

# The Heron

*Newsletter of Clinton County Conservation  
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## Story of a Red-tailed Hawk

*by Karen Brix, Administrative Assistant*

It was a dark and stormy night... Isn't that how stories begin? O.K., actually it was a sunny Monday morning! But with naturalists in a rush on their way to education programs for school groups, park officers bringing bills and camping money into the office and the phone ringing off the hook, it sometimes feels stormy! But the chaos eventually quiets down as everyone heads out for the day. Then the phone rings, again!

Over the years I have been told that being a conservation secretary comes with not only the regular duties, but also a lot of "fine print". Working as the administrative assistant at the conservation board for over 28 years, I have had some very interesting questions and "jobs". Most calls I pass on to the appropriate person. Some questions are easy such as "how much does it cost to camp", "can I sign up for a program" or "when does the Blue Heron Eco Cruise go out". Others are a bit trickier to answer, especially when it deals with wildlife.

On this Monday, all was quiet when the phone rang. It was Sara Beuthein, a friend from Grand Mound. She told me there was a large bird in her back yard that could not fly and appeared injured. She was not sure what kind of bird it was, but it was flopping around, could someone come and get it? I have done a lot, but I have not actually participated in a wild bird rescue (I've watched though), and told her someone would be there shortly. Thankfully, Darin, our Natural Resource Technician, was still at the shop. The two



*Volunteer Jeremy, Australian exchange student Natalie and finder from Clinton County Conservation Karen, work with the sick red-tailed hawk. Macbride Facebook page.*



*Karen Brix releases a Red-tailed Hawk while 90 tenth graders from Northeast High School look on.*

of us rounded up an old sheet, leather welding gloves and the dog carrier and off on a rescue we went.

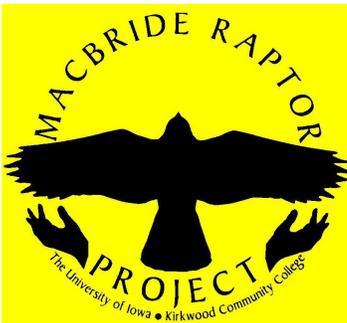
Upon arriving at the house, we observed a red-tail hawk on the ground. The hawk had one wing out and flopping sideways, making it appear it had a broken wing perhaps. It was also twitching, which made us think it may also have a head injury. Darin threw the sheet over the bird to quiet it, put on gloves and grabbed it by the legs. With care for the wings, into the carrier it went. This was pretty easy; but with wildlife, you never know how it will react.

When we got back to the office, I knew the first place to call was Macbride Raptor Center in Cedar Rapids. The center is a part of University of Iowa and is located on the Kirkwood Community College campus. I have taken other birds to them, so I knew the drill. One of the workers, Luke, said to bring the hawk right out. Since Darin had an appointment, I was the only one left in the office, so per that "fine print", off to Cedar Rapids I went. The hawk rescue added a nice twist to my Monday morning routine. However the day was soon to get even more interesting!

The Macbride Raptor Center is a small building, no bigger than a 2-car garage. Along one wall are cages, two high, housing birds. They also have an exam table in the same room. The other half of the building is office space and upon looking, also housed more cages with more birds. They also have another site near Lake Macbride that the public can view birds of prey that are not releasable.

The first thing the workers did was to take the hawk out of the carrier and lay it on its back on the exam table, covering its head with a cloth. If the bird can't see what is happening, it is less stressful. I was getting my carrier ready to leave when Luke asked if I had time to stay and watch. I happily said YES, I would love to!

After the initial exam, Luke proclaimed no broken bones, which was good, but that did not help with a diagnosis. Luke was very patient, explaining each step they took, making sure I had a front-row seat view and asking if I had any questions. The next step was to draw blood. Spreading the wing open, he poured warm water on a small area and parted the downy feathers. The skin appears transparent and you can see the blood vessels and muscles. This makes it easy to draw the blood. Then Luke hydrated the bird with two subcutaneous injections (injecting fluid under the skin to be absorbed into the bird's system). It looks like a big blister, but Luke assured me it was not painful.



At this point one of his volunteer helpers picked up the hawk, holding its legs (with very sharp talons!) with one hand, the back of the bird against his chest so the hawk was facing forward with his other hand on the bird's chest. Its eyes would not focus, the beak was open and its tongue

was hanging to the side and it was still twitching. Luke tried feeding the hawk, but its swallowing reflexes were also affected. She was then put into a cage, still unable to stand or have control. Luke said it was female.

