

# IBA Program Guide to Working with Landowners

The cooperation and participation of private landowners and public land managers is key to the success of the IBA Program. When considering any site as an Important Bird Area, whether public or private, exercise great discretion and respect the rights and authority of landowners and managers and avoid the creation or perception of potential conflict. The IBA Program offers potential recognition and assistance for good land stewardship practices and should be used to foster trust and cooperation with landowners and managers.

Please keep the following points in mind when nominating a site:

- Whenever possible and practical, notify private landowners and public land managers in person if their land is being considered as a potential IBA.
- Whenever possible and practical, invite private landowners and public land managers to participate in the IBA process.
- Whenever possible and practical, consult private landowners and public land managers before a site is positively identified as an Important Bird Area. “Identified” means that a site has been found to meet the IBA criteria.
- Whenever possible and practical, obtain the permission of private landowners and public land managers before any information on the site is made public, or any site is formally recognized as an Important Bird Area.
- Whenever possible and practical, give private landowners and public land managers every opportunity to participate in any discussions concerning their land, especially conservation planning or habitat management. The IBA Program is inclusive, not exclusive.
- Never trespass on private property or enter public lands unauthorized, where authorization is required. Always respect property rights and posted signs and never engage in activities that will arouse suspicion or hostility.
- If you encounter any negative reaction, or even anticipate such a reaction on the part of a landowner or manager, contact the IBA coordinator. Do not try to pursue contact on your own if you are unsure or concerned about the response.