



- City
- Forest
- ↗ U.S. Military ground route
- Important Bird Area
- 🌿 Marsh
- Riparian
- Major road

Habitat destruction, chemical contamination by weaponry, and accelerated desertification due to vehicular travel are among the dangers to birds and other wildlife cited by biologists concerned about the impacts of war on Iraq's fragile bird populations. Military conflict and activity overlap some Important Bird Areas—those places given conserva-

tion priority by BirdLife International because they contain key habitat and sites critical to regional and migratory birds. A full assessment of the ecological devastation of the Iraq war has yet to be undertaken, but in February a team of eight Iraqi biologists was to begin a six-month survey of all the Important Bird Areas in southern Iraq.

Sources: BirdLife International, ESRI, University of Texas Map Library, Time, BBC