The next step was to do a couple simple blood tests. I was able to look through the instrument that measures protein in the bird's system and also the ratio of white to red blood cells. These tests showed the hawk to be in relatively good health (not starving); again, no clear diagnosis. However, the symptoms were leaning towards West Nile Virus, for which there are no medications, only time would tell if the bird would pull through. I could not help but feel privileged to help such a beautiful bird reach a rehabilitation center, but also to see what most people never experience.

After three days, I called Luke to see how the hawk was doing. He said they had come in the next morning and she was standing on her perch, looking for food and very alert! They would watch her for a few days to make sure she was eating, but this was a very good sign.

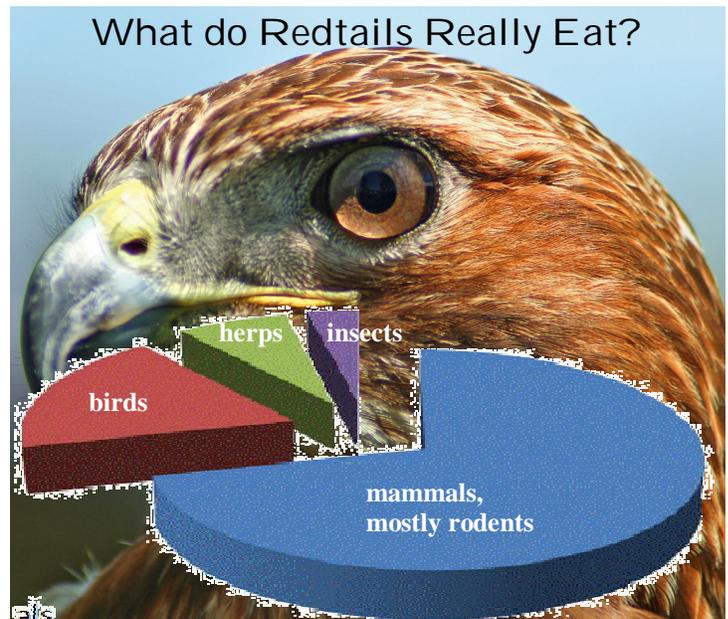
Fast forward 10 days; the phone rang, it was Macbride Raptor Center telling me the hawk was ready to be released back into the wild. A firm diagnosis was never reached and we'll never know exactly what happened to her.

After talking with the naturalists, it was decided I would go to Cedar Rapids to pick up the bird and transport it to the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center. They would be having the Northeast School's 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students there for a field trip. Dave Murcia, from the Wapsi Center, was teaching the students about birds of prey using our live kestrel, screech owl and great horned owl during one session. This release would be perfect for the kids to observe. Sara Beuthein, who found the hawk, also attended the release,

and we also invited the public via our *Facebook* page.

I was asked, since I had been with the hawk from the beginning, would I like to be the one to release it? Duh... YES!!! I put on the leather 'chaps' for my upper arms and leather gloves. Peeking into the box, the hawk was on its back with talons ready! I reached in with one hand to capture the legs. Wow, those talons are STRONG! The next few moments were a blur. The next thing I know I was standing on an outdoor stage with the hawk's back against my chest, my other hand on her chest, wings tucked in, just like the worker at Macbride had done. She was still gripping my one hand with her talons, never letting me forget her strength. Mark Roberts gave a short talk on how she was found and rehabilitated, and then it was time. I walked to the edge of the platform, threw my arms and hands up to give her a boost and away she flew, making a lovely, swooping flight, past the students, across the prairie and landing in an evergreen tree at the timber's edge. Perfect!

After that, it's hard to go back to the office and sit at the desk, doing paperwork and answering the phone! What an experience this red-tail hawk and Macbride Raptor Center gave me. I feel honored to be that close to such a beautiful, powerful bird and glad that she was able to return to wild where she belongs. Another day at the conservation office comes to a close; I wonder what tomorrow's "fine print" holds in store for me!



*Believe it or not we received some grief about helping save a redtail, since they just eat pheasants. According to Hawks, Eagles & Falcons of North America, the red-tailed hawk's diet compositions are estimated to be: 68% mammals, 17.5% other birds, 7% reptiles and amphibians (herps, mostly snakes) & 3.2% insects. They do eat pheasants but only a small percentage of their diet is other birds, with many other species consumed, including starlings and pigeons. To many, one pheasant is too many, but just like human hunters, you have to find one first! (see back page)*

## A New Beginning for Fishing in Iowa

by Jill Schmidt, Interpretive Naturalist

As a naturalist, connecting people with the outdoors is my passion. I strive to provide hands-on experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy. My hope is that those who get the opportunity to live a nature-related experience will in turn respect and cherish all that we have around us. In Iowa, our forests, wetlands and prairies are filled with nature experiences just waiting to happen. There are many organizations within our country that support these experiences and in Iowa, many of them connect people to the outdoors as well as support land conservation and management for experiences in the future. Pheasants Forever, White-tails Unlimited, Waterfowl USA and the Wild Turkey Federation are all organizations that encourage smart practices to enhance our outdoor experiences now and for the future. I recently became involved with a new organization that fills a niche in Iowa, Fishing Has No Boundaries.

