

EARLY/LATE DATES

The following is a list of Early and Late nesting dates that can be expected for birds in Iowa. These dates are to be used as a guide, and are not set in stone, so you have general date ranges of when to look for certain species. If you find a species showing evidence of breeding or nesting, and it is before or after these dates, please record your finding, and take a few extra notes. That way, if it is questioned in the future, you have notes to back up your record. Take this list along with you when you're out visiting a block for reference.



EARLY DATE	SPECIES	LATE DATE			
15-Feb	Great Horned Owl	30-Jun	15-Apr	Red-breasted Nuthatch	31-Jul
1-Mar	Bald Eagle	31-Jul	15-Apr	White-breasted Nuthatch	15-Aug
15-Mar	Canada Goose	15-Jul	15-Apr	Eastern Bluebird	15-Aug
15-Mar	Red-tailed Hawk	31-Jul	15-Apr	European Starling	31-Aug
15-Mar	Trumpeter Swan	15-Jul	15-Apr	Northern Cardinal	15-Aug
20-Mar	Great Blue Heron	31-Jul	15-Apr	Red-winged Blackbird	31-Aug
1-Apr	American Kestrel	31-Jul	15-Apr	Common Grackle	15-Aug
1-Apr	Sandhill Crane	31-Jul	15-Apr	Brown-headed Cowbird	31-Aug
1-Apr	American Woodcock	15-Jul	15-Apr	House Finch	31-Aug
1-Apr	Rock Pigeon	31-Aug	15-Apr	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	31-Aug
1-Apr	Eurasian Collared-Dove	31-Aug	20-Apr	Killdeer	15-Aug
1-Apr	Black-billed Magpie	31-Jul	20-Apr	Barred Owl	31-Aug
1-Apr	American Crow	31-Jul	20-Apr	Great-tailed Grackle	31-Aug
1-Apr	Horned Lark	15-Jul	25-Apr	Pileated Woodpecker	15-Aug
1-Apr	House Sparrow	31-Aug	25-Apr	Carolina Wren	31-Jul
5-Apr	Great Egret	31-Jul	1-May	American Black Duck	30-Jun
5-Apr	Northern Harrier	31-Jul	1-May	Mallard	1-Jul
10-Apr	Red-shouldered Hawk	31-Jul	1-May	Northern Pintail	30-Jun
10-Apr	Mourning Dove	31-Aug	1-May	Hooded Merganser	15-Jun
10-Apr	Barn Owl	15-Aug	1-May	Northern Bobwhite	31-Aug
10-Apr	Black-capped Chickadee	15-Aug	1-May	American Bittern	31-Jul
10-Apr	American Robin	31-Aug	1-May	Sharp-shinned Hawk	15-Jul
10-Apr	Eastern Meadowlark	31-Jul	1-May	Swainson's Hawk	15-Aug
10-Apr	Western Meadowlark	31-Jul	1-May	Downy Woodpecker	15-Aug
10-Apr	Pine Siskin	15-Jul	1-May	Hairy Woodpecker	15-Aug
15-Apr	Wood Duck	31-Aug	1-May	Tree Swallow	31-Jul
15-Apr	Ring-necked Pheasant	31-Aug	1-May	Brown Creeper	15-Jul
15-Apr	Ruffed Grouse	15-Aug	1-May	Bewick's Wren	31-Jul
15-Apr	Greater Prairie-Chicken	15-Aug	1-May	Chipping Sparrow	15-Aug
15-Apr	Wild Turkey	31-Aug	1-May	Field Sparrow	15-Aug
15-Apr	Red-necked Grebe	15-Aug	1-May	Vesper Sparrow	15-Aug
15-Apr	American White Pelican	31-Jul	1-May	Song Sparrow	15-Aug
15-Apr	Double-crested Cormorant	31-Jul	5-May	Pied-billed Grebe	15-Aug
15-Apr	Turkey Vulture	15-Aug	5-May	Black-crowned Night-Heron	31-Jul
15-Apr	Cooper's Hawk	15-Jul	5-May	King Rail	15-Aug
15-Apr	Merlin	15-Jul	5-May	Wilson's Snipe	15-Jul
15-Apr	Peregrine Falcon	31-Jul	5-May	Red-bellied Woodpecker	15-Aug
15-Apr	Ring-billed Gull	31-Jul	5-May	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	31-Jul
15-Apr	Eastern Screech Owl	31-Jul	5-May	Northern Flicker	15-Aug
15-Apr	Long-eared Owl	15-Jul	5-May	Barn Swallow	15-Aug
15-Apr	Short-eared Owl	15-Jul	5-May	Louisiana Waterthrush	31-Jul
15-Apr	Belted Kingfisher	15-Aug	10-May	Western Grebe	31-Aug
15-Apr	Eastern Phoebe	31-Jul	10-May	Green Heron	15-Aug
15-Apr	Loggerhead Shrike	15-Aug	10-May	Broad-winged Hawk	15-Aug
15-Apr	Blue Jay	31-Jul	10-May	Virginia Rail	31-Aug
15-Apr	Purple Martin	15-Jul	10-May	Piping Plover	20-Jul
15-Apr	Tufted Titmouse	15-Aug	10-May	Wilson's Phalarope	10-Jul

