

MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

by Pat Clark, vice president of the board

During the long Wisconsin winters, we wish for springtime birds and the natural wonder of migration. I personally have a special affinity for the birds who stay and wait out the winter as we do, but hope springs eternal.

When the cranes arrive with that ancient call, they bring hope to the thawing Wisconsin landscape. We feel renewed as ice retreats, mergansers and goldeneyes fill our waters, and redwings and robins return.

At our sanctuaries, Northern Flickers probe the prairie soil under the spent clovers and coneflowers in search of ants. The little Yellow-rumped Warblers show up in the swamp oak to say, "How was winter up here?"

However, this year a sense of urgency is also in the spring air. There are many pressing issues for our birds and other wildlife. Whether it's climate change or industrial agriculture, habitat destruction or lead poisoning, we are causing bird

populations to dwindle. What if our next generation never has a chance to see a Northern Harrier flying low over the marsh at Faville Grove, a raft of blue-bills paddling at Goose Pond, or the rush of Yellow-headed Blackbirds descending upon Otsego Marsh?

Madison Audubon delivers the hope that we can save our feathered friends and give them a fighting chance. Serving on your board, I'm continually amazed at the dedication and talent of our staff, sanctuary stewards, interns, volunteers, and donors. With every acre that Madison Audubon restores and every kid we introduce to the outdoors, we are the hope in keeping Wisconsin wild and free, in our hearts and our binoculars.



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.

HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

by Drew Harry, Faville Grove Sanctuary land steward

Do you love a good story? This summer, join us for History in Action: Landscape Changes at Faville Grove, a new blog series that tells stories of the land, past and present.

We will examine archived material on Aldo Leopold's work at Faville Grove and analyze how it informs our understanding and management of today's landscape.

In 1934, Leopold established the Faville Grove Wildlife Experimental Area, a voluntary game cooperative with 10 farms comprising 2,300 acres. The project ran until about 1944. Leopold's graduate students Arthur Hawkins and Robert McCabe managed the area, implementing ecological and historical research, winter feeding, and hunting restrictions. The goal of the project involved developing "a farming technique which creates the best possible conditions for all wildlife, without sacrificing valuable land." Leopold's focus on management of private lands provided the conceptual framework for his land ethic.

Known for his copious and detailed record-keeping, both Leopold and his students left troves of notes, maps, photos, and correspondence. These include published reports on "Upland Plovers," as Upland Sandpipers were called, Ring-necked Pheasant, Quail (Northern Bobwhite), and Hungarian Partridge (Gray Partridge). Game bird production incentivized farmers of the cooperative to implement management plans that included wildlife more generally.

Leopold's interests were broad and included the entire ecosystems of the areas where he worked. Faville Grove was no exception—he and his students left records of the native wildlife and flora of the region tucked between winter feeding notes and Quail censuses.

The entire collection has been digitized and is available through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, where you can dive in on your own if you are so inclined. We draw from these archives as the source material of History in Action, illuminating this vibrant story for the first time through essays, photographic time-lapses, and data comparing Leopold's time with the present.

Leopold was keenly fascinated with the history of land and how it informs management and stewardship. Join us to trace the early story of Faville Grove and delve into the detailed chronicles the conservationist left for us to discover. Tune in this summer at madisonaudubon.org/history-in-action.



RAPTORS PHONE HOME

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

Research is an important part of conservation. At Goose Pond Sanctuary, we have been fortunate to work with many researchers through the decades to address a variety of questions. Sometimes they focus on the little things like Silphium borer moths; other times they take a grander scale of migration. Throughout each project, we value the ability to learn, collaborate, and support wildlife.

New technology has led to many innovations in the field of raptor ecology. With the aid of solar-powered cell phone transmitters, we can track a number of individual birds that Madison Audubon and its members have been involved with through volunteer work or financial support. We are delighted to share updates from the project coordinators about some of these special birds that have recently reported in.