Fishing Has No Boundaries®, Inc. (FHNB) was founded by Bobby Cammack of Hayward, Wisconsin in 1986. Bobby was a local fishing guide and when he found himself disabled with a leg injury, he found that fishing was not as easy as it once was. That challenge started a snowball effect and in 1988 on the Chippewa Flowage in Hayward, WI the first FHNB event took place. This event opened new doors to 75 people with disabilities regardless of their age, race, gender and especially severity of disability to the world of fishing.

The mission of FHNB is “the belief that through education, training and the use of adaptive angling equipment, everyone is able to share in a dream come true.” Since then, FHNB has grown into a national non-profit organization. It currently has 23 chapters in 11 different states and enables thousands of individuals with disabilities to experience



Photo courtesy of FHNB Facebook page

what it is like to catch “the big one”!

After attending several Fishing Has No Boundaries events in surrounding states and researching the FHNB organization, Allie McGraw, a resident of Clinton County, started the very first Iowa chapter of Fishing Has No Boundaries in March of 2013. When I asked Allie why

she was drawn to starting a chapter in Iowa, this is how she replied, “The tragedy that had occurred 13 years ago with my sister has led me to be very passionate and enthusiastic about advocating for individuals with disabilities. I worked at Camp Courageous in Monticello, Iowa

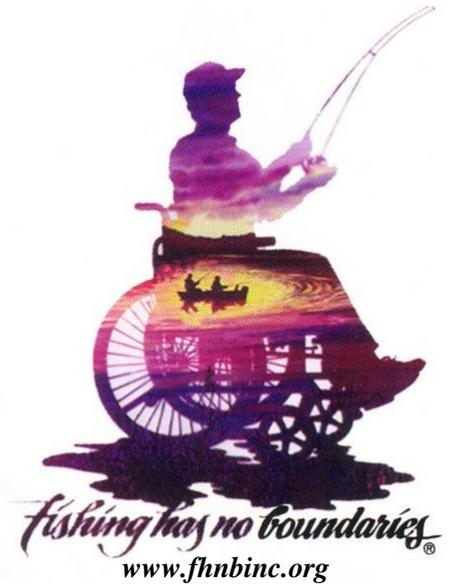
(a camp for individuals with disabilities) for one summer and knew that was something I wanted to do as I got older. The logo on our FHNB brochure states “Most of us think that going fishing is as easy as a walk to the lake... For over 56 million Americans with disabilities it’s not that simple.” I believe that is true; with this organization though, we can assist with increasing experience and opportunity in completing outdoor recreational activities for individuals with disabilities.”

As the leader of this organization, Allie has outlined several goals for this FHNB chapter. They ultimately want the chapter to be a success, but when it comes down to it, this is about the people. They want to provide fishing experiences/opportunities for all anglers with disabilities, they want to increase public awareness and advocacy about challenges that occur with recreational activities, as well as increase knowledge of adaptive equipment to assist with having a successful experience and most of all, they want to build long lasting friendships though participating in FHNB, Inc.

Currently, Allie is taking all of the necessary steps to set up her first FHNB event which will be taking place at Clinton County Conservation’s Rock Creek Marina and Campground, just outside of Camanche. Allie has set the date for Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Iowa’s free fishing weekend with a rain date of Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The event will tentatively include 30 participants from the surrounding areas with a variety of disabilities. The goal for the event is “to provide an opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled day of fishing in the great outdoors for individuals ages 12 and up with disabilities from the Eastern Iowa and Quad City area.”

The preparation for the first Iowa FHNB event is in full swing. The Iowa Chapter meets once a month and includes several members who have volunteered their time to prepare for what we are hoping to be, an annual event at Rock Creek. For any non-profit organization, fundraising is one

Continued on page 6.



