

### \$1,500 to Iowa Young Birders

Most of us are aware of the disconnect between today's youth and the natural world. To encourage young people to become engaged through birding, Carl Bendorf of Iowa City has founded a non-profit organization focused on "hands-on" education through birding field trips. To further this end, IOU funding was awarded and was used to purchase 12 pair of binoculars and a spotting scope and tripod for participant use on scheduled trips. The first year of this program has been encouraging, with children ages 8 to 18 joining trips to various locations around the state.