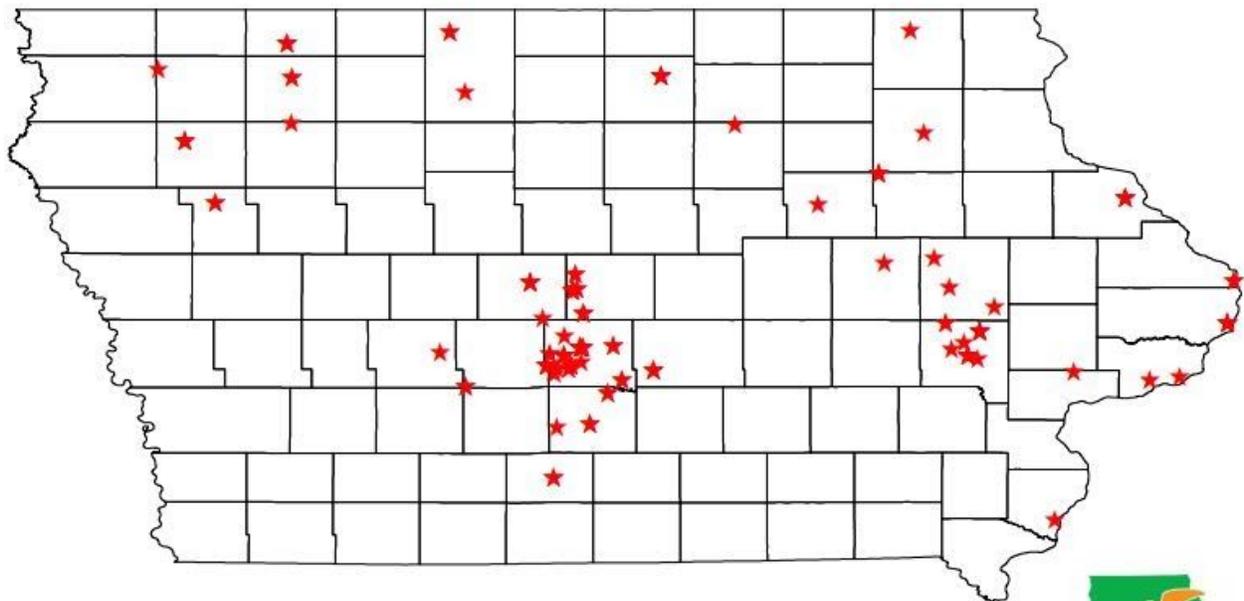




Summer Birding Program 2020 Summary

From June to August 2020, 170 young birders from 30 counties across Iowa as well as from Nebraska and Illinois participated in our first Summer Birding Program. Developed to provide young birders and their families with a self-guided opportunity to learn about birds and their habitats during the global pandemic, this unique program allowed young birders to log time spent watching birds and participating in bird-related educational activities throughout the summer months in exchange for fun prizes. Upon signing up to participate, each young birder received a brand new copy of Stan Tekiela's, "Birds of Iowa", thanks to our program sponsors (see below). Those young birders who logged more than 15 hours watching birds and participated in at least 10 bird-related activities were entered into a drawing for one of two grand prizes: a brand new pair of Vortex Diamondback binoculars donated by Wild Birds Unlimited in Ames and a Wild Birds Unlimited EcoTough hopper bird feeder!

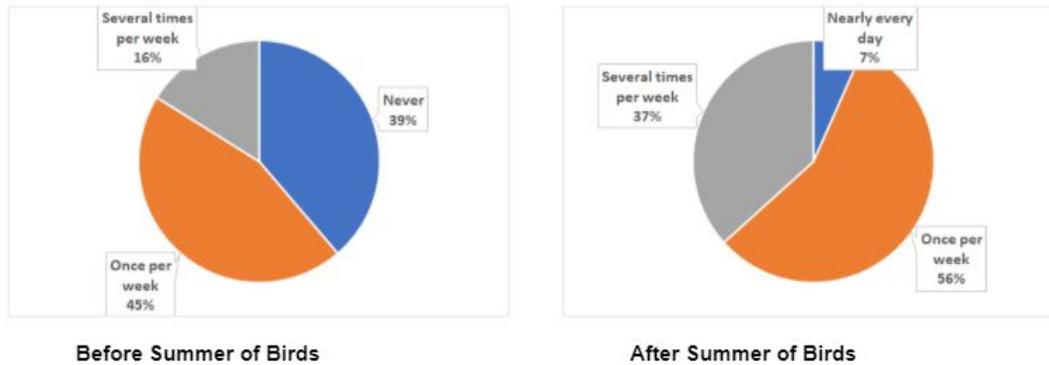
Summer Birding Program Participants 2020



Map of Summer Birding Program participants in Iowa, 2020.



