycatcher White-eyed Vireo

		Bell's Vireo Yellow-throated Vireo Sedge Wren Wood Thrush Blue-winged Warbler Golden-winged Warbler Prairie Warbler Cerulean Warbler Prothonotary Warbler Worm-eating Warbler La. Waterthrush Kentucky Warbler Yellow-breasted Chat Grasshopper Sparrow Dickcissel Bobolink Orchard Oriole
D3	Representatives of Rare or Unique Habitat Types.	The site is one of the 2 or 3 most important places representing a rare or unique habitat type. It supports significant populations of unique or unusual avian assemblages because they are in a habitat or community type that is rare, threatened, or unusual within the state, or an unusually diverse or dense assemblage of the typical avian breeders in that particular habitat. Selection of sites is based on avian assemblages within the habitat community types, not on the habitat community types alone. These are some of the habitat types to consider; however this is not an exhaustive list. A good diversity of species of state conservation concern (listed in D1) appropriate to the particular habitat would qualify a site for consideration. In addition, the following breeding species may be considered as indicators of quality habitat: Common Snipe, Marsh Wren, Broad-winged Hawk, Black-and-white Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Field Sparrow, Brown Thrasher. FOREST/WOODLAND Upland forest/woodland of over 500 acres Floodplain forest SAVANNA Silt loam savanna Sand savanna PRAIRIE Grassland with shrubs Grassland of over 1000 acres WETLAND Marsh Swamp Sedge Meadow BEACH
D4	State Significant Congregations	These categories (D4i-D4vii) apply to those species that are vulnerable at the state level as a consequence of their congregatory behavior at regularly used sites, either at breeding colonies or during the non-breeding season, including at foraging, roosting and migratory stop-over sites. Such stop-over sites may not hold spectacular numbers at any one time yet, nevertheless, do so over a relatively short period due to the rapid turnover of birds on passage. To apply this criterion, population thresholds need to be considered. (See the following categories).
D4i	Congregations of **Single** Species	This is one of the two or three most important sites for wintering Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Rusty Blackbirds, or other wintering species of conservation concern
D4ii	Congregations of Waterfowl (**Mixed Species**)	Waterfowl species include: Anseriformes (swans, geese and ducks). 10,000 waterfowl at any one time, or 5,000 excluding mallards and Canada Geese at any one time.
D4iii	Congregations of Wading Birds (**Mixed Species**)	Wading Birds include: Ciconiiformes (herons, bitterns, storks, ibises and spoonbills.) 100 pairs of wading birds during the breeding season.
D4iv	Congregations of Seabirds/ Other Colonial Waterbirds	It is not believed that this criterion will identify any sites in Illinois.

Code	Category	State Definitions
D4v	Congregations of Shorebirds (**Mixed Species**)	Shorebird Species include: Recurvirostridae, Charadriidae, Scolopacidae. 2,000 shorebirds at any one time.
D4vi	Congregations of Raptors (**Mixed Species**)	1,000 raptors total during one season
D4vii	Congregations of Migratory Birds (**Mixed Species**)	The site is a regular migratory stopover or corridor for migratory birds (other than raptors). Sites nominated should contain exceptional numbers and or diversity of migratory landbirds, or exceptional concentrations of cranes. Concentrations refer to seasonal totals rather than those occurring over a brief period of time. Other evidence (number of species observed, landscape configuration, amount of other appropriate habitat, etc.) will also be used to identify important stopover sites for migratory landbirds. *Abundance* Annually holds very high density of migrant landbirds on multiple dates during migration, several times above numbers in similarly-sized comparable areas OR throughout spring or fall migration season holds above average numbers of migrants compared to similarly-sized areas. *Diversity* Annually has good counts of all regular species of warblers with significant counts of multiple species of less common species of warblers (e.g. *Oporornis, Wilsonia,* treetop *Dendroica)* OR annually has significant counts of migrant grassland-breeding sparrows.

INSTRUCTION V – Habitat Details

Describe major vegetation community types and list predominant plant species here. Percentage coverage of the habitats may be noted. This section is optional unless the site is proposed as Code D3, Rare or Unique Habitat Type

INSTRUCTION VI - Land Use

Note the land use types that are used at the site. Mark whether the land use reported is of major, minor, or unknown usage. You may also enter the percentage cover of this land use.

