

madison
AUDUBON



Winter/Spring 2022 | ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

Think of a feather

by Matt Reetz, executive director

On a recent wintry hike through one of Wisconsin's many wonderful natural spaces, I noticed a bright spot of brilliant blue contrasting starkly with the pearly snow. It was, unmistakably, the feather of a Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, one of Wisconsin's common resident birds. Blue Jays are one of my favorites—beautiful, social, and highly intelligent (and often unfairly maligned because of it). But let's focus on that feather—a true marvel of nature and perhaps the most versatile structure that has ever evolved.

A few fun feather facts:

A bird feather is impossibly light (literally as light as a feather!) while still being incredibly flexible and durable. This is possible because its specialized beta-keratin fibers are stronger than other keratin-types—like those in mammal hair. These fibers make up the hollow quill and run continuously from the feather base to its tip and

all through multiple symmetric and increasingly intricate branches. These feathers provide birds with constant protection from the elements in just about every type of habitat around the world. And that structure even allows a preening bird to repair feathers by reattaching the tiny barbules in those branches. So, when you think resiliency, think of a feather.

A bird feather is also a workhorse. There many different kinds of feathers which all have different jobs. A vulture's wing feathers provide lift, the stiffened tail feathers of woodpeckers prop them against trees, the hair-like filoplumes of a raptor provide sensory information on wind speed and direction, and the contour feathers of a loon make it sleek and waterproof for underwater exploration. So, when you think hardworking, think of a feather.

A bird feather is brilliantly adaptive. The bright

Blue Jay | Kim Taylor Hull



red plumage of a male cardinal, iridescent throat of a hummingbird, or fanned tail of a turkey are dramatic signals to potential mates. While some feathers advertise, others camouflage—hiding a nesting nighthawk in the leaf litter or a foraging Brown Creeper on an oak. Tiny adaptive tweaks to feather structure—like the serrations on the leading edge of an owl’s wing that break up air flow—can turn a fast predator into an utterly silent one. So, when you think adaptable, think of a feather.

It’s an understatement to say that bird feathers are truly amazing. Here at Madison Audubon, we are certainly big fans of them (just check our logo!). And given all they can do, it seems to me that bird feathers are symbolic of our times, our organization, and the work we do together. Yeah, there I go again looking for life lessons in the bird world. But, a bird wouldn’t be a bird without feathers.

So too, Madison Audubon wouldn’t be what it is today or be able to accomplish what it does without you, our members and supporters. Indeed, these pages are chock full of just some of the ways that you serve as our feathers, making Madison Audubon resilient, flexible, productive, and adaptive—together, we soared through the challenges of the past year.

2021 was a great year, and we are intensely grateful for what you made possible. Working together, 2022 will be full of so much good news—it might just knock you over with a feather!



Matt Reetz

P.S. Another fun fact: Blue Jay feathers are actually pigmented gray-brown. However, honeycombed cells in the feather scatter light, reflecting only certain wavelengths. So, like the sky above us, a Blue Jay needs light to appear blue. Pretty great, eh?



A few numbers from 2021

SANCTUARIES

Seeds from 400 species of native plants collected

56 acres of native habitats planted

12 summer interns learned the ropes of restoration ecology

200+ volunteers contributed 1,000+ hours of work



EDUCATION

Reached ~400 students in 21 classrooms at 3 schools (taught virtual and in-person/outdoors)

41 lessons adapted for virtual teaching

65 brand-new nature-based lessons developed



CITIZEN SCIENCE

100 Bald Eagle nests in 19 counties monitored by 226 volunteers

232 American Kestrels chicks fledged from 208 nest boxes monitored by 66 volunteers

419 bird-window collisions documented by 73 citizen scientists at 40 buildings

1,031 songbirds fledged from 247 nest boxes monitored by 9 volunteers

1,114 monarch butterflies tagged by 110 visitors



ADVOCACY

Pushed back against the proposed Sandhill Crane hunt

Supported Madison’s Bird-safe Glass Ordinance and Knowles-Neslon Stewardship Program



And so much more!

THE LONG VIEW



Over the years, as Madison Audubon pieced together tracts of land at Faville Grove, we have systematically cleared out miles of field edges and acres of too-thick woods that were overgrown with invasive shrubs and trees: the legacy of a century and a half of fire suppression and decades without livestock grazing. Marvelous vistas emerged, with recessional moraines, drumlins, kettles, and pre-Cambrian quartzite bedrock outcroppings part of an unfolding panorama.

