

**Project Title:**

Eggs Replicas for Environmental Education

**Project Description:**

Buena Vista County Conservation requested \$497 for egg replicas to be used for environmental education throughout Buena Vista County. The egg replicas would be used along with other birds education tools: our live education red-tailed hawk and barred owl, binoculars, spotting scope, and taxidermy. The replicas would give people of all ages an up close and personal look at local bird eggs, that many otherwise would not see. It is also a great tool to use in conjunction with bird hike and walks, beginning birder events, and bird ID programs.

**Project Goals:**

Buena Vista County Conservation's goal in purchasing the egg replicas is to raise awareness and provide education about local birds to all residents of Buena Vista County. The naturalist sees on average over 9,000 Buena Vista County residents a year. She does programming in all six schools districts, local libraries, care centers, civic groups, ISU Extension, public events, and more.

**Project Impact:**

The egg replicas were purchased in June of 2023 and so far, have been used in over 20 environmental education programs in Buena Vista County. The egg replicas have been viewed and studied by more than 1,200 people of varying ages. The replicas have been used in many different classrooms in all six of Buena Vista County's school districts, a day care, two care centers, four libraries, two public programs, summer camps, and one program in partnership with Iowa State Extension.

The egg replicas have been a great asset to our educational programming in Buena Vista County. People of all ages have enjoyed using them to further learn about local birds in Iowa. Thank you, Iowa Ornithologist Union, for your grant funding.

Sioux Central 1<sup>st</sup> Grade learning about birds of prey and their eggs.



Daycare kiddos learning about animals that come from eggs.