LAND USE	NOTES
Agriculture	All land affected by cultivation, including perennial crops/groves/orchards, as well as all land affected by pastoral agriculture, including grazing lands and rangelands of livestock.
Fisheries/aquaculture	All land or water affected by commercial fishing, aquaculture, shellfish cultivation or harvesting, etc. Recreational angling is listed under 'Tourism/Recreation'.
Forestry	Wooded land under active management for the extraction of timber and non-timber forest products, as well as for other non-extractive functions such as protection against erosion, etc. and provision of amenity areas for recreation/tourism, etc.
Hunting	Land that is officially designated for hunting, and any land where legal hunting takes place (i.e. the land is not necessarily designated officially for hunting *per se*).
Military	Any area of land or water used by the military, for any purpose.
Nature conservation/research	Land or water where 'Nature conservation/research' is a primary land-use, i.e. those protected areas with a relatively high level of protection or management for nature conservation.
Not utilized	The relevant area is not used.
Tourism/recreation	Any areas of land or water that are used for recreation, tourism or leisure activities, i.e. including infrastructural or built-up areas such as resorts and accommodation complexes.

Urban/industrial/transportation	This category includes: general residential and built-up areas (not only in cities but also towns or villages); infrastructure other than for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism/recreation or water management, i.e. mainly for transport and energy purposes, e.g. roads, bridges, railways, ports, airports, power-stations, pylon or pipeline networks, wind-farms, etc.; and non-built-up land used by commercial or industrial activities other than agriculture, forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, tourism/recreation or water management, i.e. such activities as extraction of oil/gas, mining of ores, peat, salt, gravel, etc.
Water management	This category includes the management of waterbodies such as rivers and lakes for purposes such as flood control, irrigation and storage (for drinking water, hydropower, cooling power-stations, etc.), large-scale redistribution (to balance disturbed hydrology, facilitate engineering projects, etc.).
Other	This catch-all category covers any human use of the IBA which cannot be classified under one of the other categories, and includes such activities/uses as: firewood-gathering; harvesting of animal/plant products such as berries, fungi, eggs/young/adults of birds; husbandry of wild species; ice-cutting.
Unknown	This catch-all category is used when the land-use, if any, over part or all of an IBA's area is not known to the compiler.

INSTRUCTION VII - Threats

Note each threat and its level of importance to the site.

THREAT	NOTES
Abandonment/reduction of land management	Includes undergrazing or cessation of haying. Abandonment of fish-ponds is treated under 'Aquaculture/fisheries'.
Afforestation; woody encroachment	Degradation of grassland or oak woodland habitat by invasive native or exotic woody species should be treated here rather than under 'Consequences of animal/plant introductions'.
Agricultural intensification/expansion (includes overgrazing)	Includes irrigation (including indirect impacts, e.g. draw-down of water leading to predators reaching breeding colonies on islands, or reservoir being kept artificially high in summer, etc.); high fertilizer input; excessive use of chemicals; changes in crop species or cultivation; loss of habitats; overgrazing; effects of pest control on non-target species; nutrient pollution of wetlands as a result of agricultural intensification.
Aquaculture/fisheries	The threat is not solely from intensification or expansion of aquaculture/fisheries—abandonment or reduction of traditional or non-intensive aquaculture can also affect some waterbirds (compare with agriculture). This category includes the persecution (shooting, etc.) of waterbirds that can occur at some fisheries/aquaculture sites. If recreational angling causes a threat, this is listed under 'Recreation/tourism'.
Consequences of animal/plant introductions	Habitat degradation due to overgrowth of invasive native or exotic herbaceous plant species. Degradation due to invasive tree species should be treated under 'Afforestation' rather than here.
Construction/impact of dike/dam	Includes such phenomena as water-level fluctuations in, or downstream of, hydropower reservoirs, changing levels of reservoirs or storage basins, altered sedimentation patterns downstream, etc.
Deforestation (commercial)	Includes clear-cutting (selective felling is treated under 'Selective logging/cutting'), illegal as well as legal.
Disturbance to birds	This threat is usually a consequence of other human activities than deliberate scaring, and thus is often listed in combination with other threat categories, e.g. recreation/tourism or intensified forest management. Active persecution of birds is generally classed as 'Other' threat, but when disturbance effects are more important than mortality effects, e.g. farmers shooting at Cranes or geese just enough to scare them away, then such activity is better classed under 'Disturbance'.
Drainage	Altered hydrology
Dredging/canalization	Includes creation of canals for irrigation.
Extraction industry	Includes exploration as well as extraction activities/infrastructure and any resultant pollution, covering all kinds of extraction, e.g. not just mining but oil/gas, peat, etc., as well as pollution occurring during transport.
Filling-in of wetlands	Used for active filling-in only, e.g. land-fill. If the wetland is filling in due to increased

