

# Glacier National Park IBA

*Important Bird Areas are sites that provide essential habitat for threatened, unique, or particularly abundant species, during breeding, migration, or winter seasons.*



**Harlequin Ducks and Black Swifts** rely on habitats within this IBA.

Nestled against the Canadian border in northwest Montana, Glacier National Park is a largely intact wildlife rich centerpiece of the "Crown of the Continent" ecosystem. Alpine tundra, glaciers, mountain peaks, and old-growth forests provide spectacular scenery and a wealth of biodiversity that makes this site a national treasure. More than 275 species of birds have been observed in the park, including at least 14 species of global or continental conservation concern. For two of these, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Cassin's Finch, numbers are sufficient to qualify the park as an IBA of Global significance. Glacier Park is one of the only known nesting areas for Northern Hawk

Owls in Montana and it is one of the best places in the state to find nesting Harlequin Ducks and White-tailed Ptarmigan. Primary conservation concerns are the melting of glaciers and impacts from wildfires due to climate change. As glaciers disappear, flow rates in rivers and waterfalls will decrease, likely reducing numbers of nesting Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts, and others reliant on this habitat. Wildfires have burned over vast areas of the park in recent years.



# Glacier National Park

## Important Bird Area



*Landscape by Chris Berry*



### Notable bird species associated with the IBA

- > White-tailed Ptarmigan
- > Bald Eagle
- > Black Swift
- > Cassin's Finch
- > Harlequin Duck
- > Northern Hawk Owl (above)
- > Olive-sided Flycatcher

Coordinated by BirdLife International, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global initiative aimed at identifying and conserving the most important places for birds. The IBA Program's foundation emphasizes science-based identification, assessment, and conservation of birds and the habitats needed to survive. IBAs rely on local stewardship and focus on engaging individuals, private landowners, local communities, businesses, partner organizations, and government agencies in site conservation. Important Bird Area designation does not confer legal or regulatory status to a site. Instead, participation in conservation is voluntary on the part of landowners and land managers. IBA boundaries serve as an initial spatial guide and help identify areas that warrant prioritization for protection and conservation actions.

You can help with the conservation of this IBA by submitting your bird observations through Montana Natural Heritage Program or at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org), an online bird sighting database. We are especially interested in observations of Harlequin Ducks and Black Swifts.

*Hawk Owl photo by Bob Martinka*



For more information contact  
Amy Seaman: [aseaman@mtaudubon.org](mailto:aseaman@mtaudubon.org)