



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa DNR News

Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 21, 2020

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Bald Eagle shot, killed in Ankeny; public's help sought

ANKENY, Iowa -- On January 3, 2020, the Ankeny Police Department contacted a DNR Conservation Officer and a Wildlife Rehabber about a mature Bald Eagle that was not acting normal and sitting on the ground near Northeast Trilein Drive and East 1st Street.

After a couple of attempts, a wildlife rehabber was able to capture the eagle and noticed blood coming from its mouth. Within a couple hours after it was rescued, the eagle died from the injuries.

The eagle was transported to S.O.A.R (Saving Our Avian Raptors) for further inspection and X-rays. The X-rays discovered a lead shot BB in the lungs of the eagle, which caused the eagle's death.

Investigators believe the eagle may have been shot somewhere in the vicinity of northeast Ankeny, possibly between January 2-3, 2020.

Anyone with information is urged to call the TIP Hotline at 1-800-532-2020 or complete the confidential online TIP form at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/tip/>

A TIP reward is available for any information leading to the arrest of poaching this eagle.

Bald eagles are protected by federal law, with fines of over \$20,000 for harassing, killing or wounding an eagle. If you find a dead or injured eagle, call a local DNR Conservation Officer or any DNR staff.

Media Contact: Dustin Eighmy, DNR Conservation Officer, (515) 238-5006, Dustin.Eighmy@dnr.iowa.gov.

Trout stocking this Saturday at Lake Petocka cancelled

Bondurant, Iowa – The trout stocking and family trout fishing event scheduled for this Saturday, Jan. 25 at Lake Petocka has been cancelled due to unsafe ice conditions for

the expected large crowd.

The DNR is planning to stock trout in Lake Petocka sometime next week depending on weather and road conditions.

The family fishing event will not be rescheduled.

Media Contact: Andy Otting, Fisheries Technician, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 515-204-5885.

Chickadee tax check-off donations continues downward trend in 2018

Last year, more than 7,200 Iowa taxpayers helped boost wildlife conservation with donations to the Fish and Wildlife Fund on their state tax form, which is roughly 300 fewer donors than in 2017. Donors represent about 0.5 percent of total tax payers in Iowa.

“We are so thankful to all the people who choose to donate to wildlife conservation with their tax refunds,” said Stephanie Shepherd, wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program. “Those contributions go directly to habitat development and restoration programs that are so important for natural resources and for some of Iowa’s most vulnerable animal species.”

The Fish and Wildlife Fund, known popularly as the “Chickadee Check-off,” is a mechanism the Iowa Legislature created in the 1980s for Iowa citizens to donate to wildlife conservation on the Iowa state tax form. Before this time, so called “non-game” wildlife had no dedicated funding. Non-game wildlife is the more than 1,000 species of songbirds, bald eagles, salamanders, turtles, monarchs and bees and more that make up the majority of wildlife in Iowa.

It is one of the only funding sources for the Department of Natural Resources’ Wildlife Diversity Program which is responsible for all these species. Those funds help improve wildlife habit, restore native wildlife, provide opportunities for citizens to learn about our natural resources and much more.

Iowans donated roughly \$140,000 last spring when completing their 2018 tax forms which is a little more than \$8,000 less than the previous two years. This translates to an average gift of \$19.24 per donor.

“The tax check-off line is pretty inconspicuous and can be easy to miss. Many tax preparers may not remember to ask whether a client wants to donate,” said Shepherd. “It may be up to the taxpayer to remind their preparer, or make a point of looking for it whether they are doing their form on paper or electronically.”

Once you find the check-off, donating is easy, according to Shepherd: simply write the amount to donate next to the Fish and Wildlife Check-Off, line 57 on Form 1040, and the sum is either automatically deducted from the refund or added to the amount owed.

“If every Iowa taxpayer donated just \$1, it would mean \$1.5 million for wildlife and natural resource conservation!” said Shepherd.

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