Recreation/tourism	As well as for direct impacts such as disturbance of birds, this category has been used to cover the impacts of 'hard' developments, e.g. building of hotels, vacation homes, etc.
Selective logging/cutting	Clear-cutting of forest/woodland should be treated under 'Deforestation'. This category includes the cutting/collection of branches as well as of whole trees.
	sedimentation or other indirect processes, the threat should be classified under the cause of the increase in sedimentation.
Forest grazing	Includes damaging grazing caused by over-population of wild deer (through winter-feeding by hunters, eradication of natural predators, etc.).
Groundwater abstraction	
Industrialization/urbanization	Includes construction, chemical run-off or spillage, sewage effluent, wind-farms, etc. Ideally, only includes physical developments (or attendant phenomena) that are not related to tourism/recreation, forestry, agriculture, extraction, aquaculture/fisheries, dike/dam construction, since all of these can be classified separately. This category generally includes housing, offices, factories, transport and energy developments, and generally the threat is posed by the addition of infrastructure to an existing urban area or other center, whereas isolated examples of such development are better classed under 'Infrastructure'. Examples of threatening processes or related phenomena, rather than physical developments, include the occurrence of acid rain downwind of industrial sources. Coastal land-claim, e.g. for expanding industrial or urban areas, is included here, but land-claim of inland wetlands is classed under 'Filling-in of wetlands'. Waste disposal (source of waste unspecified) is also classed here.
Infrastructure	Includes power-lines, roads, railways, overhead transmission lines, proposed wind-farm, airport pollution, etc. This can be difficult to separate from 'Industrialization/urbanization', but used where developments are more 'isolated', not involving the addition of infrastructure to some pre-existing focus (e.g. town, etc.). This category should include only those developments that are not related to tourism/recreation, forestry, extraction industry, agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries or construction of dike/dam, since these can be categorized separately.
Intensified forest management	Management generally refers to production of timber, not of non-timber forest products (e.g. mushrooms). Excessive collection of the latter should be classified as 'Other' threat.
Natural events	Includes drought, erosion (at normal levels), floods, storms, nest destruction by native predators, etc. 'Natural events' can pose threats to birds and habitats, despite the adaptations of all organisms to the naturally dynamic environment over millions of years, because the environment in Illinois has been changed drastically (generally, simplified in an ecological sense), especially over the last 100 years or so. Landscapes and nature in Illinois are now so heavily modified that organisms cannot depend on normal 'ecosystem processes' to occur. For example, following the eradication of top mammalian predators over much of Illinois, there has been an increase in native nest-predators such as foxes, raccoons and opossums.
Other	This catch-all category covers any threat to the IBA which cannot be classified under one of the other categories: various kinds of pollution for which the cause(s) cannot be identified or which cannot be classed under other categories (e.g. fuel-oil pollution from unspecified kinds of boats; nutrient pollution or acid rain from unspecified sources; lead-shot pollution; radioactive contamination; water pollution by mosquito-control chemicals); deliberate persecution or incidental killing of birds (not exploitation *per se*), e.g. through poisoning of raptors, farmers shooting birds; activities that threaten the site in an unexplained or unspecified way (military activity; heavy airport traffic; increased boat traffic; hunting; hay-cutting; mussel-collecting); management of site is poor, inappropriate or lacking, especially water-management issues (water-level fluctuations; water transfer/abstraction of surface water); forest/soil degradation and tree disease (non-specific); excessive collection of non-timber forest products; transport of highly toxic chemicals through site (potential risk); outbreaks of botulism; algal blooms (cause unspecified).
Unknown	This category can only be used on its own, not with other threats—that is, it is not known what threats the site faces, if any.

VIII. Protected Areas

Provide information for any protected areas contained within or adjacent to this site.

Designation: Note the category in which this protected area belongs. For example, National Wildlife Refuge, State Recreation Area, County Forest Preserve, Wildlife Park, etc. For a complete list, see www.habitatproject.org

Area: To report area of protected area, use hectares (acres x 0.4047=hectares)

Relationship: Describe the location of the protected area relative to the IBA. Select from the following –

Protected area contains IBA
Protected area is adjacent to IBA
Protected area contained by IBA
Protected area overlaps with IBA
Unknown

Overlap: Area of protected area that overlaps IBA, in hectares. (acres x 0.4047=hectares)

IX. Text Summary

Use this section for additional descriptions of site details.
See examples below, taken from account of Florida's Apalachicola River and Forests, written by Bill Pranty

General Site Description:

From the Apalachicola eastward nearly to Tallahassee, in most of Franklin County, eastern Gulf County, southwestern Leon County, southern Liberty County, and western Wakulla County. It extends south to U.S. Highway 98, nearly to the Gulf of Mexico. Portions are contiguous with the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge IBA to the east and southeast.

