

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Quarterly Partners Report

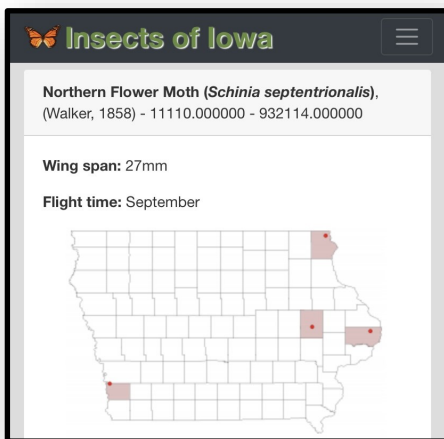


Tabitha Panas — Pottawattamie, Harrison, and Shelby County

July—September 2023

This past quarter, I had the opportunity to help landowners plan for CRP to be implemented next year, and plan other habitat improvement practices through programs like EQIP and CSP. Landowners are able to apply for funding for activities like timber stand improvement, native grass and wildflower plantings, and prescribed fire. USDA has a large amount of funding available, and our batching deadline for landowners to apply is November 3rd.

Managing our woodlands and grasslands so that they have a high diversity in plant species, ensures that these areas can host a wide variety of wildlife species. This management is critically important for species that are in decline, like bobwhite quail and other ground-nesting bird species or many species of pollinators like the American bumblebee, (*Bombus pensylvanicus*). Did you know that America has a bumblebee namesake that is in decline? Without land management, our natural areas tend to decrease in diversity over time for a number of reasons that can compound each other, such as invasive species takeover, pest pressure, duff build-up, or woody encroachment.



Above—hard work has paid off for this landowner in Harrison County. After mechanical removal of invasive black locust trees and a prescribed burn funded with EQIP, tall grass and other native vegetation is thriving.

Top Left & Bottom — Map shows a new record of northern flower moth added to Mills County. I documented this moth in mid-September on a TNC property. This moth documented in its historical range shows the importance and the success of consistent and positive land stewardship. I am glad I am available to help landowners plan for and fund these land management practices.

Quarterly Achievements

- 105 Landowner Contacts
- 20 Site Visits w Landowner
- 14 Conservation Plans
- 5 Outreach Delivered
- 2 Habitat Proposals
- 2 Seed Plan Reviews

Thank you so much for your support! Without this partnership, I wouldn't be able to provide assistance to landowners and positively impact conservation in Iowa!

Tabitha Panas

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