## Late Autumn's Conservation Education Events

### November Events

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Bald Eagle Eco Cruise ~ 10

**AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ This will be the public's last opportunity this year to take an Eco Cruise on the Blue Heron Pontoon Boat. The American bald eagles are starting to congregate along the Mississippi for the winter and we hope to see several of the birds during the cruise. Before freeze-up, the bald eagles are spread out along the river and the best way to see them is via boat. Call 563-259-1876 to register.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Fall Leaf Hike ~ 10 AM ~ Wapsi Center** ~ Enjoy a fall stroll at the Wapsi River Center to explore our local trees. Learn how to identify trees by their leaves, bark, seeds, nuts and fruits. Bring the family for this informative jaunt through the woods. Call 563-328-3286 to register. BYOM (Bring Your Own Mug) as hot beverages will be offered at the end of the hike.

**2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Black Hawk Hiking Club's Wapsi Night Hike ~ 7 PM ~ Wapsi Center** ~ Join members and representatives of the Black Hawk Hiking Club for a stroll through the Wapsi River Center's wild places. Learn more about this highly active hiking club. Light refreshments will be served after the hike. For information please call 563-328-3286.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Music in the Loft ~ 7 PM ~

#### Soaring Eagle ~ 3923 N 3rd St,

**Clinton** ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to call 563-357-0759, then bring their instruments along. All are encouraged to sing, tap their toe, slap their knee or just listen. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are always welcomed.

**9<sup>th</sup> ~ FHNB Trivia Night ~ 6 PM ~ Knights of Columbus, Davenport** ~ Enjoy a night of fun and trivia as you help raise money for the Fishing Has No Boundaries Eastern Iowa Chapter. The event takes place at the Knights of Columbus, 1111 W. 35th Street in Davenport. Doors open at 6 PM; Trivia starts at 7 PM Contact Allie McGraw at 563-210-4296 or eifhnbinc@gmail.com for more information or to sign up a team of 8 at \$10/person. Have a great night out all while helping the cause!

**13<sup>th</sup> ~ Backyard Birds ~ 2 PM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton** ~ This presentation is for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders to learn about birds in their backyard with a story, activity and constructing their own take-home birdfeeder! This event is free of charge.



**15<sup>th</sup> ~ Backyard Birds ~ 10 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton** ~ This presentation is for children ages three to five, to learn about birds in their backyard with a story, activity and constructing their own take-home birdfeeder! This event is free of charge.

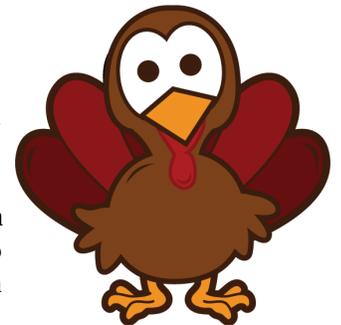
**16<sup>th</sup> ~ Second Annual Veterans and Active Duty Military Pheasant Hunt ~ 8 AM-4 PM ~ Beckridge Hunting Preserve, 613<sup>th</sup> Ave., Sabula** ~ Our goal is to give back to our military men, women and veterans and thank them for all they have done by providing a fun day of camaraderie and pheasant hunting. Open to all veterans, active duty, retired and reserve military men and women. Disabled Vets are encouraged to attend. This day is meant to bring together those who have served and are currently serving, to honor them as a community. People who hunted at the March event are not eligible to hunt again. To volunteer or donate call Beckridge at 563-687-2985.



To register, <http://qcaveteranshunt.webs.com>.

- ⚔ Veterans hunt for free (no charge)
- ⚔ Half-day pheasant hunt (choice: 8-11 AM or 1-4 PM)
- ⚔ Lunch will be provided
- ⚔ Hunting licenses and ammunition will be provided
- ⚔ Firearms can be supplied on a limited basis

**23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Turkey Time ~ 10 AM ~ Rock Creek** ~ Gobble, gobble, it's almost turkey time! Bring the kids down to Rock Creek for a morning filled with turkey-themed activities including a short program, crafts and a snack. Program is geared towards children K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades and they must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required so please call 563-847-7202 to sign up by Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>!



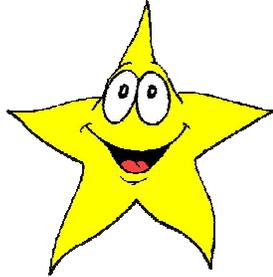
**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Stars of the Sky with Starlab ~ 5 PM ~ Rock Creek** ~ This time of year is awesome to look at the stars, especially with the portable, indoor planetarium set-up for you in the Eco Tourism Center. Here we will explore the constellations and some prominent stars to look for when you are stargazing at home or while traveling in a car.

**26<sup>th</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek ~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center** ~ The Friends are a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests welcome!