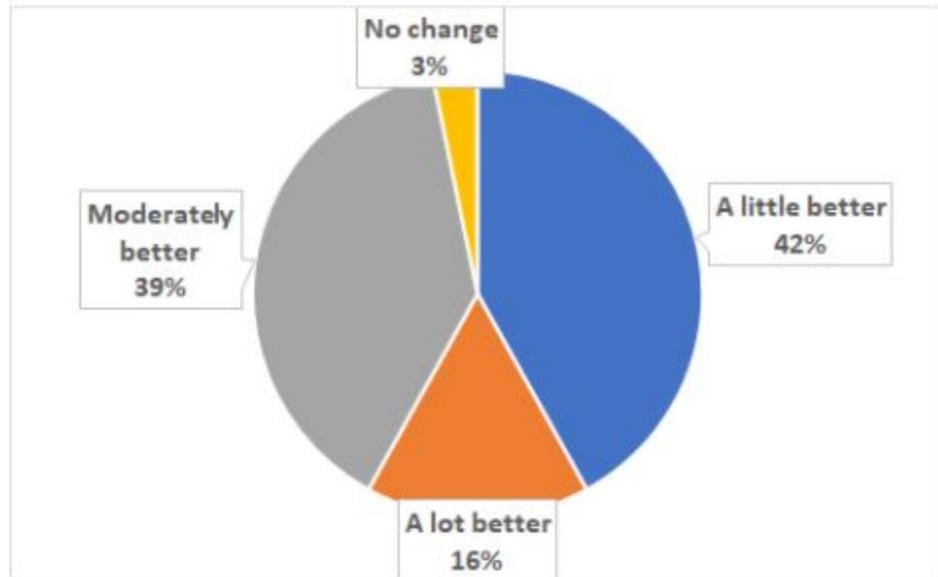
During the summer months, 75 young birders logged more than 616 hours of birding and participated in a total of 636 bird-related activities! In a follow-up survey sent to participants, 42% of young birders reported watching birds around their home nearly every day compared to 3% doing so every day before participating in the Summer Birding Program, and all young birders reported visiting a natural area to watch birds at least once per week as a result of the Program.



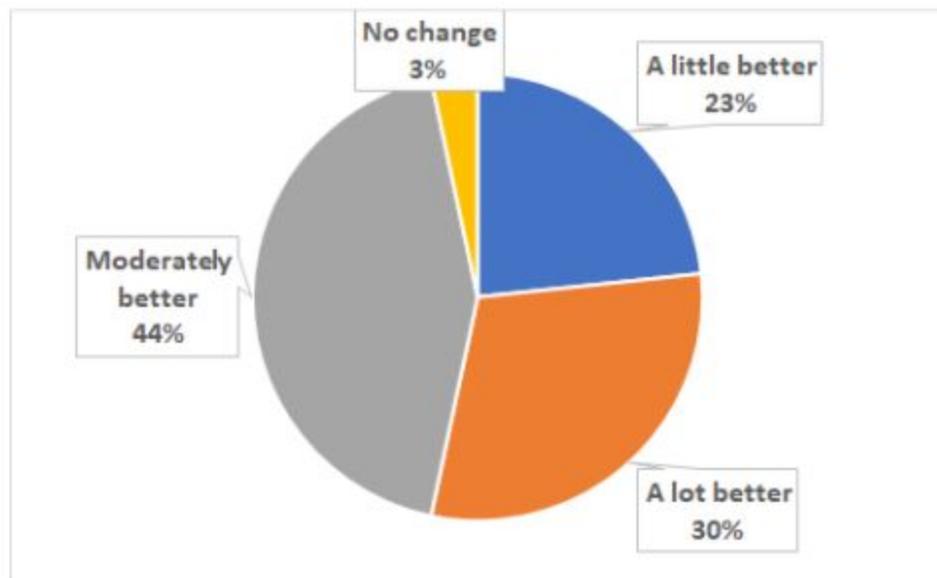
Comparison of how frequently participants indicated visiting a natural area to look for birds before and after their participation in the Summer Birding Program, 2020.

An impressive 97% of young birders reported both an increased ability to identify birds and increased awareness of birds in their area after participating in the Summer Birding Program. All young birders reported at least some change in their awareness of bird habitat, and 90% reported an increase in the different types of birds seen in Iowa.

Ability to identify birds



Awareness of birds in your area



Level of change reported by participants in both their ability to identify birds (upper) and awareness of birds in their area (lower) after participating in the Summer Birding Program, 2020.

Perhaps most important, however, is that young birders and their families across Iowa spent a few months exploring the great outdoors and learning about birds during a time



when nature provided much needed relief from the challenges of our new socially-distant lifestyle. And 170 kids across Iowa received a brand new field guide!



We are grateful to Nancy Grudens-Schuck with Iowa State University for her assistance in designing and administering the follow-up survey. Thanks again go to our sponsors, including Iowa Audubon, Big Bluestem Audubon Society, Des Moines Audubon, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, and Wild Birds Unlimited in Ames, for their support of this program, and to all our members and friends whose continued support makes fun programs like these possible!