Over the past two years, even as we maintained and enhanced older restorations at Faville Grove, our focus shifted to two adjacent properties totaling 120 acres that Madison Audubon purchased in 2019. Wintertime is cutting time,

and we have cut several hundred cords of firewood, mostly boxelder, subsequently traded with a neighbor for forestry mowing services to remove impenetrable walls of honeysuckle, buckthorn, mulberry and other invasives. The resulting vistas over Faville Marsh and the Kettle Pond are stunning to human visitors and irresistible to harriers, meadowlarks, Sedge Wrens, Dickcissels, badgers, and many other grassland denizens.

In other seasons this past year, we conducted controlled burns on over 400 acres. We have performed intensive weed control on the new properties, tackling major infestations of garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, wild parsnip, crown vetch, and reed canary grass, while performing extensive weed control elsewhere in the sanctuary. Our six summer interns became experts at “sweeping” the sanctuary—walking a line over hill and dale to eradicate scattered weeds.

In late August, with support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, we brought in heavy



DREW HARRY, Faville Grove Sanctuary land steward
DAVID MUSOLF, Faville Grove Sanctuary manager
ROGER PACKARD, Faville Grove Sanctuary manager



A recently opened vista of Faville Marsh at sunset | Roger Packard

equipment to fill an artificial, riprapped pond with almost no habitat value and an eroded waterway. The result of this work was restoration of a broad, low swale at the north end of Faville Marsh that will provide wet prairie habitat and protect the marsh from runoff from the neighboring farm.

Summer interns began seed collecting in May, with volunteers wrapping up in early November with exactly 400 species collected—a new sanctuary record (and yes, Drew pushed to find two more species after his initial tally came to 398). Sixty-six volunteers helped to plant most of that seed on the remaining 26 acres of cropland on the two new parcels to establish new prairie, and the remainder was spread in various wet, dry, shady, sunny, acidic, and calcareous pockets throughout the sanctuary to enhance diversity.

This rewilding is done with the temporal “long view” in mind: bringing back diverse, natural communities and reestablishing ecological processes, setting the stage as best we can for the natural world to adapt as conditions evolve.

Come on out and take in all the views.

EXPLORE FAVILLE GROVE SANCTUARY

Places to start:

1. Buddy’s Prairie & Faville Marsh: N7710 WI-89, Waterloo
2. Upland, Lowlands, and Ledge: kiosk at W7480 Prairie Lane, Lake Mills
3. Springer Pond: Hillview Lane parking area, Lake Mills



Check out the Faville Grove Storymap! Access maps, photos, trails, and more.

[madisonaudubon.org/
storymaps](http://madisonaudubon.org/storymaps)



Faville Grove Sanctuary caretakers: Drew Harry, David Musolf, and Roger Packard

FLOCKING TOGETHER

MARK MARTIN & SUSAN FOOTE-MARTIN, Goose Pond Sanctuary resident managers
GRAHAM STEINHAUER, Goose Pond Sanctuary land steward



Goose Pond flock | Arlene Koziol

This past year was jam-packed with activity at Goose Pond Sanctuary. With the help of volunteers, we found 154 species of birds, seven amphibians, 41 butterflies, eight bumblebees, and 19 dragonflies and damselflies at Goose Pond. New eBird high counts of 37 bird species included 190 Killdeer, 200 American Golden Plovers, 173 Blue Jays, 31 Clay-colored Sparrows, 170 Short-billed Dowitchers, 113 Great Egrets, and two Peregrine Falcons. These are amazing numbers that reflect the health, diversity, and vigor of Goose Pond, but they also indicate the presence and activity of something incredibly important: YOU!

We don't have a good way to quantify the number of people that visit, but it's clear that public use is high when groups and individuals crisscross the prairies on 12 miles of mowed trails. Cars are parked consistently at the three main parking lots or viewing areas, and people are resting in the shade at the Wingspan viewing pavilions. More than 250 students attended classes or field trips at Goose Pond and Otsego

Marsh, and most returned once (or more!). At least 70 students are already scheduled to visit Goose Pond and Otsego Marsh by April of this year. We're happy to provide such a large, safe, and unique space for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn, relax, and enjoy.

There were a great many highlights from the past year, but we'd like to share these three with you: wetland scrapes, Motus tower, and the Goose Pond Webcam.