## December Events

**3<sup>rd</sup> ~ Friends of Rock Creek~ 6 PM ~ Rock Creek, Eco Tourism Center** ~ The Friends are a group of citizens dedicated to improving the park and its facilities for visitors with the promotion of the site through volunteering and planning events. New members and guests welcome!

**4<sup>th</sup> ~ Starlight, Star Bright ~ 2 PM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton**  
~ This presentation is for K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders to learn about space with a simulated tour of the solar system, story telling with a few constellations along with a craft. This event is free of charge.



**5<sup>th</sup> ~ Music in the Loft ~ 7 PM ~ Soaring Eagle ~ 3923 N 3rd St., Clinton** ~ Local talents will provide entertaining instrumental and vocal offerings of a wide variety of music. Participants with musical talents are invited to call 563-357-0759, then bring their instruments along. All are encouraged to sing, tap their toe, slap their knee or just listen. Refreshments are available and the entire family is welcome. This is a free event although donations to support the center are always welcomed.

**6<sup>th</sup> ~ Starlight, Star Bright ~ 10 AM ~ Discovery Center, Clinton** ~ This presentation is for children ages three to five to learn about the stars by using constellations to tell a story, singing songs and making a craft. This event is free of charge.

**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> ~ Holiday Tree Jubilee ~ Rock Creek** ~ The Eco Tourism Center is going to be lit-up with beautiful holiday trees, wreaths, centerpieces and baskets decorated and donated by area contributors to be bid on by YOU to take home after the event. Santa will also be on hand, along with a sugar cookie decoration station for the kids. The Center will be open for viewing and bidding Saturday 10 AM - 4 PM and Sunday 10 AM-2 PM. Starting at 12:30 PM on Sunday, Chuck Jacobsen will offer up holiday music with his voice and guitar. If you are interested in donating an item please call Kim at 563-593-2171.



**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Second Annual Young Ladies Lock-in ~ (Fri. 6 PM - Sat. 10 AM) ~ Rock Creek** ~ This is a lock-in geared for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to spend the night in the Eco Tourism Center! The night will be filled with fun lock-in activities like movies, crafts, games and a night hike. Cost is \$5/girl and space is limited, so hurry and call Jill or Jessica at 563-847-7202 to register by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Young Ladies Lock-in!*



## Early January Events

**4<sup>th</sup> ~ Twenty-ninth Annual Bald Eagle Watch ~ 8:30 AM-2:30 PM - Exhibits & Programs at Clinton Community College ~ 9 AM-2 PM Eagle Watching at Lock & Dam 13** ~ Lock & Dam 13 is located 3 miles north of Fulton, IL along Highway 84. Clinton Community College is located at 1000 Lincoln Blvd., Clinton, IA. The program is dedicated to the understanding, appreciation and protection of our national symbol. Naturalists and volunteers will be on hand to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of these and other birds of prey. Programs will feature lectures, videos, songs, stories and live birds of prey. The exhibit hall at Clinton Community College will feature wildlife exhibits, door prizes, food and drinks. For Information Contact the Thomson Park Rangers at 815-259-3628.



**10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> ~ Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days ~ QCCA Expo Center, Rock Island** ~ Celebrate the Bald Eagle. 4-8 PM Friday, 10 AM-8 PM on Saturday and 10 AM-5 PM on Sunday. Stop by and visit the Wapsi Center's display.

## Save the Date (tentative)

**February 15<sup>th</sup> ~ Whitetails Unlimited Banquet ~ 5 PM ~ Millennium Ballroom, Goose Lake** ~ Help provide public hunting, wildlife habitat and the future of the hunting tradition. See the largest trophy deer display in the county. Each child receives a special prize. Call Mark Roberts at 563-349-0956 for tickets.



**March 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Wild Turkey Federation Banquet ~ 6 PM ~ Millennium Ballroom, Goose Lake** ~ Help raise funds for turkey habitat and public hunting. Call Mike House at 563-357-9251 for tickets.



**March 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Spring Pheasant Festival ~ 5 PM ~ Wheatland Community Center** ~ The Clinton County Chapter of Pheasants Forever is planning a night of fun & fund-raising. They will have games, door prizes, auction and a pork dinner. Tickets are \$10. People need not be members to attend. Call Brad Taylor at 563-357-0465 for tickets.



Continued from page 3.

of the most important parts of this event (check out Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> FHNB Trivia Night). Grants are being written and businesses are being contacted in hopes to raise enough money to buy the equipment necessary to take individuals with disabilities fishing on the river. Adaptive angling equipment such as pole holders, different kinds of electric reels - joy stick or chin operating, ramp systems to gain access to boats, wider pontoon boat doorways, reel grippers and many other assistance angling tools are among the necessary equipment we will need to make this Fishing Has No Boundaries event a success.

