

# Bird's Eye View



First thing we would like to say is that we greatly appreciate the opportunity that Iowa Ornithologist's Union has given us to provide habitat for Iowa birds and numerous educational opportunities for Monroe County Conservation Lake Miami Park guests.

Monroe County Conservation Board was established and started in 1967. Since then we have grown substantially. While Monroe County Conservation Board continues to grow we are trying daily to find more ways to implement our mission statement. MCCB's mission statement is to encourage awareness and enjoyment of our natural resources by providing a better understanding of our environment. With our mission focusing so strongly on encouraging awareness we thought what better way to do that other than creating an opportunity to better understand Iowa birds in our environment with an observation area. The idea of implementing an Iowa bird viewing station ultimately would provide a sustained source of food for Iowa birds while providing the viewing opportunities for guests and bird enthusiasts in an up close and personal manner.

Since the planning, grant writing, construction & installation processes Bird's Eye View is now complete at Lake Miami Park's Carmack Nature Center. The initial brainstorming for the Bird's Eye View project began back in February when IOU sent our grant application requests. Researching what past projects were funded by IOU Monroe County Conservation thought that a bird feeding and viewing station would be well utilized at Lake Miami Park. After searching IOU's website and the eBird application it is already confirmed that Lake Miami Park is a hotspot for bird viewing in Monroe County. The project request for funding was fulfilled in late May for the Bird's Eye View project. After materials were collected to erect Bird's Eye View it was a short time later, end of July, that we were able to install and announce Bird's Eye View is operational. Monroe County Conservation installed purchased hummingbird feeders, triple tube feeders, oriole recycled feeders and hopper feeder with suet holders. Other materials purchased for this project included literature about birds in North America, hardware to mount the feeders, lumber to construct the frame for feeders, finish to fight against the elements for exterior of wood, and seed/feed for feeders. Bird's Eye View feeding and viewing stations are constructed out of a basic layout that would provide multiple feeder locations in such a small area blueprint. Each viewing station is located in an area where people can easily view from outside while sitting on one of park picnic tables. If guests would prefer get out of the elements hot or cold we have placed these feeding stations in prime up close observation quarters next to our education center.

Iowa birds were quick to investigate our Bird's Eye View feeding stations. Within five minutes of installing hummingbird feeders we were able to observe multiple Ruby Throated Hummingbirds feeding regularly. It was a short time after the hummingbirds investigated that we have observed many other species of

birds. One short term goal for Bird's Eye View consisted of establishing a regular feeding area that birds will routinely utilize for a food source. Since this short term goal was met so quickly we are continuously striving to create new goals for Bird's Eye View. Future or long term goals include educating classes visiting on field trips to Lake Miami Park for outdoor classroom days, identifying new species that may not have been identified in this part of Iowa, assisting with any future research studies and fulfilling internship opportunities for college students or other research studies that could be conducted in this area.

Monroe County Conservation, guests & Iowa birds are more than grateful for the assistance from Iowa Ornithologist's Union. Monroe County Conservation is excited to see what the future holds for Bird's Eye View and further projects to help Iowa birds in Monroe County. Again we would like to thank Iowa Ornithologist's Union for the support and implementation of Bird's Eye View and look forward to working with them in the future.

Below you will find photos illustrating Bird's Eye View project completion:



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