The Goose Pond team coordinated the construction of wetland scrapes at Madison Audubon's 2020 acquisition that added 36-acres of protected land at Otsego Marsh. Wetland scrapes are designed specifically for wildlife. They're small bodies of water with an irregular shape and shallow slopes. The three scrapes total $3\frac{1}{3}$ acres with $\frac{2}{3}$ miles of shoreline and will benefit migrating and breeding ducks, shorebirds, amphibians, dragonflies, and damselflies. We planted the adjacent three acres with 45 wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow species,

including lots of swamp milkweed for monarch butterflies. Four duck nest boxes with predator guards were erected with Tree Swallow boxes attached to the backs of each duck box. Last year, two Wood Duck broods and two Hooded Merganser broods jumped from the boxes, and four Tree Swallow nests were successful! We couldn't have done this work without your funding, volunteer time, and support.

Another highlight was the interesting data our Motus bird tracking tower collected starting last spring. Tiny, lightweight transmitters that researchers safely attach to the birds reveal their identity and tagging location when they fly near a Motus tower. From May through November, our tower recorded a Sora from Illinois, a Golden-winged Warbler from near Rhinelander, three Rusty Blackbirds from Duluth, and four Swainson's Thrushes from British Columbia. The first thrush was tagged on Aug. 31, then through fall migration it flew past the Goose Pond tower, eventually past the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) tower in Florida, then an unexpected detour north past the Mackay NWR tower where Virginia and North Carolina meet the Atlantic Ocean, and finally was recorded again in Carepa, Colombia on Nov. 16. This intrepid bird flew over 5,300 miles in total! We are thrilled to contribute to this type of research.

The "Pond Cam" has been fully functional since early 2021. So far we've observed 40 bird species,

including nine Ring-necked Pheasants in an oak tree, 50 Sandhill Cranes with deer in the background, a Rough-legged Hawk preening, a close-up of American toads calling, and tons of waterfowl using Goose Pond to feed and rest. These clips and many more along with the Pond Cam live stream can be accessed at madisonaudubon.org/pond-cam. Special thanks to JD Arnston for the Motus and Pond Cam computer work, and Peter Leege for maneuvering the webcam and alerting us to interesting video clips.

Whether it's planting prairie, monitoring nest boxes, troubleshooting a technological hiccup, or installing new benches, thank you so much for all you give to birds, nature, and Goose Pond Sanctuary. Please bundle up and visit on a nice day this winter or spring. We look forward to seeing you!



Goose Pond Sanctuary crew: Graham Steinhauer, Mark Martin, Susan Foote-Martin



Motus tower | Mark Martin

VISIT GOOSE POND SANCTUARY

Places to start:

1. The Pond and Wingspan pavilion: W7468 Prairie Lane, Arlington
2. Lapinski-Kitze Prairie and crane sculpture: Type 43.3261, -89.3631 into GPS
3. Browne Prairie and Wingspan bench: Type 43.323, -89.3769 into GPS
4. Otsego Marsh: 3382 Old Co Rd F, Rio



Check out the Goose Pond and Otsego Marsh Storymaps! Access maps, photos, trails, and more.

madisonaudubon.org/storymaps

SEASONS OF HOPE

BRENNA MARSICEK, director of communications & outreach

BALD EAGLE NEST WATCH

As I write this, the outdoor temperature is -13 degrees Fahrenheit, making the imminent Bald Eagle nesting season almost laughable. Yet the eagles and our Bald Eagle Nest Watch program persist! Beginning this February, we have the pleasure of working with nearly 300 volunteers in southern, central, and northeastern Wisconsin to monitor 110 Bald Eagle nests in 26 counties.

Volunteers make a weekly visit to “their” nest and document what is happening... nest building, egg incubation, chicks flapping wings, and more. Volunteers track how many young fledge, and data are shared with WDNR and site hosts. It is a season full of hope and excitement, as volunteers watch the eagle families grow.

A big thank you goes to our amazing volunteers and site hosts; Debbie Nowak at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna; Stephanie Feuerstein in central WI; our invaluable partners at the WDNR (Rich Staffen, Sharon Fandel, and Jake Koebernik); and most of all, uber-volunteer Drew Cashman who gives an incredible amount of time to this project.

More at madisonaudubon.org/benw

KESTREL NEST BOX MONITORING

Unlike Bald Eagles, who don't need much from humans to raise their young, American Kestrels tend to make good use of a helping hand. This species has faced a steep decline over the last 50 years, a trend that nest boxes can help reverse.

Last fall, Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring program coordinator Brand Smith and volunteers moved, removed, and added several nest boxes to place them in better habitats. This spring, kestrels will have their pick of 225 nest boxes in southern Wisconsin, with 70 volunteers to monitor them. Thank you to everyone involved, and especially Brand, for all of their work!

