

## Upper Savannah River Basin Our Newest IBA

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program of Georgia has approved the nomination by Jeff Brooks for the Upper Savannah River Basin as our newest IBA. This site is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and encompasses approximately 100,000 acres of land and water on the Georgia-side of Lake Thurmond and three waterfowl management ponds at Lake Richard B. Russell. Thousands of ducks use these waters during the winter as feeding and resting areas. Bald Eagles consistently nest along the banks of Lake Thurmond. There are also an abundance of migratory birds, including many Bobolinks, that use the area. The IBA Program is a major conservation effort of the National Audubon Society in association with BirdLife International to save essential habitats of our North American birds. Over 2000 areas in the U.S. have been determined to be IBAs and Georgia currently has 47 of them.

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