

madison
AUDUBON*



Now the..
Badgerland Bird Alliance



Fall/Winter 2023

Allied for birds

by Matt Reetz, executive director

Birds. Are. Awesome. Pretty much any time I give a talk, get interviewed on the radio, or just have a chat with folks, these three words (or some version of them) fly out of my mouth.

Birds are *indeed* awesome. It's just a fact. And it is such an honor, and a great privilege, to protect and celebrate them. Everything that our organization has ever done, and everything that we will do as Badgerland Bird Alliance is done to benefit birds, their habitats, and the people who enjoy them (and the people who don't yet know that they enjoy them). You, our members, make that possible.

Heck, this year has already been chock-full of all sorts of amazing work in advocacy, youth education, land protection, restoration, citizen science, special events, and so much more that you can read about in these pages. And yes, our

name change was a big part of that—inviting more in our community to share in the joys of our work, ultimately making it more inclusive, sustainable, and effective. All to benefit birds.

There have been a lot of great things to celebrate. So, should we just kick back, relax, and rest on these laurels a while? No way! Lost time is never found again (thanks, Ben Franklin), and there is much more work to be done on the horizon. Wisconsin's amazing birds need all the support they can get. When our year-end appeal letter arrives in your mailbox in the next couple of weeks, I hope you will take the time to give it a read. And if you are inspired by the letter, or perhaps by all of the things we've achieved together, I hope you'll consider a gift.

Thanks for making our work . . . what's the word? Oh yeah, *awesome*.



Greater Prairie Chickens.
Grayson Smith/USFWS Midwest

A fitting name for moving forward together

by Darcy Kind, member of the board of directors

When the board of directors began discussing our organization's name change, my mind immediately began visualizing the "Bird Names for Birds" lesson plan developed by our educators and taught to school groups.

This educational lesson points out that birds can be named for where they live or their behaviors or what they look like. Some birds might even sing or say their names—like a phoebe or a pewee. These names help to make the birds more recognizable to more people within any community, even to younger birders. When birds are named for someone, they are not given their due recognition as creatures that have much deeper importance beyond a person's name. The "Bird Names for Birds" lesson encourages kids to come up with new, more fitting names for these birds.

Likewise, I embrace our organization's name change, and I look forward to the continued and enhanced role that Badgerland Bird Alliance will have in our community. No longer does our name exist as a barrier to some, but rather, serves as a beacon to invite all to participate in the important work of bird conservation.

Together, we will protect more birds. Together, we will restore and steward more land for critical habitat. Together, more kids and more people of all ages will share in the joys that birds bring each and every one of us. The future looks bright.

"Chick-a-dee-dee-dee!" sings the bird in my backyard, and I think that makes a fine name, too.

Learn more and watch our name announcement video at madisonaudubon.org/new-name.



Black-capped Chickadee.
Courtney Celley/USFWS Midwest

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

BADGERLAND BIRD ALLIANCE STAFF

Matt Reetz, *executive director*
Becky Abel, *director of philanthropy*
Carolyn Byers, *director of education*
Brenna Marsicek, *director of communications and outreach*
Mark Martin & Susan Foote-Martin, *Goose Pond land managers*
John Minnich, *financial manager*
David Musolf & Roger Packard, *Faville Grove volunteer land managers*
Mickenzie Okon, *educator*
Emma Raasch, *Goose Pond ecological restoration technician*
Tucker Sanborn, *Faville Grove resident land steward*
Penny & Gary Shackelford, *Fair Meadows volunteer land managers*
Graham Steinhauer, *Goose Pond resident land steward*
Kaitlin Svabek, *communications coordinator*

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Proud supporter of



Balancing the careful control of cattails

by Penny and Gary Shackelford, Fair Meadows volunteer land managers



Late summer to early fall is cattail season. Surveys in 1992 and 2005 found that the sedge meadows at Fair Meadows Sanctuary had scattered or loose stands of cattails amid a diverse community dominated by tussock sedge, lake sedge, and blue-joint grass. In late summer, we looked forward to the intense purple of swamp thistles, the lovely cream shades of turtlehead and cream gentian, and a background of white shining aster and common boneset interspersed with clumps of pink and purple New England aster.

The emergent marsh vegetation was dominated by water sedge, lake sedge, common bur-reed, marsh skullcap, wild mint, arrowhead, sweet flag, and blue flag (wild iris). Scattered throughout were the spikes of hard-stem and soft-stem bulrush.

In addition to native broad-leaved cattails (*Typha latifolia*), both surveys noted the looming presence of narrow-leaved (*Typha angustifolia*) and hybrid cattails (*Typha x glauca*). Native cattails have been beloved symbols of wetlands, home to many birds and fish, and a food source for Native Americans and early settlers. But the aggressive narrow-leaved cattails from Eurasia have invaded the wetlands of North America and hybridized

with the native cattails, overwhelming them and crowding out all other native plants.

Over the past ten years, we watched a gradual increase in cattails in the wetlands of the sanctuary, ending with a seeming explosion until some areas had a solid wall of cattails. Native species were pushed to the periphery or were hanging on as tiny remnants. This was true aggression!

After consulting with several specialists in wetland restoration and doing some experiments on our own, we settled on a method of control using cut-stem treatment with an herbicide approved for aquatic use—imazapyr.

On dense stands, we use a brush cutter with a chisel tooth blade to make a clean cut. We treat the cut stems using a low-pressure backpack sprayer with a sponge tip to directly apply a small amount of chemical. This approach is time-consuming but very targeted, with minimal damage to surrounding native vegetation. In the densest stands, we have seen suppression of native plants for one to two years, followed by excellent recovery of the previous suite of native plants. The before-and-after is striking!

What's the story with the American Kestrel?

by Brenna Marsicek, *director of communications & outreach*

American Kestrels are incredible. They're the smallest falcon in North America, charismatic, beautiful, and fierce. They are also a species in need of help, and the focus of one of our strongest citizen science programs.