In addition to the tremendous good this program does for kestrels, it also provides research opportunities for scientists across the country. Our data have contributed to studies at Tufts University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, University of Idaho, and the Peregrine Fund. New this year is a University of Minnesota Duluth study that is looking at nest box microclimates, health of chicks, and fledgling migrations.

More at madisonaudubon.org/kestrels

BIRD COLLISION CORPS

With spring migration around the corner, our Bird Collision Corps (BCC) is working to study and reduce bird-window collisions in Madison. Window collisions kill up to a billion birds every year in the US. In 2021, 73 volunteers



DONOR TESTIMONIAL

FEATURING: AMY ALSTAD, ecologist, Madison Audubon Frequent Flyer, member since 2014 & partner in the Bird Collision Corps program

“ I feel fortunate to live and work in Madison where we are blessed with so many wonderful conservation organizations and non-profits. I'm a fan and supporter of many of these organizations, but Madison Audubon stands out to me as being simultaneously effective and uniquely impactful in a number of distinct areas including land protection and stewardship, policy, and environmental education. These causes are near and dear to my heart, so it was a simple and satisfying choice to opt in as a Frequent Flyer.

I appreciate the "set-it and forget-it" convenience of the automatic recurring donations, and I have full confidence that Madison Audubon will put my contributions to work for an important cause.



Learn more about becoming a Frequent Flyer on page 15

documented almost 500 hundred window strikes at just 40 buildings in Madison, representing a fraction of a large but solvable problem.

The hope lies in what we do with the data. Our surveys confirm that the Ogg Residence Hall collision-deterrant window treatment, applied in June 2020, has significantly reduced the number of collisions at that site. Buildings on campus are being designed differently now with birds in mind. The first Bird-safe Glass Ordinance was put into place here in Madison, with help from our BCC team. It's inspiring and amazing!

You can be part of that effort too. Volunteer registration for BCC opens in March, and we'd love for you to join in. More at madisonaudubon.org/bcc

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RECAP

For 121 years, hardy birders throughout the US

have been tallying birds for the Christmas Bird Count. Madison Audubon coordinates two CBCs (Madison-area by me and Poynette by Mark and Sue), which makes for quite the holiday party indeed. A combined total of 67,802 birds were counted by a total of 176 volunteers for just those two areas, documenting 95 species in Madison and 70 species in Poynette... and that doesn't include the many other counts held within the Madison Audubon chapter area (e.g., Baraboo, Mount Horeb, and more). You can find all of the results in the link below.

More at madisonaudubon.org/cbc-results

Cheers to all the citizen scientists who make these programs fun and the findings possible!



Brenna Marsicek

WONDER & AWE

CAROLYN BYERS, director of education

If the last year was defined by constant adjustments to pandemic life, it was also defined by other constants from the kids we work with: curiosity, smiles, questions. I wish I could share the hours of stories featuring the amazing things these kids notice and wonder, and the goofy things that happen during games. Instead, here's a quick snapshot of what we got up to in 2021:

In the spring, we were visiting 10 classrooms virtually. Each week, kids in 1st through 4th grades identified animal tracks, shared nature stories, and constantly asked “why?!” Even though most people had Zoom-fatigue by then, teachers told us that our lessons had both a higher number of students present with cameras on AND higher participation levels than usual. I'm sure this was partly because we were a special once-weekly event—but it was also certainly because our lessons were interesting and fun. When else do they get to talk about animal scat?

Last summer, we hosted our second virtual summer camp. We created 80 hours of new lessons and activities centered around how animals and humans use their senses. Kids' favorites were our “bug buzzers” craft project, crane dancing, and nature journaling about smelling and tasting fruit. All of our camp activities are still available

on our website (madisonaudubon.org/forces-of-nature) for you to enjoy for free!

We also ran an abbreviated version of our Conservation Academy—a partnership with Operation Fresh Start that introduces their summer crews to professionals in environmental fields. Young adults learn about career paths they could take and get hands-on experience.

Fall found us in 11 classrooms in person (outside) and one virtual classroom. That's 230 kids we see weekly or every-other week! It was amazing to teach in-person and out in nature again. We walked to Wingra Creek with kids from Lincoln Elementary and to Westmorland Park with Midvale students. We learned owl calls, collected leaves, and made tracks in the snow.

We made a tough decision at the start of 2022 to teach virtually for the time being, but we're hoping to be back in person soon so that we and the kids can together experience more muddy feet, more laughter, and more questions like “do worms have eyelids?” (They don't, FYI).



