

## The Surveys

### Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring

Volunteer Monitors are assigned to a specific Bald Eagle Nest which they visit 3 or more times between February and July each year. Monitors collect and report data on nest activity, and how many young are produced.  
*Time Commitment: 5+ hours/year*

### Peregrine and Osprey Nest Monitoring

Similar to the Bald Eagle survey but Osprey and Peregrines are rarer and not as widespread across the state so opportunities are more limited.  
*Time Commitment: 5+ hours/year*

### Frog and Toad Call Survey

Volunteer monitors are assigned to a route of 5-10 different wetland sites which they survey at night 3 times during the late spring and summer. Monitors will learn 10-16 different frog calls and will be able to identify them by sound during the survey. No wetland tromping necessary! Volunteers must be comfortable with driving at night, often on gravel and confident in their ability to hear a range of sounds.  
*Time Commitment: 10 hours/year*

### Acoustic Bat Surveys

There are limited routes available and counties with routes may be adjusted each year so keep an eye on the website or submit a volunteer interest form. Surveyors must be able coordinate with other local volunteers to pick up specialized equipment during assigned weeks in June and July. This equipment is then used while driving a 30 mile road route at 20 mph.  
*Time Commitment: 5 hours/year*



### Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Wildlife Diversity Program  
1436 255th St.  
Boone, IA 50036  
[www.iowadnr.gov/vwmp/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/vwmp/)

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# Becoming a Wildlife Volunteer



### Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring

### Peregrine Falcon and Osprey Nest Monitoring

### Frog and Toad Call Survey

### Acoustic Bat Surveys

## Why are Volunteers Needed?

What do Amphibians (frogs, toads and salamanders), Raptors (hawks, eagles, owls) and Bats have in common? All of them are facing significant challenges to their existence.

Eagles, Peregrine Falcons and Ospreys have all increased in numbers since the 1970s, when the chemical DDT effected their ability to produce chicks. However, they do still face challenges. All of these species have very specific nest location requirements and they return to the same nest year after year which can make them vulnerable. Peregrine's and Ospreys have only been returned to Iowa after many years of re-introductions and their numbers are still low though through monitoring we are documenting their slow increase.

Amphibians are on the decline globally. With their delicate skin, they are particularly vulnerable to toxins in and changes to their environment. Iowa has been surveying these species with the Frog and Toad Call survey since 1991 and it is just as important as ever to keep an ear out for these harbingers of our water quality.

The challenges facing bats have increased in the last 15-20 years with the arrival of White-nose Syndrome, a mostly fatal disease affecting hibernating bats, and the spread of wind energy on the landscape. Bat numbers for certain species have seen major declines and Iowa now has two bat's on the Endangered Species List and two more under consideration for listing.

**Thankfully, all of these species lend themselves well to being monitored in a way that doesn't disturb them and which is accessible to most citizens that want to help. Volunteers play a key role in the monitoring and conservation of these species statewide!**



## What You'll Gain

Volunteers will have an opportunity to experience wildlife and the outdoors in a new way! Slowing down and watching a pair of Eagles raise their family, listening to frogs looking for mates while enjoying fireflies on a moonlit night. You'll feel more connected to the outdoors and the wild community you are a part of!

You'll also be making an important contribution to the conservation of these species. Data collection is not always glamorous and exciting but it is essential to making well-educated management decisions for these wildlife.

Finally, you will also be joining a community of like-minded individuals who share your passion for protecting wildlife. You'll be joining over 200 other volunteers who donate a little of their time to tracking Iowa's vulnerable wildlife!

## Want To Get Involved?

People interested in becoming Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring will need to go through a training which are usually schedule in March (birds), April (frogs) and June (bats). There is the opportunity for online training if you are interested in becoming a Bald Eagle nest monitor. Check out the website for more information.

Pre-registration and a small fee are required for the workshops which are held in rotating locations across the state. The best way to keep up to date on schedules is to watch the webpage and/or subscribe to our Wildlife Diversity News ([www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) ... Subscribe to Email Updates).

You can contact the Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program at:

Volunteer Wildlife Monitoring Program  
Boone Wildlife Research Station  
1436 255th St.  
Boone, IA 50036  
[vwmp@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:vwmp@dnr.iowa.gov)

And find us on the web at:  
[www.iowadnr.gov/vwmp/](http://www.iowadnr.gov/vwmp/)