Although driving through southern Wisconsin frequently results in a number of "kestrel!!" sightings (often perched on power lines with prey in their talons), the species is in decline. Data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey show that kestrel populations are down by a staggering 53% since the 1960s. At this rate, they'll lose another 50% of their current population by 2075.

Why? Scientists can't find a single reason for it, but rather point toward a multitude: loss of nesting habitat, fewer grasslands to hunt in, increased insecticide and rodenticide use, climate change, and more. But one significant possibility has to do with grasshoppers.

In a June 2023 *New York Times* article called "The Mystery of the Vanishing Kestrels," Catrin Einhorn tracks the work of ornithologists studying the birds. They hypothesize that first-year kestrels rely heavily on catching insects—easier prey than the typical rodents, snakes, and lizards. So, good kestrel habitat needs grasslands filled with insects and larger prey, and places to nest.

We're working hard on both fronts.

Our Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program, led by volunteer extraordinaire Brand Smith, worked with over 100 volunteers this year to monitor 223 nest boxes, 78 (34%) of which were occupied by American Kestrels. Those boxes fledged 294 kestrels—since 2012, 1,906 nestlings have taken flight from our boxes! Each of those first-years (and many kestrel adults) are banded to facilitate additional research around kestrel ecology and population dynamics.

Our kestrel nest boxes are placed in desirable habitat: grasslands abundant in insects. Nest boxes are sited on private property, on public property owned by the WDNR or US Fish and Wildlife Service, on Ho-Chunk tribal land, and on properties stewarded by conservation organizations, including 15 boxes at our own sanctuaries.

This program offers an exciting future for kestrels! We couldn't do this work without the amazing help from our volunteers and partners. Thank you for all you do to support kestrels and all other native birds and habitats.



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP KESTRELS:

1. Volunteer for the Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program in 2024. This program is a weekly commitment March through June. Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/kestrels.
2. Build and donate a nest box or put one up. Free building plans for boxes that pass our inspection are found at the link above. The most important part of this effort is to monitor the box once it is up to avoid European Starling and House Sparrow use—contact us with questions.
3. Donate to Badgerland Bird Alliance, where you can support this effort along with many, many other citizen science and bird conservation programs.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and partners!

Especially...

Brand Smith

volunteer, Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Program coordinator, and bander

Kurt Reed

volunteer and master bander

Emma Raasch

Goose Pond staff and bander

Janet and Amber Eschenbauch

Central Wisconsin Kestrel Research Program banders

10,000 monarchs and counting. . .

by Mark Martin, Susan Foote-Martin, Emma Raasch, & Graham Steinhauer; Goose Pond team

This year was our 12th year tagging, and together, we reached a major milestone. Between Goose Pond Sanctuary staff, volunteers, and partners, 10,445 total monarchs have been tagged since 2012!

The 2023 monarch tagging season began on August 22 and ended on October 2. Last fall, only 320 monarchs were tagged at Goose Pond, but this year, we tagged 815 total. Within the first five (of nine total) field trip sessions, we had already broken last year's record. Jim Otto, Goose Pond volunteer and insect enthusiast, tagged 212 by himself! Partners also tagged another 247 at other locations, meaning we cumulatively tagged 1,062 monarchs migrating through south-central Wisconsin.

Weather greatly impacted our numbers. The first field trip day was cloudy and windy—we ended up catching and tagging only 50 monarchs. We quickly learned that the monarchs were seeking shelter on scattered shrubs in the prairie rather than nectaring in the open. However, the second field trip day was sunny and calm, helping us to catch and tag 250 monarchs.

Monarch tagging is an excellent way to connect people of all ages and backgrounds with nature. Goose Pond staff hosted nine monarch tagging sessions: six for Badgerland Bird Alliance, two for Natural Resources Foundation, and one for Discovery Charter School. In total, 80 children (as young as five years old) and 151 adults (as old as 90 years old) visited Goose Pond to learn about monarch butterflies and to assist with this important citizen science effort. Jerry Martin (age 90) was pleased to be able to release eight butterflies. Thank you to everyone who assisted with tagging monarchs this fall!

On October 3, Susan Foote-Martin was using her field glasses to watch a Sandhill Crane calling and flying high in the air. Just below, she spotted three monarch butterflies heading south. This was a first for Sue, who imagined that they were at such a high altitude that they could probably see Mexico in the far distant horizon. Safe travels!



SUPPORTING OUR MONARCHS

Turn your yard into a monarch oasis! These 11 Wisconsin-native plants are some of monarchs' absolute favorites. Three species of milkweed (a plant on which monarchs 100% depend, denoted by *) are included! Learn how you can help monarchs at wimonarchs.org.



ANISE HYSSOP
(*Agastache foeniculum*)
Blooms Jul–Sep



BUTTERFLY WEED*
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Blooms Jul–Sep

SHOWY GOLDENROD
(*Solidago speciosa*)
Blooms Aug–Oct



RED (SWAMP) MILKWEED*
(*Asclepias incarnata*)
Blooms Jul–Aug



COMMON MILKWEED*
(*Asclepias syriaca*)
Blooms Jun–Aug



MEADOW BLAZING STAR
(*Liatris ligulistylis*)
Blooms Aug–Sep

NEW ENGLAND ASTER
(*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*)
Blooms Aug–Oct



AROMATIC ASTER
(*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)
Blooms Sep–Oct

PRAIRIE PHLOX
(*Phlox pilosa*)
Blooms Apr–Jun



SWEET BLACK-EYED SUSAN
(*Rudbeckia subtomentosa*)
Blooms Jul–Oct

ORANGE CONEFLOWER
(*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
Blooms Jul–Sep

Similar in appearance

A NOTE ABOUT PURPLE CONEFLOWER



This species (*Echinacea purpurea*) is not native to WI, can spread, and often comes in pollen- and nectarless cultivars that do not benefit pollinators. However, *E. purpurea* and its WI native cousin, the pale purple coneflower (*E. pallida*) are beloved by monarchs and other pollinators. Blooms Jun–Oct



Many of these flowers need a period of freezing in order to germinate. Scatter seeds in your yard just before a snowfall, or cold stratify and germinate them indoors to give them a jump-start in spring! Bloom times provided by Wisconsin State Herbarium, UW–Madison.