Carolyn Byers

BIRD-CURIOUS

KAITLIN SVABEK, communications specialist

If you're reading this newsletter, chances are you love birds. Folks come to birding with different skill levels and goals—and that is wonderful! Whether you are just starting out, avidly feeding birds, chasing rare-species, or somewhere else on your birding journey, we are here for you.

As Madison Audubon continues to bring back field trips, we have kept in mind that some birders enjoy repeating field trips and others seek something new and fresh. You'll see in the attached field trip list several fan favorites, as

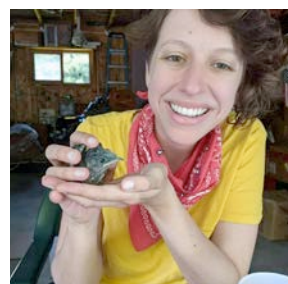
well as a number of new experiences this year that keep fun and accessibility at the forefront.

For example, our popular Beginning Birder Outings focus on specific habitats and species. These beginner- and family-friendly outings are an opportunity to get outdoors, *ooh* and *ahh* over neat creatures, and chat with fellow bird enthusiasts.

One of the best parts of these trips is that we don't expect you to come with prior knowledge of birds or binoculars. And, there are no silly questions. When I'm leading an outing, my absolute favorite question to hear is, "What's THAT?!" Each of our enthusiastic outing leaders can help with identification and exploring—we can pretty much guarantee you will leave with at least one nifty and fun fact.

All of us together are the birders that make our birding community awesome. Thanks for your part in making it welcoming for everyone.

If you have an idea or would like to partner for an accessible outing, please reach out to Kaitlin at ksvabek@madisonaudubon.org or 608-255-2473.



Kaitlin Svabek

BIRDING FOR ALL BODIES

Madison Audubon is proud to share that we are one of the founding sponsors of Birdability (birdability.org), a national organization which works to share the joys of birding with people who have disabilities, and to ensure birding is accessible for everybody.

We are working hard to make our own programming more accessible too, from our Birding by Ear class, to partnering with Access Ability

Wisconsin to offer all-terrain, outdoor wheelchairs at many of our field trips, to proactively working to ensure birders of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, ages, and socioeconomic statuses are welcome and safe.

Thank you for being part of this ongoing, essential, vibrant work to ensure the joys of nature and birds are available to everyone!

MADISON AUDUBON'S SPRING 2022 FIELD TRIPS

In previous years, Madison Audubon included an annual field trip list in the Winter/Spring newsletter. But if the last two years have taught us anything, it's the importance of being nimble. So in 2022, we will offer the field trips for the upcoming season in each newsletter. You can find the FULL list of all field trips on our website, including spring pop-up trips that may be scheduled after the newsletter goes to print.

Please register for upcoming field trips so we can share trip information, weather or COVID-related adjustments, and more by visiting madisonaudubon.org/field-trips

ACCESSIBLE WINTER BIRDING*

Date: Sat., Mar. 5, 9:30–11:30 AM
Location: Cherokee Marsh-North (Madison)
Led by: Madison Audubon, Friends of Cherokee Marsh, and Access Ability WI

EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT MUD LAKE

Date: Sat., Mar. 12, 8–10 AM
Location: Mud Lake (McFarland)
Led by: Patrick Ready

BEGINNING BIRDERS OUTING: NINE SPRINGS*

Date: Sat., Apr. 2, 7:30–9 AM
Location: Nine Springs eWay (Madison)
Led by: Kaitlin Svabek

WOODCOCK AND SNIPE WALK

Date: Tues., Apr. 5, 6:30–8:30 PM
Location: Faville Grove Sanctuary East (Lake Mills)
Led by: Drew Harry, David Musolf, and Roger Packard

BIRDING AT LAKE FARM COUNTY PARK

Date: Sat., Apr. 9, 8–10:30 AM
Location: Lake Farm County Park (Madison)
Led by: Patrick Ready

BEYOND BACKYARD BIRDING: PICNIC POINT*

Date: Tues., Apr. 16, 7:30–9:30 AM
Location: Lakeshore NP (Madison)
Led by: Ashley Olah and Jenn Schneidermann

BEYOND BACKYARD BIRDING: ARBORETUM*

Date: Tues., Apr. 23, 7:30–9:30 AM
Location: UW Arboretum (Madison)
Led by: Ashley Olah and Jenn Schneidermann

BIRDING AT WYALUSING STATE PARK

Date: Sat., Apr. 30, 7 AM–3:00 PM
Location: Wyalusing SP (Bagley)
Led by: Quentin Yoerger

