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Iowa Ornithologist Union Grant 2015  
Bird Watching observation platform for Pintail Wetlands

Hardin County Conservation was able to secure \$1000 grant through the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society, coupled with the \$500 from Iowa Ornithologist Union. These funds help to purchase building materials for the construction of a 10'x20' viewing platform at Pintail Wetlands, located at the corner of R Avenue and 145<sup>th</sup> Street just southwest of Ackley. The platform was constructed right off of our parking lot and made handicap accessible with a 36' ramp to the viewing deck. It offers a complete view of the wetland and surrounding upland prairie with a built in bench for people to enjoy the view. Pintail viewing platform was completed by the staff of Hardin County Conservation on October 27, 2015. The final cost to complete this project was \$2200.

Pintail Wetlands has become a well-known stop for bird enthusiasts throughout the state. The addition of a viewing platform has raised the status of the area and brought a greater awareness to what Pintail has to offer. We have had a great response from the public, with people coming out to just watch the sunrise from the platform as well as the local community college utilizing it for field trips. With a platform like this it makes it much easier to spread the word of variety of birds we have visiting the wetlands and why we aim to protect them. It aids in spreading the greater message of the importance of wetlands, especially in such an agricultural dominant portion of our county.

Pintail Wetland is only improving as our young prairie continues to develop and surrounding habitats improve. Hardin County Conservation is committed to improving the wetland and further opportunities for people to get out and enjoy it. We thank-you for the working with us and making the viewing platform possible.

