

Iowa Ornithologist's Final Grant Report 2022

1. Title of project

Barn Owl Nest Box Project

2. Project Description

This project was to add barn owl boxes to two of Madison County Conservation Board's wildlife areas (Clanton Creek and Jensen Marsh). The original grant was written for a total of four nest boxes to be placed between the two areas. The IA DNR ended up donating an extra box, which was also placed at Clanton Creek.

3. Project Goals

There are two goals for this project. The first goal is to provide nesting sites for barn owls in our wildlife areas to further help their struggling populations. The second goal is to use these boxes and hopefully future inhabitants, to educate the public on both barn owls and their habitats.

4. Project Impact

Through the Iowa Ornithologist's Union, Madison County Conservation Board was able to install five barn owl boxes (illustrated below). Thus, beginning the process of reaching our goals of providing nest sites and educational materials. An article, written by Jessie Lowry, about barn owls and these boxes has already been published in Madison County Conservation's newsletter. There will be more in the future, especially as the boxes begin being utilized.





Madison County



**Our Soil, Water, Plants,
Wildlife and People.**

**Nature's
Notebook**
By Jessie Lowry

Camping

Closed for the season.

Support for the "Spirit Owl"

Through support from the Iowa DNR, Madison County Conservation received a grant to obtain and install five barn owl boxes from the Iowa Ornithologists Union. Three boxes were installed at Clanton Creek and two at Jenson Marsh.



Although found on every continent besides Antarctica, the barn owl is one of Iowa's rarest residents, and has been listed on the Iowa Endangered List since 1977. They are seen uncommonly in the southern region of our state and seldom seen in the north.

Sometimes referred to as the "ghost owl" or "spirit owl," barn owls have a distinctive appearance, with white and light tan-colored feathers, and a heart shaped face. Instead of a "hoot," barn owls emit an ear-piercing screech.

As cavity nesters, barn owls choose well protected nest sites like church steeples, silos, and, of course, barns. Eggs are laid in spring and owlets begin to fledge and learn to fly in fall. These owls will not mate and nest unless their nesting site is safe and there are plenty of small mammals to feed themselves and their young. Clanton Creek and Jenson Marsh will provide ample prey for them.

Nocturnal hunters, barn owls eat 1-5 rodents every night and can hunt in complete darkness.



Several factors have contributed to the decline of barn owls including the conversion of grasslands to croplands and urban areas, the disappearance of large trees with cavities for nesting, and competition from the Great Horned Owl.

How We Can Help

Madison County Conservation is working hard to maintain, improve and restore local prairie habitat, helping to produce ample prey for these silent hunters. We hope that the addition of these special nest boxes will provide a safe and cozy home for these amazing raptors. Our staff will be checking the nests at least three times per year. We will share photos and updates!!



145

ADVANCED BUSINESS PRODUCTS

CASH OUT TICKET
TELLER NO.

\$

606

Cash Out 200.00

8/25/2022 16:29 D606 39

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Duplicate

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10/24/22 9:06AM LLD		556	SALE
4125134	2 EA	6.49	EA
NIPPLE GALV 1.25"X6"		12.98	
4125084	1 EA	5.99	EA
NIPPLE GALV 1.25"X5"		5.99	
41437	1 EA	5.99	EA
COUPLE GALV STEEL 1-1/4"		5.99	
SUB-TOTAL:\$	24.96	TAX: \$	1.75
		TOTAL: \$	26.71
CASH TEND:	30.00	CHANGE:	3.29



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CUST NO:#5

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Customer Copy

10/18/22 2:18PM RB		556	SALE
4125258	1 EA	6.99	EA
NIPPLE GALV 1.25"X8"		6.99	
8	16 EA	.11	EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC		1.76	
8	16 EA	.20	EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC		3.20	
8	16 EA	.50	EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC		8.00	
8	16 EA	.17	EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC		2.72	
4067468	3 EA	8.99	EA
FLANGE FLOOR 1" GALV		26.97	
305576	1 EA	7.99	EA
1-1/2"Galv Mer Coupling		7.99	
SUB-TOTAL:\$	57.63	TAX: \$	4.03
		TOTAL: \$	61.66
CASH TEND:	61.66		



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10/12/22 8:42AM JK 551 SALE

238824 5 EA 3.99 EA 5
CONCRETE MIX 60LB QUIKRETE-30 19.95

SUB-TOTAL:\$ 19.95 TAX:\$ 1.40
TOTAL:\$ 21.35
CASH TEND: 40.00 CHANGE: 18.65



==>> JRNL#A67112/1 <<==
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10/18/22 12:21PM RB 556 SALE

8 4 EA .50 EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC 2.00
8 4 EA .17 EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC .68
8 4 EA .11 EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC .44
8 4 EA .30 EA
BOLTS, SCREWS, HARDWARE,ETC 1.20
4067468 1 EA 8.99 EA
FLANGE FLOOR 1" GALV 8.99
4125258 1 EA 6.99 EA
NIPPLE GALV 1.25"XB" 6.99
5297932 1 EA 3.99 EA
NARROW HINGE 3" ZINC 3.99

SUB-TOTAL:\$ 24.29 TAX:\$ 1.70
TOTAL:\$ 25.99
CASH TEND: 26.00 CHANGE: .01



==>> JRNL#A68906/1 <<==
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==>> JRNL#X04709/1 <<==
CUST NO:*5



12/05/22 11:17AM HW 556 SALE

29020 1 EA 46.00 EA *
1/2" XNB TREATED PLYWOOD 46.00
SUB-TOTAL:\$ 46.00 TAX:\$ 3.22
TOTAL:\$ 49.22
CASH TEND: 49.25 CHANGE: .03

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515-493-1432

Andrew J
REGULAR SALE

ACCOUNT 87-041-1
INV NO 87430364
TAX EX CERT05/19/21
Government Exemption

FLOOR FLANGE		15.99 nt
045734102460		
BULK BOLTS	.682.99	1.79 nt
8501002		
TOTAL		17.78
Cash		20.00
CHANGE		2.22-

* Any NON-TAXED items described in *
* this transaction were purchased *
* for the purpose of Resale, for *
* Agricultural Use, or by a Tax Exempt *
* customer. *

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