SPRING BIRDING AT LAKE-SHORE NATURE PRESERVE

Date: Sun., May 1, 7:30–10:30 AM
Location: Lakeshore NP (Madison)
Led by: Becky Abel and Roma Lenehan

WARBLER WALKS

Dates: Tues., May 3, 10, & 17, 6–8 AM
Location: UW Arboretum (Madison)
Led by: Chuck Henrikson, Paul Banas, Wade Mapes, Shawn Miller, Pat Ready

Dates: Wed., May 4, 6–8 AM
Location: Cherokee Marsh-North, (Madison)
Led by: Jan Axelson and Timothy Baker

Dates: Thurs., May 5, 6–8 AM
Location: Turville Point (Madison)
Led by: Marty Evanson

Dates: Wed., May 11, 6–8 AM
Location: Cherokee Marsh-South, (Madison)
Led by: Jan Axelson, Timothy Baker, and Kyle Lindemer

HABITATS GALORE AT FAVILLE GROVE WEST

Date: Sun., May 8, 7:30–10:30 AM
Location: Faville Grove Sanctuary West (Waterloo)
Led by: Drew Harry, David Musolf, and Roger Packard

EVENING SONGSCAPE WALK

Date: Sat., May 14, 7:30–9:30 PM
Location: TBD
Led by: Jim Berkelman

BIRDING MADISON SCHOOL FOREST

Date: Sun., May 15, 7–9 AM
Location: Madison School Forest (Verona)
Led by: Chuck Henrikson and Wade Mapes

PLUS: SPRING EVENINGS WITH AUDUBON TALKS

BIRDABILITY: INCLUSION, ACCESS AND DISABILITY IN BIRDING with Freya McGregor / Birdability
MAR. 15, 7 PM, Online

IS THAT BIRD OK?! with Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center panelists
APR. 5, 7 PM, Goodman Center (Madison)

BIRDING IS FOR EVERYONE! with Dexter Patterson / WiscoBirder
MAY 15, 7 PM, Pinney Library (Madison)

Registration, info, and updates at madisonaudubon.org/events

* Outdoor wheelchair access available

AUDUBON NATURALIST SERIES: SPRING 2022

Adult education classes to expand your knowledge and build your skills

Registration for most courses opens to Madison Audubon members six weeks in advance of the class. Remaining seats will open to the public two weeks later. Info and registration: madisonaudubon.org/naturalists

WORKSHOP: CREATE A BIRD SAVER CURTAIN TO PREVENT BIRD-WINDOW COLLISIONS

Learn why bird-window collisions are so common, and create your own bird saver to take home! Registration fee includes materials required for the workshop. In-person workshop (subject to change based on COVID-19 status). Taught by Susan Frikken.

\$40/person. MAR. 10, 6–7:30 PM (COVID date: APR. 14)

LEARNING THE ROPES OF eBIRD MOBILE (2-PART SERIES)

This two-part class will include one online course that teaches you how to use the eBird app on your smartphone, followed up with a field trip to Lake Farm County Park to practice. Taught by Megan Heneke.

\$20/person. Class: MAR. 29, 7–8:30 PM. Trip: APR. 2, 9–10:30 AM

DRAWING NATURE (3-PART SERIES)

Learn how to capture beautiful plants, birds, and settings through art. Parts 1 and 2 will be held online and focused on drawing plants and birds. Part 3 will be held at Goose Pond Sanctuary to practice new and improved art skills in the field. Taught by Carolyn Byers.

\$20/person. APR. 19 & 26, 7–9 PM & MAY 10, 6–8 PM

BIRDING 101 (4-PART SERIES)

A four-part session with both classroom and field-based learning. Each day involves a slightly more advanced set of skills and information, but all info is for entry-level birders! Parts 1–3 are held online, and part 4 will be a bird walk through the UW Arboretum. Taught by Chuck Henrikson and Jeff Galligan.

\$20/person. Classes: APR. 9, 23, & 30, 8–10 AM. Trip: MAY 7, 8–10 AM

BIRDING BY EAR: LEARNING TO IDENTIFY BIRDS WITHOUT SIGHT (2-PART SERIES)

All birders welcome, including individuals with vision loss or impairment. Two classes: one indoors and one outdoors. Taught by Kerry Wilcox. Co-hosted with the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

\$20/person. Class: APR. 28, 6–8 PM or APR. 30, 8–10 AM. Trip: MAY 5, 6–8 PM or MAY 7, 8–10 AM

BEGINNING BIRD AND WILDLIFE ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn the techniques used to achieve awesome, frame-worthy bird photos using your own camera and equipment. In-person class taught outdoors. Taught by Arlene Koziol.

