

Mitchell County Environmental Education Foundation  
Mitchell County Conservation Board  
Chelsea Ewen  
Naturalist  
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### Report for IOU News

#### **1) Project title**

“Education Supplies for Beginning Birders”

#### **2) Project description**

Grant funding to purchase a set of bird-ID books for a whole class/group. These books will be combined with binoculars that IOU funded last year. The Foundation was awarded \$300.

#### **3) Project goals – describe the project goals and how the goals were met or how the project was completed. Also include how IOU funds were used to accomplish the goals of the project.**

Currently, Naturalist Chelsea Ewen is providing an average of three bird-related educational programs per month. The new books and supplies have greatly enhanced the educational value of these programs, as well as allowed the creation and offering of new bird programs

With these new books, Chelsea has begun to offer bird/bird watching programs, while keeping these continuing goals in mind:

- Increase appreciation for local avian diversity
- Encourage interest in birds and bird watching
- Foster awareness and participation in bird conservation efforts
- Inspire youth involvement with bird-related educational activities

#### **4) Project impact – how did this project impact conservation of birds in Iowa, increase the knowledge of Iowa birds, or educate the public on Iowa birds and their habitats? Feedback from constituents affected by the project (e.g., educational projects) could be included in this section.**

The Kaufman books were purchased through Amazon Smile, with the Iowa Ornithologist’s Union as the benefiting non-profit. Upon arrival, the books were inventoried and listed on the Naturalist’s supply and program list that is handed out to teachers, care facilities, day cares, clubs, and other public organizations throughout Mitchell County. Iowa Ornithologist’s Union was also recognized on our Facebook page for the contribution. The public will gain access to these books and bird education through free environmental education programs. These programs will be offered year round and also as a part of summer camp activities. The new books, along with the binoculars purchased with last year’s grant, will also be featured at bird-specific programs. Please see attached program advertisement and Facebook post.