A journey through time

by Roger Packard, Faville Grove volunteer land manager

As the leaves drop, the landscape at Faville Grove Sanctuary, already open, rolling, and inviting, spreads wide. Late fall and winter are great times to experience this beautiful part of the state and get a feel for how it appeared under previous (i.e., Native American) stewardship. Check out the full trail maps on the tearout page to the right, and come out to explore. Here are suggestions—two short walks and a day hike—to get you started:

Lake Mills Ledge Trail (0.8 mile)

From the kiosk on Prairie Lane, this short walk through diverse prairie and savanna restorations takes you to the southeastern-most exposure of the vein of quartzite bedrock that appears west of this site in the Baraboo Hills and at scattered sites across southern Minnesota, and ends at the falls in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Ho-Chunk camped among these rocks, drank from the springs below the ledge, hunted the expansive floodplain prairie to the east, and fished in the Crawfish River.

MacKenzie Overlook Trail (0.5–1 mile)

Park on the north side of Highway 89 and walk through the mowed grass of the old farmstead (Buddy's Place) to find two trailheads, with the trail to the right being longer. Either way, you'll walk through the Isthmus Black Oak Savanna and uphill to the MacKenzie Overlook. To the east, across the marsh, lies the new 80-acre parcel just added this fall. Take in the 360-degree vista of dry prairie and floating bog, nearly as far as the eye can see.

West Sanctuary Trek (6.5 miles for full loop)

Start either at the south end of the sanctuary at the grassy pull-off along North Shore Road, and make your way north through the North Shore Moraine up to Buddy's Prairie and points north, or start at the gravel pull-off at the east end of Hillview Lane, and work your way south. Either way, an extra loop around the Kettle Pond is well worth the hike.

For more information, see the maps on the tearout page or visit madisonaudubon.org/faville-grove.

A warm welcome to our new Faville Grove resident land steward!

We are super pleased to welcome **Tucker Sanborn** as our new land steward!

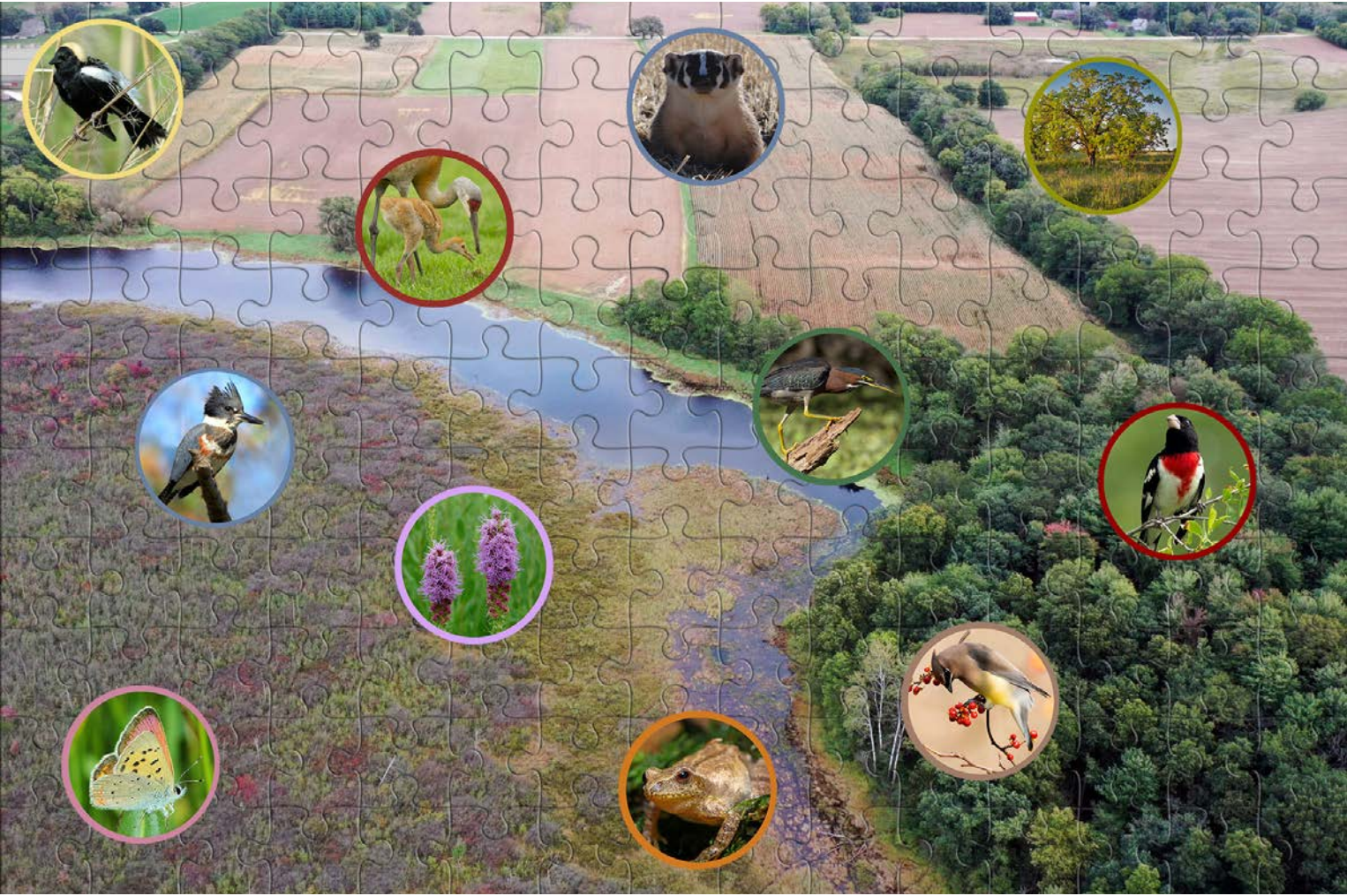
Tucker joins us with a range of great experiences. He graduated from University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2020 with a degree in conservation biology, and he has spent the last three years working in various seasonal capacities with our organization, the Wisconsin DNR, and the Student Conservation Association (SCA). He was a Prairie Partners intern in 2019 and subsequently a seasonal seed collector and restoration technician at Goose Pond Sanctuary. At the DNR, he was employed



Tucker Sanborn

by the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, where he worked in state natural areas across southwest Wisconsin. With the SCA, Tucker worked in the Davy Crockett National Forest in Texas on a prescribed fire crew, and most recently, as an invasives and restoration intern in the Umpqua National Forest in Oregon.

