

# FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

madison  
AUDUBON



## 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 are 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 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

## THINK OF A FEATHER, continued

camouflage—hiding a nesting nighthawk in the leaf litter or a foraging Brown Creeper on an oak. Tiny adaptive tweaks to featherstructure—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!

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? ✨

## THE LONG VIEW

by Drew Harry, David Musolf, and Roger Packard; Faville Grove Sanctuary team

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 equipment to fill an artificial, rip-rapped 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. ✨



## FLOCKING TOGETHER

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

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.

## FLOCKING TOGETHER, continued

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 1/3 acres with 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, light-weight 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](http://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! ✈



## SEASONS OF HOPE

by Brenna Marsicek, director of communications and 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](http://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!

## SEASONS OF HOPE, continued

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 micro-climates, health of chicks, and fledgling migrations. More at [madisonaudubon.org/kestrels](https://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 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-deterrent 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](https://madisonaudubon.org/bcc)

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

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 at [madisonaudubon.org/cbc-results](https://madisonaudubon.org/cbc-results)

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

# WONDER & AWE

by 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](https://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). ✨



# BIRD-CURIOUS

by 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. In the coming months, you'll see 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 608-255-2473 or [ksvabek@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:ksvabek@madisonaudubon.org). ✈

## BIRDING IS FOR *EVERY BODY*

Madison Audubon is proud to share that we are one of the founding sponsors of Birdability ([birdability.org](http://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!

# UPCOMING 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 Lakeshore 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

Date: Wed., May 4, 6–8 AM

Location: Cherokee Marsh-North, (Madison)

Led by: Jan Axelson and Timothy Baker

Date: Thurs., May 5, 6–8 AM

Location: Turville Point (Madison)

Led by: Marty Evanson

Date: 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

\* Outdoor wheelchair access is available.

## FIELD TRIPS, continued

### **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

## **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)



## **ADULT EDUCATION COURSES**

### **Workshop: Create a Bird Saver Curtain to prevent bird-window collisions**

MAR. 10, 6–7:30 PM (COVID date: APR. 14)

\$40/person

### **Learning the ropes of eBird Mobile (2-part series)**

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

### **Drawing Nature (3-part series)**

Apr. 19 & 26, 7–9 PM & May 10, 6–8 PM.

\$20/person

### **Birding 101 (4-part series)**

Classes: Apr. 9, 23, & 30, 8–10 AM. Trip:

MAY 7, 8–10 AM. \$20/person

### **Birding by Ear: Learning to identify birds without sight (2-part series)**

Class: APR. 28, 6–8 PM or APR. 30, 8–10

AM. Trip: MAY 5, 6–8 PM or MAY 7, 8–10 AM

\$20/person

### **Beginning Bird and Wildlife Action Photography**

May 3, 8–10:30 AM. \$20/person

### **Meet your Neighborhood and Feeder Birds (2-part series)**

Class: May 4, 6–8 pm. Trip: May 7, 8–10

am. \$20/person

Visit [madisonaudubon.org/events](https://madisonaudubon.org/events)  
to find detailed information about  
upcoming Spring 2022 field trips,  
events, and adult education offerings.

# MADISON AUDUBON SNAPSHOT: 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

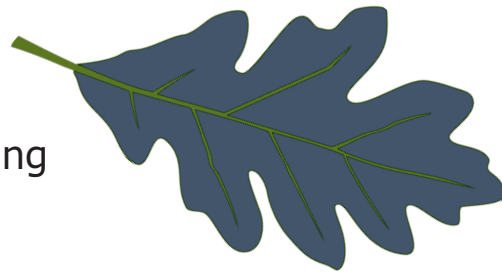


## CITIZEN SCIENCE

- **100** Bald Eagle nests in **19** counties monitored by **226** volunteers
- **232** American Kestrel 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

## EDUCATION

- Reached **~400** students in **21** classrooms at **3** schools
- **41** lessons adapted for virtual teaching
- **65** brand-new lessons developed



## ADVOCACY

- Pushed back against the proposed **Sandhill Crane hunt**
- Supported Madison's **Bird-safe Glass Ordinance** and **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**