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10-May	Chimney Swift	31-July	20-May	Western Kingbird	31-Aug
10-May	Cliff Swallow	15-Aug	20-May	Eastern Kingbird	31-Aug
10-May	Winter Wren	15-Jul	20-May	Yellow-throated Vireo	15-Aug
10-May	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	31-Jul	20-May	Warbling Vireo	15-Aug
10-May	Yellow-throated Warbler	31-Jul	20-May	Veery	31-Jul
10-May	Henslow's Sparrow	31-Aug	20-May	Brown Thrasher	15-Aug
10-May	Swamp Sparrow	31-Aug	20-May	Cedar Waxwing	31-Jul
10-May	Yellow-headed Blackbird	31-Jul	20-May	Blue-winged Warbler	31-Jul
15-May	American Wigeon	31-Jul	20-May	Northern Parula	31-Aug
15-May	Gray Partridge	15-Aug	20-May	Yellow Warbler	5-Aug
15-May	Eared Grebe	15-Aug	20-May	Pine Warbler	31-Jul
15-May	Least Bittern	31-Aug	20-May	Cerulean Warbler	31-Jul
15-May	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	31-Jul	20-May	Prothonotary Warbler	31-Jul
15-May	Mississippi Kite	31-Aug	20-May	Worm-eating Warbler	5-Aug
15-May	Sora	15-Aug	20-May	Ovenbird	31-Jul
15-May	American Coot	15-Aug	20-May	Kentucky Warbler	31-Jul
15-May	Franklin's Gull	15-Jul	20-May	Common Yellowthroat	15-Aug
15-May	Forster's Tern	31-Jul	20-May	Yellow-breasted Chat	31-Jul
15-May	Burrowing Owl	15-Aug	20-May	Summer Tanager	20-Jul
15-May	Chick-wills-widow	31-Jul	20-May	Savannah Sparrow	31-Jul
15-May	Whip-poor-will	31-Jul	20-May	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	15-Aug
15-May	Red-headed Woodpecker	15-Aug	20-May	Dickcissel	31-Aug
15-May	Northern Rough- winged Swallow	31-Jul	20-May	Bobolink	31-Jul
15-May	Bank Swallow	31-Jul	20-May	Orchard Oriole	31-Aug
15-May	House Wren	15-Aug	20-May	Baltimore Oriole	15-Aug
15-May	Marsh Wren	15-Aug	20-May	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	31-Aug
15-May	Wood Thrush	15-Aug	25-May	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	31-Jul
15-May	Northern Mockingbird	15-Aug	25-May	Eastern Wood-Pewee	15-Aug
15-May	Eastern Towhee	15-Aug	25-May	Willow Flycatcher	31-Jul
15-May	Clay-colored Sparrow	31-Jul	25-May	Great Crested Flycatcher	15-Aug
15-May	Lark Sparrow	15-Aug	25-May	White-eyed Vireo	31-Jul
15-May	Grasshopper Sparrow	31-Aug	25-May	Bell's Vireo	15-Aug
20-May	Gadwall	31-Jul	25-May	Red-eyed Vireo	15-Aug
20-May	Blue-winged Teal	31-Jul	25-May	Sedge Wren	31-Aug
20-May	Green-winged Teal	31-Jul	25-May	Gray Catbird	15-Aug
20-May	Canvasback	31-Jul	25-May	Chestnut-sided Warbler	31-Jul
20-May	Redhead	31-Jul	25-May	Prairie Warbler	31-Jul
20-May	Ring-necked Duck	31-Jul	25-May	Black-and-white Warbler	31-Jul
20-May	Lesser Scaup	31-Jul	25-May	American Redstart	10-Aug
20-May	Bufflehead	31-Jul	25-May	Hooded Warbler	31-Jul
20-May	Cattle Egret	31-Aug	25-May	Scarlet Tanager	31-Jul
20-May	Common Moorhen	31-Aug	25-May	Blue Grosbeak	31-Aug
20-May	Spotted Sandpiper	31-Jul	1-Jun	Indigo Bunting	31-Aug
20-May	Upland Sandpiper	20-Jul	1-Jun	American Goldfinch	31-Aug
20-May	Least Tern	31-Jul	1-Jun	Northern Shoveler	15-Aug
20-May	Black Tern	31-Jul	1-Jun	Ruddy Duck	15-Aug
20-May	Acadian Flycatcher	31-Jul	1-Jun	Black-billed Cuckoo	31-Aug
			1-Jun	Common Nighthawk	15-Aug
				Least Flycatcher	31-Aug

Remember that these dates are not set in stone, and are to be used as a general guideline of nesting dates. If you find a species showing evidence of breeding or nesting outside of these dates, take a few extra notes to further confirm your record. If you have a question about whether a species could/should be nesting at a certain time, call or email the BBA Coordinator.