Thanks to Madison Audubon members, donors, volunteers, and the partner organizations and banders!

Arlene, the Red-shouldered Hawk

Banded on May 26, 2021

Coordinator: Gene Jacobs, Linwood Raptor Research Center

Named for Arlene Koziol, Madison Audubon volunteer and conservation photographer

"Arlene" was banded in the flood-plain forest near the confluence of the

Baraboo and Wisconsin Rivers, southwest of Portage. Gene Jacobs, who placed the transmitter on her, thought she might head south for the winter, but instead she decided to tough it out in Wisconsin. She never ventured more than two miles from her nest in 2021 and is back nesting in the same tree. One of the Red-shouldered Hawks that Gene placed a transmitter on near Stevens Point spent the last two winters in Baton Rouge, LA, almost a thousand miles straight south.



Right: Arlene, Left: Dorothy

Dorothy, the Rough-legged Hawk

Banded December 17, 2021

Coordinator: Neil Paprocki, University of Idaho

Named for Dorothy Haines, long-time Madison Audubon member and volunteer

"Dorothy" stayed in the Goose Pond area until March 3, then headed northwest to Pittsville, WI. She has done a

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RAPTORS PHONE HOME, continued

lot of flying but has backtracked! She traveled from Pittsville to Perkinstown, WI, and then back to Pittsville again—approximately 140 miles—all in two weeks. While this may seem like odd behavior, Neil Paprocki, PhD candidate, said that it's not unusual in the younger Rough-legged Hawk migrants. Her last report was from Pittsville on April 24.

Madison, the Red-tailed Hawk

Banded October 31, 2021

Coordinator: Bryce Robinson, Cornell University

Named for Madison Audubon

"Madison" was caught with the help of Sue Kaehler at Cedar Grove Ornithological Station along Lake Michigan as part of a North American study of Red-tailed Hawks. Madison spent the winter in Mount Washington, KY. Upon spring migration, she reached the southern tip of Lake Michigan, headed northwest, was tracked 17 miles east of the Wisconsin Capitol and 12 miles east of Goose Pond, then continued north. In April, Madison moved around at 140 square mile area

in Florence County, WI and Iron Mountain, MI.

Madison turned two this spring and will likely nest next year.



Columbia, the Snowy Owl

Banded January 28, 2020

Coordinator: Project SNOWstorm

Named for Columbia County, where she was banded

"Columbia" spent her first winter around Goose Pond where she was banded, and her farthest distance from Goose Pond to date was in the summer of 2020 on Prince of Wales Island, 500 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Columbia wintered in northwest Iowa in 2020-2021, and this winter she stayed around the border of North Dakota and Minnesota. We last heard from Columbia on April 16 near Winnipeg, Manitoba in an agricultural

area, on her way back to the open tundra.





MEET OUR NEW INTERNS

The prairies, woodlands, savannas, and wetlands of Madison Audubon's sanctuaries get a huge boost each summer through our two paid ecological restoration internship programs. Each summer, 10-12 undergraduate students spend 40 hours per week studying and practicing the techniques of bringing landscapes back to their native glory. We can't thank them enough for their hard work and energy!

Five interns will be based at Faville Grove Sanctuary in Jefferson County, also

helping at Hope Lake Bog, and Snapper Prairie and Faville Prairie State Natural Areas. The interns participating in the Prairie Partners program will be in Dane and Columbia Counties at Goose Pond Sanctuary, Cherokee Marsh, Empire Prairies State Natural Area, Lakeshore Nature Preserve, Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area, and Pheasant Branch Conservancy. We are excited for them to join us in this important work!

Learn more about each intern at madisonaudubon.org/2022-interns.

PRAIRIE PARTNERS AT GOOSE POND SANCTUARY

COLLIN CHENEY, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Black-capped Chickadee. "I'm excited to learn more about birding and improve my bird identification."

EMILY DOMNICK, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Common Loon. "I am excited to enjoy the outdoors and learn more about the diverse native plant community."

