

IOWA AUDUBON PROJECTS USING DONATIONS, BEQUESTS, FUNDRAISER & MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS

Land acquisitions to protect wildlife, habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation

From 2006 through 2021, Iowa Audubon has made partnership donations to assist the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources in acquiring 12 parcels at 9 different locations across the state, a total of approximately 1,525 acres. This is a major priority and will continue as long as possible in the future. Photos below show two examples of our partnerships with INHF and IDNR:

Paint Creek 368-acre addn. to Yellow River State Forest



Gorsch 75-acre addn. to Iowa River Corridor WMA Area



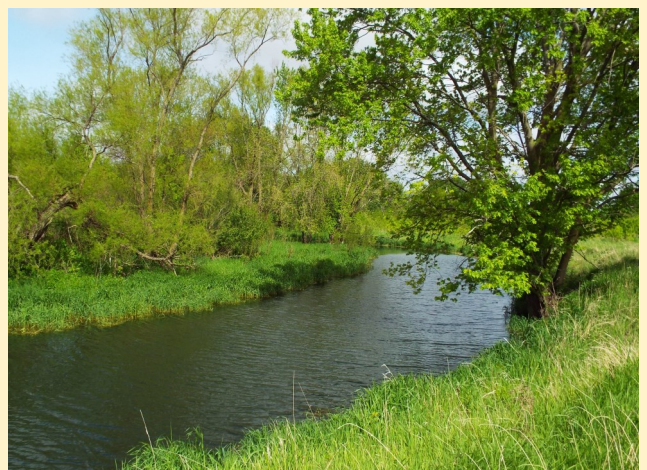
Land management projects to enhance wildlife, habitats, water quality and outdoor recreation

We have provided funding or volunteers to assist agencies and organizations with improved habitat management and avian research, including: INHF management of a large tract at the Indiangrass Hills area in Iowa County, USFWS management of Iowa River Corridor federal land in Iowa Co.; DNR wetland reconstruction at the Union Hills WMA-WPA in Cerro Gordo Co.; and avian use surveys of restored Fox Creek oxbows and surrounding habitat in Wright Co., under plans of the Iowa Soybean Growers Association.

INHF Indiangrass Hills conservation area



Fox Creek restored oxbow & habitat



Small grants to assist individuals, organizations, agencies and others with avian research projects, habitat improvement, avian education, field trip equipment and more

Beginning in 2010 and continuing through 2022, Iowa Audubon has awarded 43 small grants, mostly ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 each, depending on location and our annual available budget money. The majority of funds for our small grants program come as a result of a very large bequest to the Prairie Lakes Audubon Chapter, then turned over to Iowa Audubon when that chapter closed and became just a birding club in the Iowa Great Lakes Region. Some of that money remains available to us in honor of the late LaVonne and Dale Foote, co-founders of the former Prairie Lakes Chapter. From 2017 through 2021, large annual gifts to our small grants program were donated by Deborah Reynolds, Advisory Board Chair of [National] Audubon's MN-IA-MO Regional Field office, in honor of her Iowa parents, Wilson B. and Juanita C. Reynolds. Bequests and other memorial-type donated funds are greatly appreciated, because those have allowed us to increase our original small grant awards from only a single award we were able to afford giving in 2010. We hope others might consider Iowa Audubon worthy of such monetary gifts. Just a few examples of various small grant projects awarded include the following:

- Northern Saw-whet Owl banding in their western Iowa overwintering season
- Replacing old dead evergreens in a county park with young evergreens more likely to survive in Iowa
- Small binocular and beginner bird field guides for 8-to-18 year-olds in *Iowa Young Birders* organization
- Nest box construction and research for Prothonotary Warbler nesting near the Mississippi River in Iowa
- Extensive nesting research in NE Iowa, studying both Red-shouldered Hawks and Cerulean Warblers
- Estimating the prevalence of mycoplasmal conjunctivitis in an Iowa songbird
- Renting goats to help reduce invasive vegetation in wildlife management area prairies

Iowa Audubon does much. much more!

There are many more things our conservation federation of Iowa's bird clubs and Audubon chapters try to do. This would be too long a document if it attempted to list more of the above project examples, plus add additional categories. But just for a some final examples, here are few other things we do:

- Present programs to the public about Audubon, birds, field trips, conservation work and more
- Offer our own published booklets for beginning birders (\$1.00 donation requested per booklet)
- Work as part of an environmental review committee with several other Iowa conservation groups, in order to help assure placement of new transmission lines is minimally harmful to birds and wildlife
- Publish a newsletter three times annually, sent to our members by email (preferred) or printed copies through the USPS
- Provide display booths and attend annual events, such as the Pelican Festival, Okoboji Blue Water Festival, Iowa Ornithologists' Union meetings and others
- A member of Iowa Audubon is also an Advisory Board member for [National] Audubon's newly expanded Minnesota-Iowa-Missouri Regional Field Office
- Oversee Iowa's ***Important Bird Areas*** (see IBA pages elsewhere on our website)