

**Henry County Conservation Department**  
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### **Bettering Our Birds and Raptor**

#### **Description:**

Located at Henry County Conservation Department in Mount Pleasant, IA, our outdoor classroom needed and updated bird blind. Located in our Outdoor Classroom there is a bird blind with feeders and 5 live raptor enclosure. The bird blind, as well as many of the bird feeders had been damaged overtime and the live raptors are always in need of food and updating their cages.

#### **Goals:**

The goals for the Bettering Our Birds and Raptors project was to be able to make a bird blind for birders, photographers, students, and the general public to enjoy. The bird blind located in the outdoor classroom had been damaged over time due to various storms and fallen trees, making it a great time to over haul the look.

With the grant money received, we were able to purchase new lumber to mount and hang feeders. We were also able to buy metal feeders that would withstand the changing weather and durable enough to protect them from curious animals.

Lastly, we planned on using some of the money received from the grant to go towards our live raptors and their enclosures. We take care of 7 injured raptors that will never be able to return to the wild. Having that many birds can be a challenge. Due to the large amount of food it takes to feed them all year long, it can get expensive. With money left over after updating the bird blind area, we were able to purchase more food and supplies for them.

#### **Impact:**

By updating the bird blind, we not only created a space for birds to come enjoy their feeding time, but we can now teach the public in a clean space about native Iowa birds and how important conservation efforts are so that we can enjoy them. We have obtained little feedback from the public, but many of our regular volunteers have offered to help keep the feeders full and build new feeders for the bird blind. Plus, now we are able to keep our raptors for even longer due to the amount of food we can buy.

Thank you for granting the Henry County Conservation Department with an Iowa Ornithologist Union Grant in 2015!

Sincerely,

Trenton Hoekstra  
Park Ranger/Naturalist  
Henry County Conservation Department