As a southern Wisconsin native, he has a long-held love for the varied natural spaces of his home state. When you see him in and around Faville Grove's prairies, wetlands, or woods, introduce yourself and he will no doubt share his enthusiasm for nature and his new position.



Puzzle illustration | Brenna Marsicek/Badgerland Bird Alliance. Full image credit at madisonaudubon.org/puzzle

Thanks to you, we did it!

by Becky Abel, director of philanthropy

With your help, the Faville Grove Sanctuary landscape puzzle is completed, and on October 17, Badgerland Bird Alliance became owner and steward of the new 80-acre parcel!

Our dedicated supporters and land protectors contributed more than 80 donations ranging from \$10 to \$100,000, allowing Badgerland Bird Alliance to nearly refill our land acquisition coffers that were depleted with this large purchase. You've strengthened our position to respond quickly when the next, high-priority land acquisition opportunity arises.

Badgerland Bird Alliance will rent out the cropland for a couple of years while controlling invasives around the perimeter before restoring this important area to native

prairie. Once restored, this parcel will expand habitat for area-sensitive grassland birds, protect water quality, and create high-quality habitat for a diversity of wildflowers, pollinators, birds, and other critters.

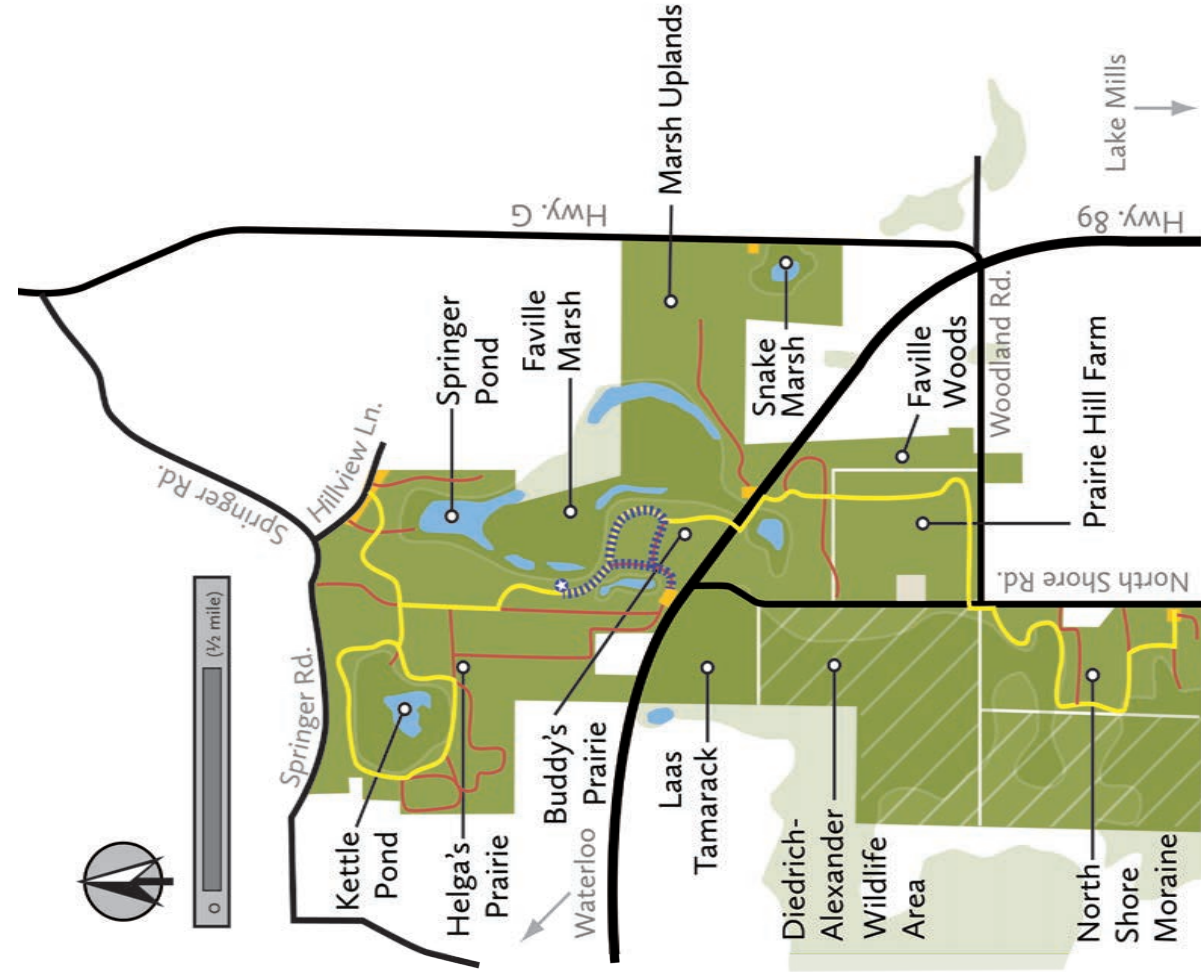
Thank you to all who made this critical land purchase possible, and an extra special thank you to our lead donors: Jenni & Kyle Foundation, Roma Lenahan, Phoebe R. and John D. Lewis Foundation, Marcia MacKenzie, David Musolf & Roger Packard, Lynne & Peter Weil, Mareda Weiss, and some very generous anonymous supporters.

