

# Emerging Findings on the Effects of Cover Crops on Grassland Birds

Dr. Adam Janke, Iowa State University  
Dr. David Buehler, University of Tennessee  
Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series | April 25, 2024



## Conservation Effects Assessment Project

USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project, CEAP, is a multi-agency effort led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that builds the science base for voluntary conservation efforts nationwide. CEAP findings are used to guide conservation program development and support conservationists, producers and other land managers, and partners in making informed management decisions backed by data and science. Assessments are carried out at the national, regional, and watershed scales for conservation efforts related to cropland, grazing land, wetlands, and wildlife.

## CEAP Wildlife Assessments

Through CEAP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service assesses the effects of voluntary conservation efforts on select fish and wildlife species across the nation's working lands. Findings from **CEAP Wildlife Assessments** empower farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, other private land managers, and partners to identify how and where to invest limited resources most strategically, quantify results and assess conservation outcomes, and leverage lessons learned to improve future conservation delivery to benefit both people and wildlife.

## April 2024 Conservation Outcomes Webinar

This webinar shares findings from studies examining bird use of cover crops in Iowa and Tennessee conducted in partnership with CEAP. Findings may be used to support on-the-ground cropland management decisions informed by a better understanding of the potential role of cover crops in grassland bird conservation efforts.

## April 2024 Webinar References

Conservation Effects Assessment Project: Wildlife Assessments

Conservation Insight: Can cover crops help grassland-breeding birds? Corn Belt insights from Iowa.

Shirley, T. R., and A. K. Janke. 2023. Ring-necked pheasant nest site selection in a landscape with high adoption of fall-seeded cover crops. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 47:e1394. [doi.org/10.1002/wsb.1394](https://doi.org/10.1002/wsb.1394)

Shirley, T.R. 2021. Use of fall-seeded cover crops by ring-necked pheasants in Iowa. Iowa State University Digital Repository. [doi.org/10.31274/td-20240329-852](https://doi.org/10.31274/td-20240329-852)

Figura, M. 2022. Evaluating Avian Use of Cover Crops in the Corn Belt. South Dakota State University Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 459. [openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd2/459](https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd2/459)

## Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series

This series provides key findings, data, and tools to support producers and partners in pursuing voluntary conservation efforts across the nation.

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