

Iowa Wildlife Federation

2025 Impact Report

Across Iowa, people are taking action to protect wildlife and habitat. Through education, community engagement and conservation efforts, the Iowa Wildlife Federation is helping build a more sustainable future for our state.

Impact at a Glance

- **6,000 students** connected to the outdoors each year through School of the Wild
- **1,000+ Certified Wildlife Habitats** created across Iowa
- **750 members** statewide supporting conservation
- **3,900+ Iowans engaged online** with conservation education and action



How We Make An Impact

Education and Outreach

We connect Iowans of all ages to nature through hands-on learning and experiences. Programs like School of the Wild help students build a lasting connection to the outdoors.

Advocacy and Action

We advocate for policies that protect wildlife and habitat, including efforts to fund the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust (IWILL), a key source of funding for conservation in Iowa. We engage and mobilize Iowans to support this work and partner with agencies and organizations across the state to advance shared conservation goals.

Community and Collaboration

We bring together landowners, educators, volunteers and partners to restore habitat and strengthen conservation efforts statewide.



Program Highlights

School of the Wild

In 2025, 6,000 students across Iowa participated in outdoor learning experiences. Often, kids take a day or more to acclimate to their outdoor classroom. For some, it may be the first time they have visited their local park or interacted with the natural environment. Through School of the Wild, kids build confidence, curiosity and a deeper understanding of the natural world.



“The kids love it and they have said it was their ‘best week of school!!!’”

—Karla, 6th Grade Teacher

Iowa Gray Fox Project

Once widespread across Iowa’s forests and farmsteads, gray fox populations have declined drastically over the past 25 years, with fewer than 10 individuals confirmed statewide in recent years. In partnership with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Gray Fox Project collars, releases and tracks foxes to better understand this decline and support recovery. In 2025, three gray foxes were collared and released, providing critical data to inform conservation efforts. To further support this work, IWF partnered with Raygun to create a Gray Fox T-shirt that raises both funds and awareness for the project.



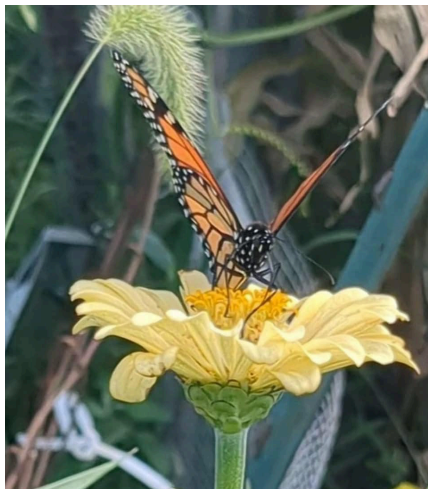
Certified Wildlife Habitat®

More than 1,000 Certified Wildlife Habitats across Iowa are helping turn backyards, schools and community spaces into habitat for wildlife. By providing food, water, cover and places to raise young, these sites support pollinators, birds and other species statewide.



Monarch Watch

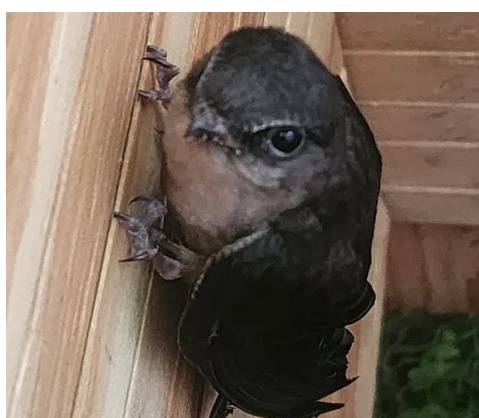
In partnership with the Izaak Walton League of Des Moines, we helped conduct a Monarch Watch to track monarch butterflies during their annual migration to the mountains of Mexico. During this effort, participants across 12 counties recorded 120 monarchs, contributing valuable data to better understand migration patterns and support conservation of this iconic species.



Looking Ahead

ReWilding Workshops

This spring, we will help Iowans take the next step in creating Certified Wildlife Habitats by conducting workshops across the state. These hands-on workshops will cover topics like converting turf grass to native plants, conducting prairie burns and creating spaces that support pollinators and wildlife. By giving people practical tools and guidance, we are making it easier for more Iowans to take action for habitat in their own communities.



Swift Project Iowa

IWF and Iowa Bird Rehabilitation will partner to support conservation efforts for chimney swifts, a bird species that relies on human-made structures for nesting. This work will focus on engaging the community, raising awareness and exploring ways to better protect and support chimney swift populations across Iowa.

Together, we are creating an Iowa with abundant wildlife, healthy habitats and engaged communities. With continued support, this work will keep growing through partnerships, education and action across the state.

Questions? Contact:

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