We encourage all Badgerland Bird Alliance members, and especially our puzzle donors, to visit Faville Grove Sanctuary to see the new property and to hike the beautiful trails!

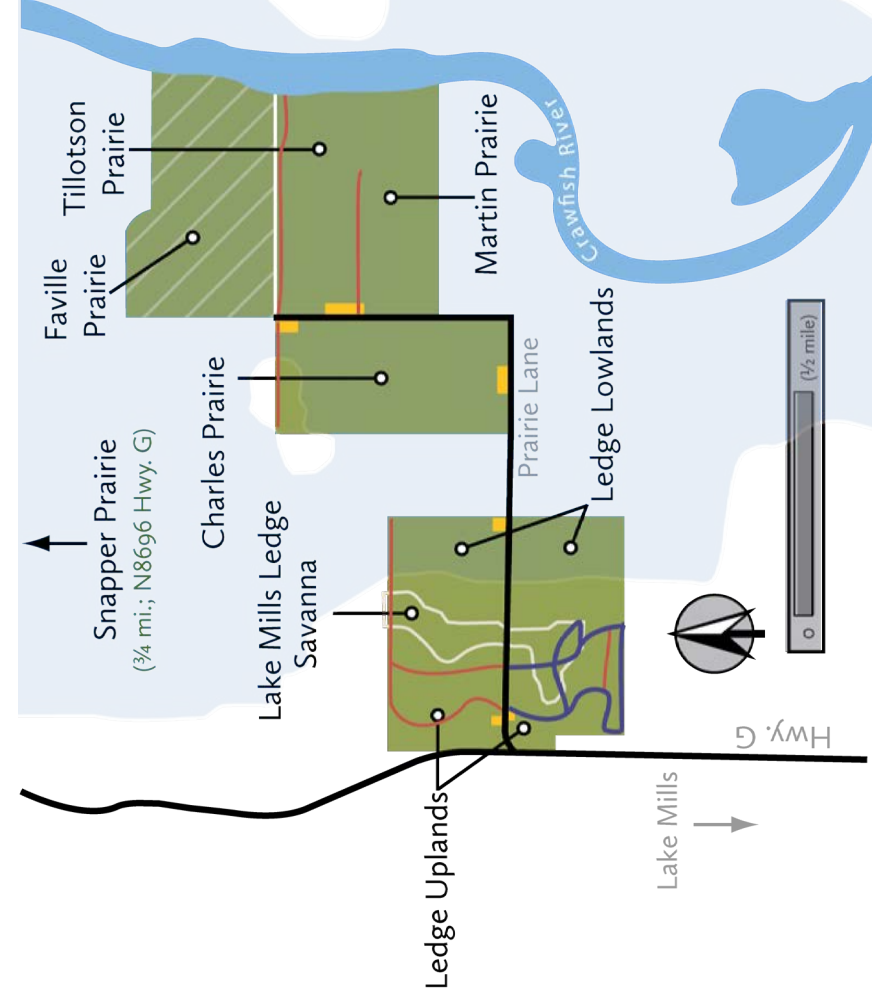
For a complete list of donors, visit madisonaudubon.org/puzzle.

FAVILLE GROVE SANCTUARY

West Section



East Section



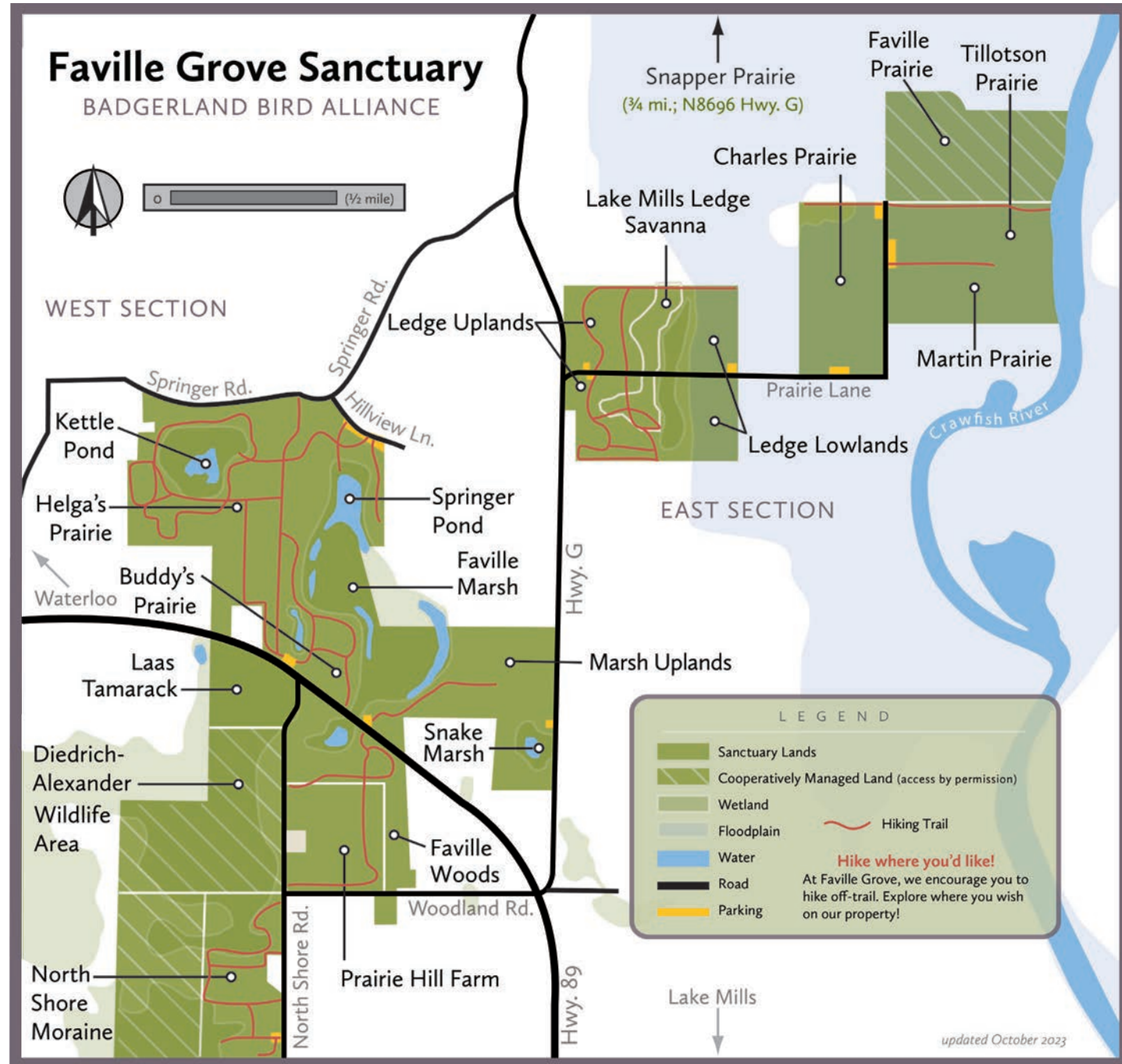
- Lake Mills Ledge Trail
- MacKenzie Overlook
- MacKenzie Overlook Trail
- West Sanctuary Trek