MEET OUR NEW INTERNS, continued

BECCA LENNIE, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Blue Jay. "I am looking forward to applying my learning in so many different and beautiful conservancies."

LAUREN STIELOW, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Red-tailed Hawk. "I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge on herbaceous plants and meeting new people!"

ELLA TARPEY, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Black-capped Chickadee. "I'm most excited to work outside everyday restoring the natural spaces that I love."

EMMA RAASCH (Goose Pond Sanctuary seasonal worker), University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Northern Harrier. "I'm happy to be back at Goose Pond Sanctuary and look forward to working on many projects!"

FAVILLE GROVE SANCTUARY

HAILEY COLLINS, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Peacock. "I am most looking forward to seeing the carnivorous plants at Hope Lake Bog!"

MARIN DANZ, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Common Loon. "I am most excited to expand my species identification abilities, especially with prairie plants."

MERCEDES HERNANDEZ-NATERA, Madison College. Favorite bird: Bohemian Waxwing. "I look forward to collaborating with the team to make a positive impact on the environment."

SPENCER NOTH-HAZEN, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Kiwi. "I am looking forward to getting to do some work in the field (this will be my first internship)."

DYLAN WENDRICKS, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Favorite bird: Great Blue Heron. "The thing I am looking forward to most is learning more about native plants and animals."



THROUGH THICK AND THIN

by Brenna Marsicek, director of communications and outreach



In springs like this one—cold, wet, and under the alarming blanket of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza—searching for positives is essential. It has been a challenging start to the year, both for birds and volunteers. But our Bald Eagle Nest Watch program has seen record engagement, with over 135 nests being monitored by 300 or so volunteers. While the impact of the spring's weather and disease are woefully apparent in the number of nest failures, the volunteers are steadfast. They continue to make weekly visits to active nests, are sharing invaluable details about what they're seeing in the field, and celebrating each little fuzzy head they see poking up over the edge of the nest. Thank you to our partners in the Fox Valley and Central WI, to our amazing volunteers who offer so much time, energy, and inspiration, and to Drew Cashman who provides unflappable leadership in the program.

Our Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring program, led by Brand Smith, is also working through curveballs presented this year. The kestrel volunteers are dedicated and vigilant about preventing the spread of HPAI to these beautiful raptors as they check their nest boxes for activity. As of early May, 58 boxes have kestrel eggs, which appears to be behind last year's average (likely due to cooler weather). It's always fun to see which other species use these boxes—this year we've had a few screech owls! Thank you all, especially Brand, for being part of this effort.

In addition, our Bird Collision Corps

program has launched for the season, with many returning volunteers and lots of new faces.

We are proud to work with eight site hosts this spring: UW-Madison, American Family Insurance, Urban Land Interests, Overture Center for the Arts, Madison Museum of Contemporary Arts, Madison Childrens' Museum, Holy Wisdom Monastery, and Verona Public Library. This important work helps identify when and where birds are colliding with windows so we can help find solutions. (Want to make a difference at your house? See page 11 for more information—homes contribute to nearly half of the fatal window bird-collisions each year in the US.)

All of this work is made possible by you: members of and donors to Madison Audubon who support these efforts and experiences. Thanks to your support, people in our communities are making a difference for birds, and birds are making a difference for them:

Thank you for the gift of being a citizen scientist. It has brought me great joy, peace, and contentment." - Jane, Bird Collision Corps volunteer

I never considered myself a bird person and this experience over the years has been life changing for me—I have much more appreciation for birds and our world." - Jill, Bald Eagle Nest Watch volunteer

TELL ME A STORY!

by Carolyn Byers, director of education

Swapping nature stories with kids is one of my favorite parts of each education program lesson. It's a fun, loose, easy part of class that can be silly or serious. But the real reason I love it so much is because it gives me a little window into each kid's relationship with nature. I can learn about what they're noticing, what's important enough to them to remember, and what they think is interesting enough to tell me. We learn how they feel about a sighting based on how they tell it: was the snake they saw scary or cool? Did they feel bad for the mouse, or happy that the hawk got to eat? Maybe both.