In addition to fundraising, volunteers for the event will be very important. We will need a lot of people to help in a

variety of areas including serving breakfast and lunch, registration and riding along with the participants while they fish. We are also in need of people with fishing boats and/or pontoon boats who are willing to be captains for the day. These individuals will be taking the participant along with another volunteer and the participant's aid out on the Mississippi River for a few hours. Captains are crucial for this event! It's an unforgettable way to connect someone who may never have had the chance to go fishing to experiencing the thrill of being on the river and catching a fish, no matter the size.

If you would like more information about FHNB and the event at Rock Creek, please contact Allie McGraw at 563-210-4296 or via email at eifhnbinc@gmail.com.

## Conservation Tidbits

~ **Purple Heart Hunting at Sherman Park or Rock Creek.** We can set up US military veterans that have earned combat citations, been a Prisoner of War or are a Disabled American Veteran with a handicapped accessible blind at various locations in these two parks. Call Mark to find out more at 563-349-0956.



~ **Turtle Island Display at MRETC.** The Turtle Island display is continuing its construction. Stop in during business hours to check on progress.

~ **Order Trees and Shrubs Now.** The Iowa State Forest Nursery offer seedlings ranging from \$35-\$55 per 100 for wildlife habitat restoration. Call 800-865-2477.

~ **Iowa Ornithologists Union Workshop.** 90 Iowa Birders spent 3 days in Clinton and Rock Creek birding in the our area. They spotted a whopping 143 different species!

~ **Watch the Birds** at MRETC feeders from comfort of the Camp Store.

~ **Winter Parks are in Hibernation.** Sherman (south gate), Walnut Grove and Malone Parks' gates are closed for the winter. Walk-in use is always welcome.

## James Haring Community Hall

by Walt Wickham, Executive Director



On Sunday September 29th the Conservation Board held a grand opening ceremony for the new Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center at Rock Creek. This was our opportunity to show off our great new facility and to thank everyone who helped make it possible. This project has been over 10 years in the making and more than likely wouldn't have happened without the support of our many friends and donors, countless volunteers, the Conservation Foundation, the Conservation Board and of course the Conservation Staff. Each of you deserve a huge 'thank you' and should be very proud of this outstanding new facility.

One individual, however, stands out in my mind not only for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Eco Center, but because he is a tireless supporter of conservation efforts throughout Clinton County. Jim Haring has served on the Clinton County Conservation Board, the Clinton County Conservation Foundation, the Friends of Rock Creek, the Izaak Walton League and Clinton Trees Forever. He has been on the board for the Clinton County EnviroKids, helped with the Clinton County Youth Outdoor Skills day and been a hunter safety instructor for over 50 years!

To honor Jim's life time of contributions to conservation in Clinton County, the community hall of the Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center is now known as the "James Haring Community Hall". Jim will be the first to tell you that he didn't do all he did expecting to be honored in such a way and that is exactly why he is so deserving. Thank you, Jim, for all you have done and continue to do for conservation in Clinton County.

**Winter Hours**  
Nov. 1-April 1

- ◆ camping and cabin rentals (winter camping \$7 & \$12)
- ◆ cross country ski, ice skate and snowshoe rental (weather permitting)
- ◆ community hall rental
- ◆ food & beverages
- ◆ hot drinks, ice & bait

cabin reservations online at:  
[www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com)

Email us:  
[rockcreek@clintoncounty-ia.gov](mailto:rockcreek@clintoncounty-ia.gov)



### ECO TOURISM CENTER

Winter Hours  
Open Thursday-Sunday  
8 AM-4 PM  
(closed Mon.-Wed.)

Rock Creek  
Marina & Campground  
563-259-1876

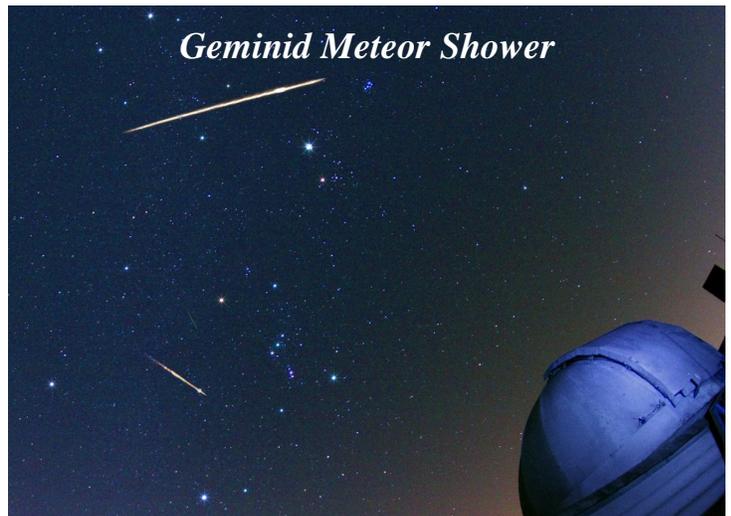
## The Sky is Falling!