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Badgerland Bird Alliance

Explore Faville Grove Sanctuary

East section: W7490 Prairie Lane, Lake Mills, WI
 West section: N7710 Wisconsin 89, Waterloo, WI

*established in 1998 • open to the public • rich history and biodiversity
 900+ acres of wetlands, uplands, prairie, woods, savanna*



Get your feet wet in the prairies of the Crawfish River floodplain; sit in the shade of centuries-old bur oaks on outcroppings of pre-Cambrian quartzite bedrock; or stand in a dry, short-grass prairie and watch a harrier hunt over a floating bog of sphagnum, sedges, and tamarack. *No dogs, please, to protect wildlife and ecosystems.*

For enlarged maps of the east and west sections with recommended trails, see the other side of this page.

Words matter

by Carolyn Byers, director of education, and Mickenzee Okon, educator

At the beginning of each school year, we have a few lessons that help ease kids into outdoor learning. We practice playing easy games. We build routines. We talk about ecology basics like habitats and predator-prey interactions.

This year, we are also starting the school year with four new lessons about Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). These lessons are based on chapters in the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. In a 2002 article for *BioScience* titled “Weaving Traditional Ecological Knowledge into Biological Education,” Kimmerer defines TEK as: “rational and reliable knowledge that has been developed through generations of intimate contact by native peoples with their lands . . . having equal status with scientific knowledge.”

Thinking about TEK helps us talk with kids about how to approach people with kindness and curiosity when they have different worldviews—there are many ways to think about science and nature! And it also shows us that words are important. What we say influences how we and others think, and eventually how we feel and act. Starting with this framework early fosters a new perspective and mindset for kids to explore together all year long.

Kindergarteners learned about the language of gratitude. We read a book together about Thanksgiving Address: an Indigenous practice of thanking nature and one another for all of the ways they support us. Our kids worked on finding and expressing their appreciation for nature. This will continue throughout the school year as we end each lesson with a gratitude circle.

Our third graders thought about how word choice conveys either respect or disrespect. In English, we use “he/she/they” when talking about people and often use “it” when talking about non-human animals and plants. Many



A child views a blooming prairie through binoculars | Mickenzee Okon/Badgerland Bird Alliance

Indigenous language speakers refer to parts of nature in the same respectful way that they speak about their families, because nature IS family. Instead of “it,” Kimmerer suggests using *ki* (pronounced “key” and short for *Bmaadiziaki*, the Potawatomi word for an earth being). Our kids practiced speaking this way, and will continue all year! “The squirrel is up in the tree. *Ki* is holding a nut!”

Our older kids thought about how our words impact others. Fourth and fifth graders learned more about some of Kimmerer’s research projects, and also the discrimination she faced from professors both as a student and as a professor herself.

Our fourth graders learned about Kimmerer as a student. She was one of the first female



and Indigenous students at her college. When her professors asked why she wanted to study plants, Kimmerer said she wanted to know why asters and goldenrods look so beautiful together. Her professors told her that way of thinking was wrong—it “wasn’t science.” She was heartbroken, but later learned that it IS science! Asters and goldenrods are complementary colors (purple and yellow) that our eyes are very good at detecting, and our brains respond strongly when we see them.

Our fifth graders learned about Kimmerer as a professor. She was helping a graduate student study traditional Indigenous ways of harvesting sweetgrass. Though her colleagues thought it was a poor research topic, Kimmerer and her student used TEK to explore differences in methods for harvesting sweetgrass, and in the

process, illuminated long-understood native knowledge about the plant.

These newest lessons from Robin Wall Kimmerer are just the latest in our ever-growing collection about leading scientists, naturalists, and environmentalists of color. We share with students amazing lessons about bears by Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant, meet lizards with Dr. Earyn McGee, and continue the discussion on how words matter with Bird Names for Birds.

We are having fun, all while getting a few big messages front and center. If kids have lots of experience in nature, we want to help them learn how to actively make space for AND support kids who have less experience. And if they’re kids of color, we want to tell them loudly and often that they belong. Nature is there for all of us.



The Gifts of Nature

'Tis the season of giving thanks,
and of giving gifts.

Badgerland Bird Alliance board and staff are thankful for all of our members and supporters, who know that some of the best gifts don't necessarily come in big OR small packages—they're feathered, furry, scaled, petaled gifts from nature.

Birds and natural landscapes offer gifts 12 months of the year, year after year. Will you give them a gift in return? Your donation will help the birds you care about and will give you the knowledge that you are making a difference.

Make a year-end gift for birds

How about a dollar a day?

Soon, you'll receive a mailing from Badgerland Bird Alliance asking for your support. This year-end drive is important for making our year-round work possible. Your dollar-a-day \$365 donation supports high-quality programs and land protection. Any donation that's right for you—\$5 or \$500 or your chosen amount—goes straight to bird protection.

