

Barn Owls are one of Iowa's endangered species.



Join us! Lucas County Birding Festival

May 5-7, 2017 | Chariton, Iowa

Information current as of March 6, 2017

Project sponsored in part by:



Bird Walks | Field Trips | Children's Activities
Educational Speakers | Exhibits

Iowa Ornithologist's Union Spring Meeting
Banquet & Keynote Speaker

Birding Destination: Lucas County

Lucas County is home to two of Iowa's Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs). Forests, grasslands and wetlands here attract not only Iowa-nesting species of birds, but also serve as an important stopover for many kinds of birds migrating through on their way to nesting areas in Minnesota, Canada and other points north.

Plan now to attend the Birding Festival and enjoy a great birding experience during the spring migration.



Schedule of Events

- 6:00 – 8:00pm Registration at Carpenters Hall
- 6:00 – 8:00pm Welcome Reception with Cash Bar at Carpenters Hall
- 8:00 pm Movie Night – "The Big Year" Carpenters Hall

Follow three seasoned birders who each set out to achieve a Big Year. Featuring Jack Black as a 36-year-old computer programmer based in Baltimore; Steve Martin as founder and CEO of a New York company bearing his name; and a roofing contractor played by Owen Wilson who holds the current Big Year record of 732 birds.



- 6:00 am - Breakfast Buffet at Carpenters Hall.
- 7:00 am--Field trips depart to see the diverse variety of Lucas County's birds.
- Noon--1:00 pm--Lunch at Carpenters Hall.
- 1:00--4:00 pm-- Breakout sessions on a variety of topics about birds and bird watching, bird conservation plus workshops to learn more about binoculars and other birding gear, how to build birdhouses and more.
- 4:00 pm-- Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Business Meeting
- 6:00 -- Home-cooked Banquet followed by Keynote Speaker, Heather Sanders
- Late Evening -- Field Trip to Stephens Forest

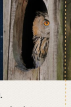


Keynote Speaker
Heather Sanders
Heather Sanders, zoologist, world traveler, former science teacher, speaker, & videographer from Ankeny, Iowa.

● ● ● ● ● Following Flammulated Owls in the Western U.S.

Late evening field trip to Stephens Forest

After the banquet and evening program, a late evening field trip will be conducted at Stephens State Forest to find night birds such as owls and whip-poor-wills.



- 6:00 am - Breakfast Buffet at Carpenters Hall.
- Grab-n-go lunch will be available at breakfast or lunchtime.
- 7:00 am--Field trips like those offered on Saturday will be available again to view different parts of Lucas County, its variety of bird life and scenic habitats.
- As field trips return, trip leaders will turn in lists of the birds they saw for compiling into the festival's master list of all birds found between Friday evening and Sunday noon.

Field Trips

Field trips will include a variety of habitats that involve walking and hiking as well as locations that will accommodate persons with limited mobility and families with young children.

Experts familiar with local birds will serve as field trip leaders. They will assist participants new to birdwatching learn how to identify some of the more secretive or less well-known kinds of birds.

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Youth Field Trip for ages 8-18
Tyler Harms, Executive Director of the Iowa Young Birders, will lead a field trip to the ISU McNay Research Farm to learn about building, placing and monitoring Barn Owl boxes.

Watch for more details about the Field Trips and Saturday afternoon break out sessions.

Welcome to Lucas County!

Lucas County is located in south central Iowa. Chariton is the county seat and will be the central gathering point for the festival.

Carpenters Hall, which is located at 1215 Court Avenue in Chariton, will be the venue for meals, meetings and exhibits and will also serve as the point of departure for the field trips.

While you're in the area, we invite you to explore! From famous handmade candies to custom motorcycles, quilt shops or Amish tours, Lucas County has surprises. For details about Chariton and nearby communities, call the chamber at 641-774-4059 or visit charitonareachambermainstreet.com



