

## **‘The Holy Grail of birds’**

Screening and discussion to focus on the treatment of extinct, endangered and threatened species, and conservation efforts in Nebraska.

OMAHA (3/1/11) – A documentary about the celebrated—and much disputed—rediscovery of a long-extinct species will lead to a dialogue about conservation efforts in Nebraska as part of a collaborative film event later this month.

On Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., Film Streams, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Chapter, will present a special screening of the 2009 documentary GHOST BIRD. Following the film will be a panel discussion on threatened and endangered species in Nebraska and efforts to protect them. The screening and discussion will take place at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at 1340 Mike Fahey Street in North Downtown Omaha.

Directed by Scott Crocker, GHOST BIRD explores the drama surrounding a conservation story too good to be true. In 2005, scientists announced that the Ivory-billed woodpecker, a species thought to be extinct for 60 years, had been found in the swamps of Eastern Arkansas. Other creatures have wrongly been presumed extinct, but the reappearance of the Ivory-bill was celebrated around the world as the rediscovery of a lifetime, prompting the largest recovery effort ever undertaken for a lost species. Millions of dollars poured in from the government while ornithologists and birders flooded the swamps to find the rare bird.

Down the road, the town of Brinkley, Arkansas—itsself on the brink of extinction—was transformed by the hope, commerce and controversy surrounding the so-called “Holy Grail of birds.” But continued sightings by expert birders only highlighted the mysterious absence of credible evidence. Today, the woodpecker remains as elusive as ever.

GHOST BIRD brings the Ivory-bill's blurry rediscovery into focus. It is a story that illuminates our reactions to loss of species, loss of habitat, and loss of ways of life. It provides insight into the conservation of the most threatened species and efforts to protect them.

The special screening is part of Film Streams' Community Development Program, which facilitates partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-related events that speak to their missions and programming.

Tickets for the GHOST BIRD screening and panel discussion are \$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors, students, teachers and military, and \$4.50 for Film Streams Members.

For questions, requests, or more information, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 or [casey@filmstreams.org](mailto:casey@filmstreams.org).

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**"A witty, wistful documentary (that turns) a bird-watching tale into a multilayered story that will fascinate practically everybody."**  
—The New York Times

**Official Film Site for GHOST BIRD:**

<http://ghostbirdmovie.com>

**More information & advance tickets:**

[http://filmstreams.org/filmstreams\\_calendar.aspx?ID=675](http://filmstreams.org/filmstreams_calendar.aspx?ID=675)

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The mission of **The Nature Conservancy** is to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. More information at <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/nebraska/>

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**Film Streams** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. For more information, visit [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org).

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