by Chuck Jacobsen, Interpretative Naturalist

The sky is falling! The sky is falling!! Or maybe not. Viewing any dark night sky might lead you to believe that some parts of the heavens are falling when you see what looks like a star streaking through the sky. You might even feel they have hit the ground though few ever really witness such an event. Shooting or falling stars are both common names for meteors. When a meteor streaks across the night sky, what we are seeing are small bits of rock and debris being vaporized. As our Earth hurtles through space at, 66,600 mph in its orbit around the sun it runs into these rocks. Its sort of like a lightning bug hitting the windshield of your car. There is a momentary flash and it's all over for the bug. When things from space hit our atmosphere they usually burn up or vaporize. Some meteoroids (that's what we call them before they hit our atmosphere) are traveling at 20,000 mph or more. They quickly burst into flames from friction with the atmosphere more than 30 miles above our heads. Almost all are destroyed and the few that hit the ground are generally tiny and known as meteorites. You're truly lucky to spot a meteorite and see where it hits. But you can easily collect them using a strong magnet inside a paper cup. Just tie some strings to the cup so you can dangle it just above or drag it on the ground. After a bit check the bottom for the tiny blackened iron meteorites your magnet attracted.

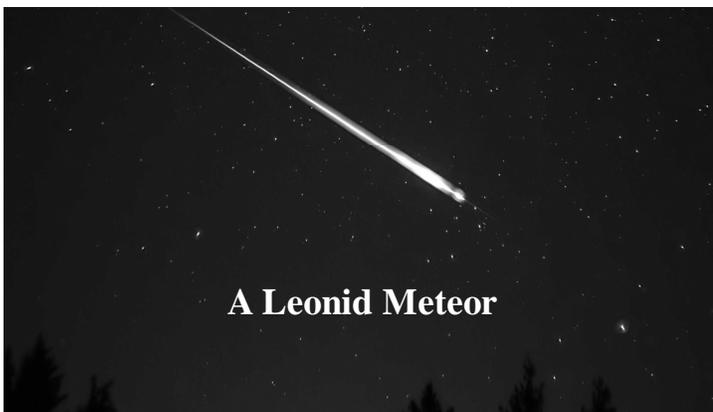
A meteor shower is an increase in the number of meteors that streak through the night. Comets create most meteor showers. Comets orbit the Sun and leave an icy trail of dust debris along behind them. When the Earth passes through this trail it creates a meteor shower. Although the meteors can appear anywhere in the sky, a shower appears to be coming from the same area. Meteor showers are named for the constellation that they appear to be coming from. This area is known as the radiant. The radiant for the Leonid meteor shower is in the constellation Leo. The Perseid meteor shower is named because meteors appear to fall from the constellation Perseus.

Are you ready to join the thousands of people who love to watch a meteor shower? First you should check the local weather forecast to be sure the sky will be clear. Next you



will need to be ready to give up some sleep. Then you may have to escape the light pollution created by street, parking lot and yard lights. Get away from the glow of the city. After you've escaped the city's glow, find a dark spot where oncoming car headlights will not ruin your sensitive night vision. Look for county, state or city parks or other safe dark sites. Sherman Park south of Calamus is one of the darkest public places in Clinton and Scott Counties. If you can see each star of the Little Dipper your eyes have gotten used to the dark and you've chosen your site well. After all of this you will see plenty of meteors as long as the sky is clear. Treat meteor watching like you would fireworks. Pack comfortable chairs, food, drinks, blankets, plus a red-filtered flashlight for seeing your way without ruining your night vision. Binoculars are not necessary but they will give you a better view of the smaller stars and star clusters like the Pleiades or Seven Sisters. But your eyes will do just fine. Once you have settled at your observing spot lie back or position yourself so the horizon appears at the edge of your vision with the stars and sky filling your view. Meteors will instantly grab your attention as they streak across the sky. Now you just need to know when to be there.