Camping

- Red Haw State Park**
Red Haw State Park is one mile east of Chariton on Highway 34 with reservable campsites. Beautiful lake, fishing, trails and more. Reserve at 1-877-IAPARKS or iowadnr.gov.
- Honey Creek Resort State Park**
Honey Creek Resort State Park is 30 miles southeast of Chariton. It is on the shores of Rathbun Lake and offers RV campsites. For reservations, call 877-677-3244 or visit honeycreekresort.com.
- Stephens State Forest**
Stephens State Forest offers non-modern campsites for \$9 per night. Reserve at 1-877-IAPARKS or iowadnr.gov.
- Lucas County Fairgrounds**
Lucas County Fairgrounds offers camping with 10 full hook up sites for \$20/night and tent camping for \$10/night. Self-registration on-site. Questions call 641-203-5122.
- Country Cabins and Glamour Camping Resort**
Country Cabins and Glamour Camping Resort is located just east of Chariton on Highway 34. There are 10 to 12 sites for campers. Tents are available for sleeping out of doors. For more information and reservations, call 641-217-0534. Photos of suites and cabins and more information available at www.country-cabins.com.
- Singing Mesa Ranch**
Singing Mesa Ranch - 53126 US Hwy 65, Lucas, IA
8 Electric/Water Camp Sites, \$29 per night
Bathrooms/Shower house
Contact: Jana Johnson, singingmesaranch@gmail.com, 641-919-3071
www.singingmesaranch.com



Motels, Lodges & Cabins

- Honey Creek Resort State Park**
Honey Creek Resort State Park is 30 miles southeast of Chariton. It is on the shores of Rathbun Lake and offers accommodations in The Lodge at Rathbun Lake and cabins. For reservations, call 877-677-3244 or visit honeycreekresort.com.
- Country Cabins and Glamour Camping Resort**
Country Cabins and Glamour Camping Resort is located just east of Chariton on Highway 34. There are 10 to 12 sites for campers. Tents are available for sleeping out of doors. For more information/reservations, call 641-217-0534. Photos of suites and cabins and more information available at www.country-cabins.com.
- Royal Rest and Super 8 Motels**
Royal Rest and Super 8 motels are located side by side for a total of 62 rooms. Both are on Highway 34 just minutes away from Red Haw State Park and Stephens State Forest as well as Pin Oak Marsh and downtown Chariton.
- Foxwood B&B**
Foxwood B&B - 1128 85th St, Humeston, IA
Cottage in the country, \$75/night per couple, \$25/night additional guests, family rates available.
Contact: Alan or Lorie Pearson, foxwood1128@yahoo.com, 641-862-3764
www.foxwoodbedandbreakfast.com
- Front Street Inn**
Front Street Inn - 404 N Front St, Humeston, IA
Historic renovated 4 bedroom home, rental rates vary depending on group size
Contact: 641-203-2643
<https://www.homesway.com/vacation-rental/p2828592>
- Coal Camp Outfitters**
Coal Camp Outfitters - 20250 510th St, Chariton, IA
Cabin with three bedrooms in the country, approx. 6 miles from Chariton, contact for rates (they have rates for rental only vs. full hunting packages listed online)
Contact: Paul Hovek, coalcamp@windstream.net, 515-258-6164
<http://www.coalcampoutfitters.com/index.php>
- Cline Country Cabin**
Cline Country Cabin - 1515 Vale Rd, Humeston, IA
Four bedroom cabin, full kitchen, 2 bathrooms, \$200/night + \$40 cleaning fee
Contact: Kevin and Marilyn Cline, Marilyn@marilyncline.com, 515-210-8243
<http://www.clinecountrycabin.com/default.html>

Registration and Meal Options

Individuals	\$10	Breakfast Buffet	\$9
Couple.....	\$15	Sack Lunch.....	\$8
Family.....	\$20	Banquet.....	\$18
Student.....	\$5	(per person, per meal)	

Registration will open soon! All levels of birders are welcome!



Birding in Lucas County

Lucas County is home to two of Iowa's Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs).

Stephens State Forest holds some of the largest tracts of contiguous forest in Iowa and is home to bird species such as the Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and American Woodcock.

The Stephens Forest BCA contains the Woodburn, Whitebreast, and Lucas units and surrounding areas, encompassing 45,680 acres, with 8,138 acres in public land and conservation easements.

In 2014, a second Bird Conservation area containing core habitat in Stephens State Forest was dedicated. The Stephens Forest- Thousand Acres BCA contains similar habitat to the original Stephens Forest BCA and is home to many of the same outstanding bird species.



Exhibit at the Festival

The Birding Festival will provide an opportunity for visitors and residents to meet with, and purchase goods from, local merchants.

We invite exhibitors that specialize in birding, tourism, nature activities, landscaping, gardening, horticulture and more to sign up for this two-day event. Registration materials will be available shortly.

Project sponsored in part by:



For additional information about the Lucas County Birding Festival please contact the Chariton Area Chamber Mainstreet office at 1024 N. Grand, Chariton, IA 50049 641-774-4059 | charitonareachambermainstreet.com

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