A huge forested area from the Apalachicola River eastward that represents the largest IBA in northern Florida. It is 50 miles (80 km) east-to-west and 38 miles (60 km) north-to-south. Apalachicola National Forest is divided into two Ranger Districts: Apalachicola and Wakulla. Established in 1936, it is one of Florida's largest and most significant conservation areas. The National Forest receives 486,000 "visitor days" for recreationists, and 184,000 hunter "user days" hunters annually. Tates Hell State Forest is a large area south of, and contiguous with, Apalachicola National Forest. Public acquisition began in 1992, and over 150,000 acres (60,705 hectares) have been purchased to date, at a cost of over $100 million. No information was provided for Apalachicola River Water Management Area or Apalachicola River Wildlife and Environmental Area.

General Ornithological Information:

This vast IBA is critically important for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, with 638 active clusters. Apalachicola National Forest alone supports the world's largest population, with 611 clusters—representing nearly half of Florida's population, and 12% of the total population. Apalachicola also supports large numbers of other species of longleaf pine flatwoods and savannas, including Henslow's Sparrows, which are locally abundant winter residents. Tates Hell State Forest supports significant populations of the state's breeding Swallow-tailed Kites and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. Diversity for Apalachicola National Forest is at least 189 native species; no bird list is available for Tates Hell State Forest.

Research/ Conservation Projects:

Habitat/ Land Use:

Apalachicola National Forest: *longleaf pine flatwoods, *pine plantation, *pine savanna, *sandhills, *cypress swamp, *hardwood swamp, *bayhead, *riverine, freshwater marsh, lacustrine. **Tates Hell State Forest:** *longleaf pine flatwoods, *pine plantation, *pine savanna, *cypress swamp, *riverine, hardwood swamp, bayhead, freshwater marsh, lacustrine, coastal strand

Land Use: Apalachicola National Forest: *conservation, *timber production, *hunting, recreation. **Tates Hell State Forest:** *conservation, recreation, hunting, timber production

Other Flora/ Fauna:

Protected Areas:

Threats:

Human disturbance, exotic plants, habitat succession, and cowbird brood parasitism, altered hydrology **Apalachicola National Forest** is one of the most significant conservation areas in Florida and supports a large number of listed plants and animals. Management is geared to improving and maintaining natural communities. The Forest's prescribed-burning program is one of the largest in the nation. • The use of Off-Road Vehicles in the Forest is increasing. The Forest is in the process to designate specific ORV trails, to balance visitor use with resource protection. **Tate's Hell State Forest** and adjacent private lands sought for public acquisition are a vast area between Apalachicola National Forest and Apalachicola Bay. Formerly managed for timber production, much of the Forest consists of clearcuts and pine plantations. Numerous roads and ditches have severely impacted the hydrology of Tates Hell Swamp. Restoration activities likely will take decades to complete. Fire is being returned to the flatwoods, ditches are being filled, plantations are being thinned, and clear-cuts are being replanted to native pine species. A large portion of Tates Hell Swamp remains in private ownership but acquisition efforts continue. • Legislation to deauthorize dredging of the Apalachicola River is before Congress, and has the full support of Florida's senators and State government. About $20 million are spent annually to maintain a shipping channel for barges, at a cost of about $30,000 per barge. "Spoil" from channel dredging is dumped along the river shoreline, which damages wetland habitats and contributes to lower water quality in the river.

References:

McNair, D.B. 1998. Henslow's Sparrow and Sedge Wren response to a dormant-season prescribed burn in a pine savanna. *Florida Field Naturalist* 26: 46–47. • +USFWS 2000. Technical/agency draft revised recovery plan for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Atlanta, GA.

Other Resources: Part of this IBA has been designated by +Cox et al. (1994) as a Strategic Habitat Conservation Area. • Fort Gadsden, on the Apalachicola River in **Apalachicola National Forest**, has a rich history. It was built by the British during the War of 1812, was rebuilt on orders from Andrew Jackson in 1818, but was "forgotten" shortly afterward. In 1862, the Confederacy took control to supply its troops via the river during the Civil War. • **Tate's Hell State Forest** is considered vital for maintaining the ecological health of Apalachicola Bay, one of the most productive estuaries in the Northern Hemisphere, and a designated International Biosphere Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve. The forest contains a geologically unique coastal dune formation and at least 23 species of rare plants. Five archaeological sites are known, including a Creek Indian battleground along the Apalachicola River. • Both forests are essential habitat for the black bear; the regional population (including lands outside the IBA) is estimated at 200–400 animals, the largest in the Southeast.

Website: <*http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/Tates_Hell.htm*>, <*http://www.r8web.com/florida/forests/apalachicola.htm*>

Reviewers:

Cathy Briggs, Susan Fitzgerald, Charles Hess, and Denise Rains (all of the U.S. Forest Service)