



Love the outdoors and observing wildlife?

Able to commit to several seasonal observations?

Organized and comfortable using the Internet?

We're seeking enthusiastic and sharp-eyed, sharp-eared volunteers who have a passion for wildlife and its conservation.

DNR wildlife staff want help keeping track of some special species across the state.

Learn more about the Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program and how to become a volunteer!



Why are volunteers needed to monitor raptors, colonial waterbirds, and frogs and toads?



Raptors (hawks, eagles, falcons and owls) and Colonial Waterbirds (herons, egrets, night-herons and cormorants) are two groups of top predators particularly sensitive to environmental changes. Not only are they fascinating to observe, they are important animals to monitor.

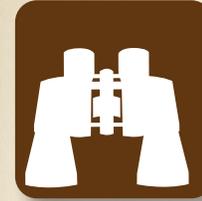


Amphibians are currently in global decline and face many environmental stressors. These melodious inhabitants of Iowa's wetlands have been surveyed in Iowa since 1991. Now that the DNR has joined the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, our data will be used at regional and national levels too.

**Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program
Boone Wildlife Research Station
1436 255th St.
Boone, IA 50036**



Leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources
The DNR is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



**Becoming
a Wildlife
Volunteer**



**Ready for adventure?
Take it outside!**

Three Iowa programs need dedicated volunteers:

**Raptor Nest Monitoring
Colonial Water Bird Monitoring
Frog and Toad Call Surveys**

WHAT'S REQUIRED

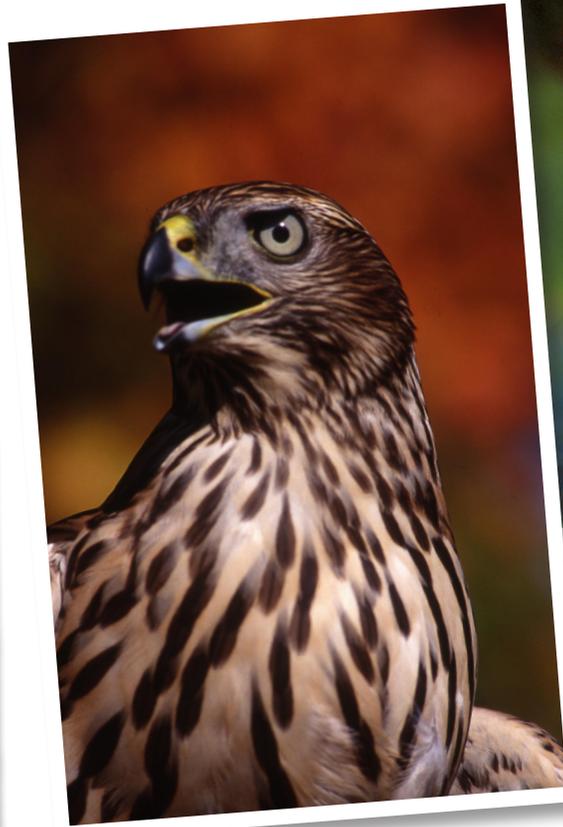


Assignments involve recording what you observe on a form at the assigned location and reporting the observations on-line.

Volunteers must attend a training workshop before beginning assignments. These are offered annually in three locations across the state, usually on Saturdays or in the evening. Held in partnership with the local County Conservation Board, workshop content emphasizes biology, conservation, habitat description and how to perform the monitoring.

At the workshops for Raptor or Colonial Water Bird nest monitoring, you'll learn bird watching basics and bird identification, as well as how to find and map a nesting site. Bird nest volunteers must have binoculars and/or a spotting scope.

Frog and toad surveyors are provided a CD with frog and toad calls to learn their distinctive voices. Surveyors must pass a frog and toad call test offered on the Internet before beginning surveys. Eighty-one routes are set up in Iowa by the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, in which Iowa participates, or you may set up your own route.



WHAT YOU'LL GAIN



Learn more about Iowa's wildlife, identify their calls, search out their habitat, and understand their challenges and contributions to the ecosystem. You'll feel more connected to Iowa's outdoors.

You'll be able to share your experiences with friends and family, even invite them along on your observation routes, and grow the number of people who value our ecosystem.

You'll enjoy meeting others who share your passion for protecting Iowa's wildlife.



PERKED YOUR INTEREST?



Here's how to get involved:

Go to www.iowadnr.gov/wildlife/diversity/vwmp.html. Sign up for the class or classes you want to attend by downloading the form on the web site. Include fees with the form and mail it to:

**Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program
Boone Wildlife Research Station
14366 255th Street
Boone, IA 50036**

Be sure you mail this at least 10 days before your class is scheduled to begin.

If a class isn't immediately available, contact Stephanie Shepherd, program coordinator, by email at Stephanie.Shepherd@dnr.iowa.gov or by phone at (515) 432-2823. She'll contact you when a class is scheduled, and in the meantime you can receive the Wildlife Monitoring Volunteers' newsletter, *The Observer*.