\$20/person. MAY 3, 8–10:30 AM

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND FEEDER BIRDS (2-PART SERIES)

A great introductory class for anyone who loves to watch the birds at home or in their neighborhood, and wants to learn more about the most common species seen and heard. Course includes both a class and a bird walk. Taught by Maggie and Bob Honig.

\$20/person. Class: MAY 4, 6–8 PM. Trip: MAY 7, 8–10 AM

Registration and more info at madisonaudubon.org/naturalists

Bergamot in watercolor | Carolyn Byers

GOOD GROWTH

JOHN MINNICH, financial manager

2021 was a great financial year for Madison Audubon. Although we didn't purchase new land like we did in 2020, there are lots of land projects in the works during this new year. It's good to grow at a sustainable pace.

Instead, last year we conducted extensive restoration on lands we acquired. As in past years, we employed 12 summer interns to help with sanctuary land management, in addition to the two full-time land stewards who work hard year-round. Our three-person education team, including two interns, met demand for nature-based education by adapting to pandemic conditions and delivering great lessons like Tree Day lesson with Lincoln Elementary (see photo).

All of the programming you've read about in this newsletter and much more was supported by grant and foundation gifts, and especially by donations made by 1,500 unique individuals—like you! I'm always impressed by the sheer number of people who choose to support us—and we are so grateful.

The graphics on the opposite page summarize our income, expenses, and financial position.

- **Program expenses** include those directly related to the education, advocacy, outreach, and land protection branches of our mission. The programs are why we're here.

- **Administration** is core mission support including finance, human resources, communications, and board support.
- **Fundraising** is core mission support involving consistent communication with existing donors and researching and pursuing new funding opportunities to support new and continuing programming.

The statement at the bottom of page 13 shows Madison Audubon has a strong financial position. But, how can one measure the value of the time, energy, and expertise that our members give to citizen science efforts, collecting seeds at the sanctuaries, advocating for bird-friendly policies, and sharing their love of nature with their kids and grandkids? We can't—that's immeasurable!

In the end, your generosity feeds so many things that make our organization run smoothly and effectively—from the mundane stuff like insurance coverage and employee benefits, to the more exciting program pieces like land purchase, prairie restoration, and youth education. From top to bottom, your support makes Madison Audubon tick. Thank you!

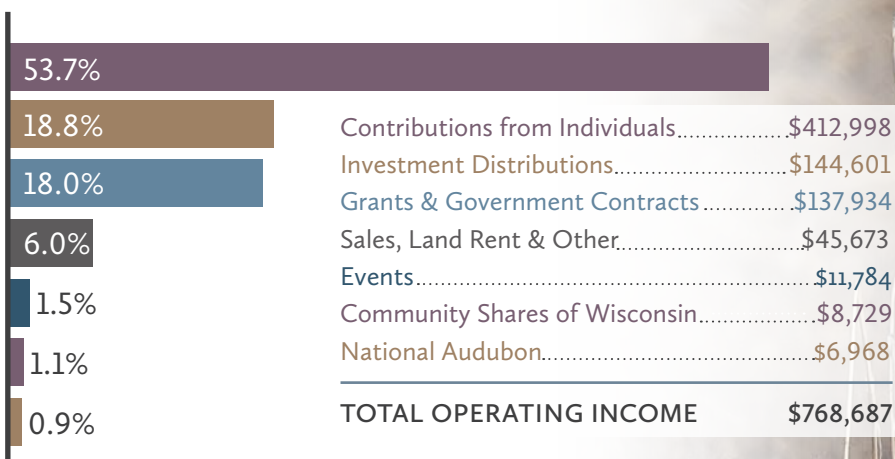


John Minnich



Tree Day with Lincoln Elementary | Carolyn Byers / Madison Audubon

2021 INCOME



2021 EXPENSES



Expenses exceed Income due to incurred board-approved capital costs that were covered by secured funds received as income before 2021.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash.....	\$841,169
Accounts receivable.....	\$11,091
Prepaid expenses.....	\$9,683
Investments.....	\$6,187,714
Property & equipment (net).....	\$6,627,469

TOTAL ASSETS \$13,677,126

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable.....	\$3,546
Accrued expenses.....	\$1,366

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$4,912

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted.....	\$7,919,253
Assets with donor restrictions	\$5,286,829
Board designated.....	\$466,132

TOTAL NET ASSETS* \$13,672,214

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$13,677,126

**Most of Madison Audubon's assets are Sanctuary lands.*

Our financial policies are available at madisonaudubon.org/financial-reports. To view the details of our financial health, check out financial tax returns from recent years on our website. A final financial audit will be available in summer 2022.