Plan a future gift for birds

You can protect the local birds and landscapes you love during and beyond your lifetime by including Badgerland Bird Alliance in your will or estate plans. Your legacy gift helps ensure that future bird choruses remain diverse and that beautiful local sanctuaries offer permanent protection for native species.

Legacy gifts can include cash, stocks, other appreciated assets, and more. Speak with your financial advisor about leaving a planned gift to Badgerland Bird Alliance, or contact Becky Abel at 608-255-2473 x5.

If you have already named Badgerland Bird Alliance (or Madison Audubon) in your estate plans, please let us know. We'd love to welcome you to the Kestrel Legacy Circle.

Give a birdy membership

Do you want to encourage a budding naturalist or share your love of birds with a friend or loved one? Give a gift membership to Badgerland Bird Alliance—your recipient will gain early access to activities, classes, and trips for all ages; the Badgerland Bird Alliance newsletter; and more.





Soar as a frequent flyer

Did you know that recurring donations are better for birds and easier for you? Frequent Flyers are members like you who have committed to making regular, ongoing donations to support our work together. As a Frequent Flyer, your donations can be automated based on how often, how much, and from which account you'd like to contribute. By joining this flock, you help Badgerland Bird Alliance balance revenue throughout the year, reduce fundraising expenses, and, quite simply, use less paper—all while celebrating and protecting amazing birds!

More information about joining the Frequent Flyer flock at madisonaudubon.org/frequent-flyers.

Join the **NEW** Conservation Leaders Giving Circle

Badgerland Bird Alliance has launched a new Conservation Leaders Circle to celebrate donors who give \$1,000 or more each year. Conservation Leaders will receive invitations to a special event with our executive director, Matt Reetz, and the president of our board of directors; an annual guided bird walk at a Badgerland Bird Alliance sanctuary with Matt and stewardship staff; and special recognition in the annual report.



Give a gift of stock

Donating stock can be a simple way to help birds. Just provide your broker or financial advisor with Badgerland Bird Alliance's stockbroker information, and your gift transfer will be taken care of. Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/other-ways-to-give.

Checks may be made out to either Badgerland Bird Alliance or Madison Audubon. For more information about giving, contact Becky at 608-255-2473 x5 or babel@madisonaudubon.org.

Leverage your employer's matching gift program

Free money for birds!

Many companies offer matching funding to their employees' favorite nonprofits. But only 7% of donors at companies with those programs apply for donations—80% have never even heard about their company's matching gifts!

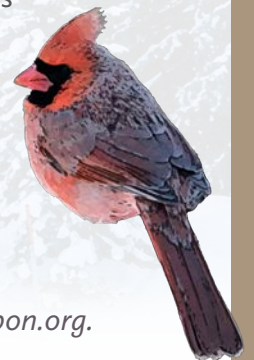
Whether matching financial donations or volunteer service hours, we have members who have secured thousands of dollars in gifts for bird conservation through employee service and giving programs. Check your employee handbook or talk with your personnel manager to learn whether your company has a charitable giving program.

Make a gift distribution from your IRA

If you're age 70½ or older

You probably know that tax law requires you to take payouts from your IRA. Did you know that you can give a tax-free gift to birds as part of your required minimum distribution and that it will be excluded from your gross income? Your gift must be transferred directly from your traditional or Roth IRA to Badgerland Bird Alliance.

Instead of being taxed as regular income, your donation goes directly to birds, and you receive a tax benefit. Talk to your financial advisor, or call our office for more information.



Thank you to our new Badgerland Bird Alliance donors! August–October 17, 2023

Our amazing supporters make so much good possible. Below are brand-new donors and donations in tribute. Find a full list at madisonaudubon.org/2023-donors. On paper or online, we appreciate YOU and your support.

Jane Anderson
 Anna Andrzejewski
 Catherine Barth
 Maura Berry
 Sara Bossenbroek
 Judith Brandt
 Kerry Butitta
 Shawn Cady
 Citizens Natural
 Resources Association
 of Wisconsin
 Jean DeMuzio
 Mark and Connie Dunn
 Beverly Dusso
 Scott Faris
 Jennifer Gaber
 Melissa Grossbarth
 Kristine Harings
 Kathryn Hendley
 Jacki Hershberger
 Ruth Holat-Richart
 Nat Hunter
 Sheryl Hayes Hursh
 Jewels Johnson
 Chris Kaplan
 Cass Kight
 Irene Kilcoyne
 Korey Kopp
 Emily Landmann
 Sandra Lloyd

Gail Malven
 Christine McKenna
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 Sara Minkoff
 Nancy Moskal
 Mary Nick
 Sue Noyes
 Holden, Philip, &
 Breta Olsen
 Judith & Tom Ordens
 Etiennette Pillet
 Sean Radcliffe
 David Roethe
 Barbara Schrank
 Sasha Scott
 Julie Stietz
 Lynn Tews
 Kirsten Tucci
 Raymond Venn
 Barbara Whitlock
 Jeanette Yoder

IN HONOR OF . . .
 The Badgerland Bird
 Alliance new name
 by *Deborah and Patrick
 Turski Family Fund*

Pat Clark
 by *Carole Garczynski*

Coraline & Amelie
 by *Matt Fortney*
 Eloise
 by *Matt Krueger &
 Lia Vellardita*
 Will Lepeak
 by *Lisa Lepeak &
 Robin Wagner*
 Brenna Marsicek
 by *Janet Flynn & Greg Tiedt*
 David Musolf &
 Roger Packard
 by *Carla & Michael Di Iorio,
 Pamela Ploetz &
 John Henderson*
 Penny & Gary Shackelford
 by *Mary Ann & Brian
 Buenzow, Darcy Kind &
 Marc Vitale, Sandra &
 Nils Olsen*

Robin Wagner
 by *Lisa Lepeak*

IN MEMORY OF . . .

