

# 2015 Projects Grant Report of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

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## 1. Project Title: Equipment for Raptor Education Programs & Display

### 2. Project Description:

A raptor enclosure was recently constructed at the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center (DPNC) in Sioux City, Iowa. Iowa Ornithologists' Union was one of several contributing donors to this outdoor Raptor House. The DPNC has been in existence since 1995 and is located in Stone State Park and receives more than 50,000 visitors annually. The outdoor raptor enclosure is housed on the DPNC grounds, near the south entrance of the facility. We currently have two live raptors housed in the enclosure—a Red-tailed Hawk and a Barred Owl. Additionally, we have an American Kestrel housed inside our Nature Center.

The nature center is open six days a week and includes hands on exhibits, trails, nature programs and educational staff. The addition of an outdoor raptor enclosure has added a new dimension to displays. Visitors have enjoyed viewing the raptors during open hours. Regularly scheduled raptor programs occur throughout the year. Naturalists also take raptors off-site for outreach programs with schools and other public groups. In doing these programs it was our hope to improve the safety equipment that we use to handle and transport the educational raptors.

### 3. Project Goals:

The project goals are listed below. The funds from IOU allowed us to purchase new safety equipment including leather gloves and a portable perch, for the raptor handlers and replacement anklets for the raptors themselves. The purchase of this equipment makes it more comfortable and safe for both bird and handler when presenting programs for schools, youth and the public. We also were able to construct a travel box for the owl or hawk from some donated materials. This carrier helps to keep the birds calm, safe and protected when being transported to and from their main enclosure. This purchase and construction of travel boxes allowed us to increase the number of raptor programs in the past year by 14.44% and to help educate people of all ages of birds of prey. We also improved our display boards with educational information about our three species of raptors. These engaging displays help educate those who visit the Nature Center even if they do not attend a program.

- Provide gloves and safety equipment for proper handling of live raptors.
- Allow visitors to view live raptors.
- Increase awareness of raptor biology, habitat needs and identification by providing educational programs with the aid of live raptors.
- Increase the number of onsite and offsite raptor programs by 15%.

**4. Project Impact:**

We have presented 121 programs using one or more of our live educational raptors in the past year, as well as talking with numerous visitors to the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center where they can view the birds. The programs using live the birds excite the audience and bring their interest to a higher level. Through these presentations and discussions with Nature Center visitors we have educated over 6,300 people on some aspect of habitat needs of a species, ecology of raptors, food chains, bird identification, endangered species, and much more. We have piqued the interest of children and adults alike to the extent that people have returned to the Nature Center to visit one of our birds, donated funds to sponsor one our birds and even inspired a fifth grade student to conduct her 4H project on owls. This particular student rose over \$550 to sponsor our Barred Owl, presented to her 4H club, took her project to the county fair and made nesting boxes that she then donated in hopes of increasing habitat for owls. We believe that we helped spark her curiosity in this species through presentations that took place at her school.

**Attachments:**

We have included a few attachments showing a copy of the flyer our 4H student used to help her with her project, the safety equipment purchased and the number of programs conducted in the past couple of years.

## Portable Mini Bow Perch

**\$105.00**

smaller version of our larger bowperch for use with Coopers hawks, Sharpshin or Merlin's, Kestrels and other small hawks. Professionally welded and made of 1/2" diameter rod with a 16" x 12" heavy steel plate. The perch top is 6" tall and is wrapped with black neoprene. We paint each perch with gray powder coat paint, which will last for many years. (And extra handling charge of \$5.00 will be added to this order for heavy weight shipping fees.) Perch covering options: Please note you can now pick from the drop down menu below to buy this Bowperch without any perch covering on it at a lower cost and then add your own preferred perch covering. Please pick from the drop down menu below.



## Columbia Full Cuff Leather Gloves

**\$49.95 each (4 gloves)**

Another new edition to our Cow Hide gauntlets, this new glove is made with the same great quality as the others but it comes in a new olive green color with a nice leather trim on both sides of the glove. It has the nice double overlay for good protection and is double thick in the thumb and top three fingers with D-ring and tassel. this is an excellent glove for hawks and falcons and is 15 inches long.



Sizes are XXX Small child size 8 - 12 years old, extra small, small, medium, large, extra large.

## Alymeri Removeable Anklets

**\$9.95 a pair (2 pair)**

This style anklet is used by raptor handlers and rehabilitators for birds that will be released back into the wild. Removable anklets come with grommets pre-set, no setters required. Your jess will pass through the grommets the same as a regular anklet. All removable anklets come with the grommets installed.



## Educational Raptors Program Record

	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>Skye -American Kestrel</b>				
# of Programs	48	45	28	56
# of People	1,885	1,676	1,986	2,942
<b>Olaf - Barred Owl</b>				
# of Programs	0	22	37	45
# of People	0	1,258	2,660	2,272
<b>Scarlet - Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
# of Programs	0	13	13	20
# of People	0	680	860	1,087
<b>Total # of Program</b>	48	80	78	121
% Change - Previous Year		66.67%	-2.50%	55.13%
<b>Total # of People</b>	1,885	3,614	5,506	6,301
% Change - Previous Year		91.72%	52.35%	14.44%