# GOOD GROWTH

by 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 grand-kids? 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! ✈

## 2021 INCOME

<b>53.7%</b>	
<b>18.8%</b>	
<b>18%</b>	Contributions from Individuals . . . . . \$412,998
<b>6%</b>	Investment Distributions . . . . . \$144,601
<b>1.5%</b>	Grants & Government Contracts . . . . . \$137,934
<b>1.1%</b>	Sales, Land Rent & Other . . . . . \$45,673
<b>0.9%</b>	Events . . . . . \$11,784
	Community Shares of Wisconsin . . . . . \$8,729
	National Audubon . . . . . \$6,968
	<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME . . . . . \$768,687</b>

## 2021 EXPENSES

<b>49.4%</b>	
<b>15.0%</b>	Sanctuaries . . . . . \$386,501
<b>14.6%</b>	Administration . . . . . \$116,992
<b>13.1%</b>	Education . . . . . \$114,267
<b>7.9%</b>	Fundraising . . . . . \$102,387
	Advocacy . . . . . \$61,803
	<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES . . . . . \$781,950</b>

*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
<b>TOTAL ASSETS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$13,677,126</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable . . . . .	\$3,546
Accrued expenses . . . . .	\$1,366
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES . . . . .</b>	<b>\$4,912</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted . . . . .	\$7,919,253
Assets w/donor restrictions . . . . .	\$5,286,829
Board designated . . . . .	\$466,132
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS* . . . . .</b>	<b>\$13,672,214</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$13,677,126</b>

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

# LEAVE YOUR MARK

by Becky Abel, director of philanthropy

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](https://madisonaudubon.org/freewill-faq) or reach out to Becky at 608-255-2473 ext. 5 or [babel@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:babel@madisonaudubon.org). ✈*

## 2021 DONORS

Thank you! Your commitment to birds and conservation is incredible. We are grateful to all of our supporters at all levels, but due to space constraints, donors are listed on our website: [madisonaudubon.org/2021-donors](https://madisonaudubon.org/2021-donors)



Donate on a regular basis without having to lift a finger! The Frequent Flyers Club allows for automated contributions, tailored to your schedule and amount. Sign up: [madisonaudubon.org/give](https://madisonaudubon.org/give)

You can leave a legacy. 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.

Learn more: [madisonaudubon.org/legacy](https://madisonaudubon.org/legacy)

# A DONOR TESTIMONIAL

by Amy Alstad, ecologist, Madison Audubon member since 2014, Frequent Flyer, and 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."



## BIRDS, BIKES, & BREWS IS BACK!

**SPRING EDITION: MAY 22, 12-5PM AT CAPITAL BREWERY IN 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.

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://madisonaudubon.org/bbb)**





# EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!



No computer? No problem!

We know not everyone has a computer or wants to spend time on one to get updates from their favorite bird organization (ahem!). However, we care about all of our members, and want you to be as informed as your tweeting and typing counterparts.

Madison Audubon is now offering limited, monthly paper updates mailed to your home. These updates provide all the good information that comes to email-receiving members in print, so you can stay in the loop on the good things that happen in between these quarterly newsletters. Note: active membership is required to opt-in to monthly mailed updates.

To enroll, fill out and mail this section to:

Madison Audubon,  
1400 E Washington Ave #170,  
Madison WI 53703.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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## PHOTO CREDITS

- P1: Blue Jay by Kim Taylor Hull
- P3: Faville Grove by Roger Packard
- P4: Goose Pond flock by Arlene Koziol
- P6: Bald Eagle by Mike Williams
- P7: American Kestrel eggs in nest by Brenna Marsicek / Madison Audubon
- P8: Education fun by Carolyn Byers / Madison Audubon
- P11: Dark-eyed Junco by Kaitlin Svabek

- P13: Tree day with Lincoln Elementary by Carolyn Byers / Madison Audubon
- P15: American Kestrel by Mick Thompson
- P16: Amy Alstad and her son, courtesy of Amy Alstad
- P17: Black-capped Chickadee artwork by Brenna Marsicek



**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.

# MADISON AUDUBON TEAM

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We are a proud member of the following organizations:



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