LEAVE YOUR MARK

BECKY ABEL, director of philanthropy

A RESOLUTION TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THAT YOU LOVE

Are you still working on your New Year's Resolutions? My top resolution is one that I hope I share with all Madison Audubon's members: to enjoy more birds. This resolution is both pandemic-proof and a pandemic antidote. But, there are also ways to resolve to protect birds as well—both now and well into the future.

An estate plan secures your long-term vision, protects your loved ones, and—if you choose—can make a generational impact on Wisconsin's birds and lands. And it does not have to be complicated. Madison Audubon has partnered with Freewill, a free online tool that can help you complete this resolution with ease today.

Are you curious about Freewill but still have questions? I recently completed my own will using Freewill and have answers to some frequently asked questions like, "Can anyone use Freewill?" (yes), "How long does it take?" (under an hour), "Are there people who should NOT use Freewill?" (yes), "Can I use Freewill and remain anonymous?" (yes) and others.

Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/freewill-faq or reach out to me at 608-255-2473 x5 or babel@madisonaudubon.org.



Becky Abel

Bird Conservation, Close to Home

Did you know? Madison Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon, but we are actually two separate organizations. We share similar missions, but our staff, sanctuaries, programs, communication, and funding (see page 13) are all separate. When you support Madison Audubon, you make a big difference for birds in southern Wisconsin and beyond. Please consider a direct donation to Madison Audubon, where land restoration, bird protection, youth education, and community engagement stays right here in Wisconsin. Thank you!



FUTURE GIFT FOR FUTURE BIRDS: THE KESTREL LEGACY CIRCLE

Members of the Kestrel Legacy Circle have named Madison Audubon in their will or estate, thereby strengthening our organization and mission well beyond their lifetimes. Thank you Kestrel Legacy Circle givers—you help make Madison Audubon soar! Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/legacy



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WANT TO FLAP WITH OUR FREQUENT FLYERS FLOCK?

Frequent Flyers are a group of dedicated supporters of Madison Audubon (like Amy Alstad on page 9, and the folks in the donor list marked with FF) who sustain our work with regular, recurring donations. This helps balance our resources throughout the year and reduces fundraising expenses—which means we can do more to celebrate and protect birds!

When you join the Frequent Flyers Club, you can select the frequency (e.g., monthly) and amount of your automated contributions, while saying goodbye to renewal deadlines. Help us soar! Sign up at madisonaudubon.org/flyers.

2021 DONORS

Your commitment to birds and conservation is incredible. We are grateful to all of our supporters at all levels, but due to space constraints, only donors who gave \$100 or more are listed here in the printed edition of this newsletter. To see the full list of 2021 donors, visit madisonaudubon.org/2021-donors. Thank you!

FF = Frequent Flyer automated supporter | K = Kestrel Legacy Circle member

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We put a lot of care and time into this list, but if your name is listed inaccurately or omitted, please let us know by calling 608-255-2473. Thank you for your generosity and understanding!



Madison Audubon is your local Audubon chapter, serving 10 counties in southern Wisconsin

Together with our members, we work to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education, and advocacy.



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Drew Harry, *land steward (Faville Grove Sanctuary)*
Brenna Marsicek, *director of communications and outreach*
Mark Martin (*volunteer*) and Susan Foote-Martin, *resident managers (Goose Pond Sanctuary)*
John Minnich, *financial manager*
David Musolf and Roger Packard, *volunteer resident managers (Faville Grove Sanctuary)*
Graham Steinhauer, *land steward (Goose Pond Sanctuary)*
Kaitlin Svabek, *communications specialist*

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Birds, Bikes, & Brews

Spring edition! MAY 22, 12-5PM, Middleton

Our Birds, Bikes, & Brews is back with a new spring-time flair! This awesome event combines some of our favorite things in one stellar afternoon. Join us to BIKE (or walk, or wheel, or pogo-stick, or whatever!) to some wonderful Middleton natural areas, BIRD as you go (we'll help you find some birds), and enjoy a cold BREW (or cider, water, or soda) and trivia after your ride at Capital Brewery.

Multiple all-terrain, outdoor wheelchairs will be available for anyone with mobility challenges (permanent or temporary) to check out for free, thanks to a partnership with Access Ability Wisconsin. We invite individuals of all ages, races, abilities, and skill levels to participate!

[REGISTER AT MADISONAUDUBON.ORG/BBB](https://www.madisonaudubon.org/bbb)

