

Project Title

Jr. Naturalist Bird Day Camp 2017

Project Description

A grant was requested to aid in the purchase of birding optics and owl pellets. These items were to be used as learning tools for a summer camp and additional people of all ages throughout the county during educational programs offered by Sac County Conservation Board.

Project Goals

The goal of the project was to allow summer camp participants and members of the public to become more aware of birds, bird watching, and bird conservation in Iowa. This goal was met most immediately by IOU funds assisting in the purchase of birding optics and owl pellets to be used during Jr. Naturalist Bird Day Camp held in June 2017. Additionally the items would be used in multiple education programs provided by SSCB throughout 2017 and in years to come.

Project Impact:

During the Jr. Naturalist Bird Day Camp the participants learned about bird behaviors, habitats, species in Iowa, and how to identify them. Each day they took a bird hike while using ID guides and optics. Owl pellet dissection offered hands on experience to connect with owl eating habits, food web biology, and species of owls in Iowa. This camp offered them an opportunity to learn all about birds and ways they can help birds.

Additionally bird viewing optics were used in multiple programs offered to the public throughout the year. Allowing people of all ages to become aware of birds right here in their area. During programs when birds are sighted their general species behaviors, habitats, diet, and identification indicators are shared.

Owl pellets that remained from the day camp were used for school programming. Students of East Sac Elementary 3rd grade were able to learn about owls of Iowa, what they eat, and habitats they live in. The pellet dissection as in the camp offered a hands on connection to the owls. Students became very interested in owls and birds of Iowa so much so that their next classroom visit was about birds and during their yearend field trip we used optics to view birds.