At 1:15 AM on November 16<sup>th</sup>, Leo will just be rising in the east. So rather than staying up half the night it might be better to get up between 4 and 5 AM to get the most out of the shower. By then, Leo is high in the eastern sky, the full moon has nearly set and you'll have an hour or so before the sun begins to rise and brightens the sky. If you miss the Leonids or just can't wait to get more check out the Geminids in December. Gemini will rise at 6:30 PM on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December long after the sun has set. Though the moon will be high in the sky and in its waxing gibbous, it won't be full and will set around 3:45 AM. Again it might be better to be up at 4 AM when Gemini is high in the western sky. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Gemini rises at 7 PM the moon is lower in the eastern sky than it was the night before and now even brighter as it is closer to full. The moon will set at 4:30 AM with Gemini close on its heels so getting up early might not be the best choice. Remember, where your hard hat, those aren't acorns falling out of the sky!



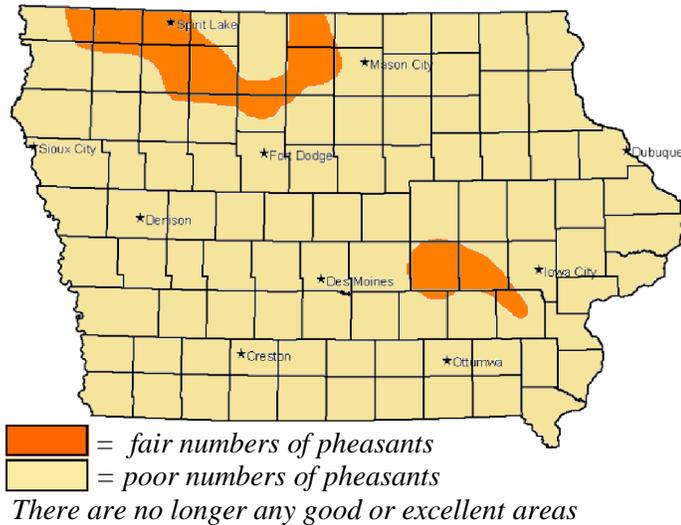
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*A picture is worth a thousand words.*

**2013 Iowa DNR Game Distribution Map ~ Pheasants**



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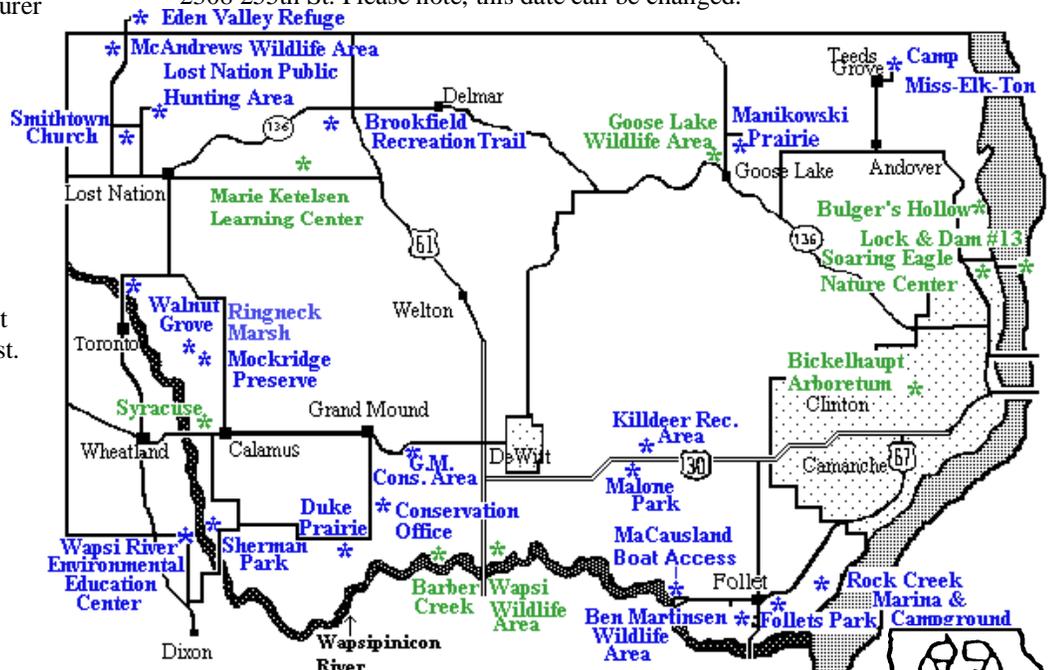
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**BOARD MEETINGS**

The Clinton County Conservation Board meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. The Board meets the second Tuesday the month, at 6 PM, in the Conservation Office, located 1 mile south of Grand Mound at 2308 255th St. Please note, this date can be changed.



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