Buddy
 by *Noel & Deborah Anderson*

Susan Connell-Magee
 by *Kevin Magee*
 Mark Frazier
 by *Liz Pelton*
 John Hockett
 by *Graham Steinhauer*
 Borghild Kelly
 by *Dave Kelly*
 Kevin Lord
 by *Mia, Jeff, & Juniper Kennel*
 Marcia MacKenzie
 by *Mark Martin &
 Susan Foote-Martin*
 Belva Nelson
 by *Alyson Schmeisser*
 Donald Novotny
 by *Donna Kopp*
 Warren Rebholz
 by *Carolyn Essman, Johnson
 Controls Family, Gary &
 Nancy Kuhl*
 Eugene Rice
 by *Stephen Filbert*
 Nancy Washburn
 by *Mark Spring*

Two birds of a feather

Badgerland Bird Alliance is still affiliated with the National Audubon Society, even though we no longer have “Audubon” in our name. We share similar missions to protect birds, but as two distinct organizations, our staff, sanctuaries, programs, communications, and funding are all separate. When you become a local member or directly support Badgerland Bird Alliance, you make a big difference for birds right here in our southern Wisconsin community and beyond. Thank you!



Red Crossbill pair | Pixabay

WINTER 2023 CALENDAR

Below are our upcoming field trips, courses, and programs. Each opens for registration six weeks prior to the event. You can find the full list of all field trips and events on our website.

Please register at madisonaudubon.org/events for upcoming events you wish to attend so we can share trip information, weather-related adjustments, and more.

JOIN A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT THIS WINTER!

WAYS TO JOIN THE MADISON AREA CBC:

PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNT (ALL DAY)
On Saturday, December 16, join birders in Madison and the surrounding suburbs

ACCESSIBLE INDOOR COUNT (10 AM–12 PM)
Join a seated count at Olbrich Botanical Gardens

TALLY PARTY (5–7 PM)
Celebrate the end of the count at Goodman Community Center

CBC OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SANCTUARIES:

WATERLOO CBC
On Thursday, December 14, join us at Faville Grove Sanctuary

FAIR MEADOWS CBC
On Tuesday, December 19, join us for the Fair Meadows Sanctuary count

POYNETTE CBC
On Saturday, December 30, join us at Goose Pond Sanctuary and Erstad Prairie

*Events coordinated by Badgerland Bird Alliance.
To sign up, visit madisonaudubon.org/events*

AND MORE GREAT EVENTS:

MADISON LAKES WATERFOWL

Date: Sat., Dec. 9, 8–11 AM
Location: UW-Madison Parking Lot 60

NEW YEAR'S SUNRISE HIKE

Date: Mon., Jan. 1, 7–9 AM
Location: Faville Grove Sanctuary

OWL PROWL

Date: Sat., Jan. 13, 5–7 PM
Location: Pheasant Branch Conservancy

WINTER WONDERLAND HIKE

Date: Sun., Jan. 21, 10 AM–12 PM
Location: Fair Meadows Sanctuary

MID-WINTER SNOWSHOE

Date: Sat., Feb. 3, 9–11 AM
Location: Faville Grove Sanctuary

OWL PROWL

Date: Sat., Feb. 10, 5–7 PM
Location: Pheasant Branch Conservancy

Badgerland Bird Alliance's field trip program is made possible, in part, through funding from the Henry A. Anderson III Fund.

GET INVOLVED IN A CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAM!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Play a role in the longest-running citizen science bird project (this is the 124th year!) by joining a local count near you.

11 CBCs in south-central Wisconsin.

When: Varies by location, between December 14 and January 5

Learn more about the project:
madisonaudubon.org/cbc

BALD EAGLE NEST WATCH

Watch the milestones for a family of Bald Eagles as the parents rear their young and fledge them from the nest.

Recruitment begins in December.

When: February through June 2024; weekly 1-hour sessions

Learn more about the project:
madisonaudubon.org/benw

KESTREL NEST MONITORS

Monitor and maintain kestrel nest boxes within south-central Wisconsin, supporting a population facing major declines.

Recruitment begins in December.

When: March through July 2024; weekly visits

Learn more about the project:
madisonaudubon.org/kestrels

COVER PHOTO:

A flock of swallows depart their roost at
Fair Meadows Sanctuary | Gary Shackelford



Migrating shorebird flock at
Goose Pond Sanctuary | Arlene Koziol

It's official!

We are the **Badgerland Bird Alliance!**

At a special meeting on September 26, our membership voted unanimously to approve the organization moving forward as the Badgerland Bird Alliance.

Thank you to everyone involved for your thoughtful dedication and hard work to give our organization a name that better represents who we are and what we do for birds, together. Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/new-name.

We are in the process of transitioning to our new name, so for now, communications coming from us will include our interim logo (in the upper left corner of this page and on the cover) that has both our new name and our former name.

Stay tuned for a branding update in the new year, which will include a new logo, a refreshed website and social media presence, and of course, fun stickers and swag!

JOIN OUR FLOCK FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FACEBOOK
[/MadisonAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/MadisonAudubon)



INSTAGRAM
[@MadisonAudubon](https://www.instagram.com/MadisonAudubon)



YOUTUBE
[/@MadisonAudubon](https://www.youtube.com/@MadisonAudubon)

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING UP SOON

The Badgerland Bird Alliance board of directors provides our organization with financial oversight and strategic direction. Three members are seeking to renew their terms: Patrick Eagan (two-year renewal), Jeff Galligan (three-year renewal), and Darcy Kind (three-year renewal). They will be among candidates to appear on the February 2024 ballot. Statements will be available at madisonaudubon.org/board-statements.

Our bylaws allow for members to nominate candidates to the board. You may do so by submitting a brief statement from each nominee signed by at least 25 Badgerland Bird Alliance members in good standing as of November 1. Nominations are due by mail or online no later than December 6.

Our nominating committee looks to identify talented board candidates who will bring unique expertise, new perspectives, and enthusiasm to our board. We will share more about any other candidates with you in preparation for the election. Watch for ballots in the next newsletter, and please vote!