This week the Lincoln fourth graders had a LOT of stories to share. Their stories recalled specific bits of information from lessons, or demonstrated how their observational skills have grown. They're making connections and beginning to think like scientists! Here are just a few snippets from the kids' wonderful stories:

"I heard a bird saying 'hula hoop!'" (The mnemonic we teach for Mourning Doves is "hula, hoop... hoop... hoop.")

"I saw a bunch of crows circling a tree and they were mobbing an owl. The owl looked like it had food in its feet."

"I was in Utah over spring break and I was on a hike and saw three lizards!" The week before spring break we had learned about the amazing Dr. Earyn McGee and her #FindThatLizard posts on Instagram.

Several kids told stories about Wild Turkeys moving around their neighborhoods. Most included details about whether the turkeys were male or female, where they were, and what they were doing. Some connected the huge number of turkey sightings with spring and the mating season—and then another kid mentioned that these were "phenology" sightings.

We usually only spend about 10 minutes on nature stories before digging into our real lesson. When we reached the end of story time, a quick count revealed that 15 kids still had stories to tell. So much nature love to share!

We know part of this growth in storytelling skill is simply because they're six months older than they were at the start of the school year. But we sure have come a long way from September's "I saw a bunny at my Grandma's house." Here's to many more stories!



EGGS IN MANY BASKETS

by Becky Abel, director of philanthropy

In order to remain a financially strong organization, we look for multiple ways to support our bird and land conservation programming. So any opportunity to leverage member donations for conservation is worth looking into—and we have discovered an easy win for birds.

You may be able to double your gift to Madison Audubon through your employee match program!

Fact 1: Many companies match employee giving, BUT

Fact 2: These philanthropic programs are not always promoted and up to 80% of match-eligible donors have never heard about their company's corporate match programs.

Fact 3: Only 7% of donors at companies with matching gifts programs apply for a company match donation.

Which means that free money—money that could benefit birds, habitats, and kids—is being left on the table. If your \$100 donation for birds could become a \$200 donation or your \$500 donation could become a \$1,000 donation just by taking five minutes to complete a form, would you do that? What a productive five minutes that would be to benefit conservation, kids, habitats, and birds you love.

Most companies with match programs apply a 1:1 ratio, but some are 2:1, 3:1 and even 4:1. And some will even make

donations for your community service. So, if you are a Madison Audubon volunteer, your company might recognize your service with a donation to Madison Audubon! (See Pat Clark's testimonial to the left.)

How can you find out if your company matches charitable donations? Check with your human resources department and review your employee benefits package to find out whether your gift to Madison Audubon or your volunteer service can be matched. You will typically be asked to complete simple paperwork and submit confirmation of your donation. Some companies will even match donations made by company retirees.

Many companies in the Madison area and beyond match employee donations. Here is a partial list of companies that have matched employee donations to Madison Audubon in the past few years, totaling thousands of dollars for birds:

Alliant Energy, American Family Insurance, CUNA Mutual, Envestnet, Etsy, Exact Sciences, First Weber, General Electric, GBU Life, Google, Grainger, IBM, KL Engineering, Rockwell Automation, Wells Fargo, W.K. Kellogg

Madison Audubon is grateful for our members who have taken the initiative to secure these matching funds AND for the companies that support philanthropic giving. Thank you for your love for birds and community!

A DONOR TESTIMONIAL

by Pat Clark, Madison Audubon board member & donor

What really attracted me to securing company match funds for Madison Audubon is that this organization buys land, fixes it, restores it, takes care of it forever, and educates people about it. With the most talented staff, members, and board around, it's money well-given.

Buried deep in my company's employee benefits handbook, I found a golden opportunity to help a cause I believe in. Right there in the "Employee Service and Giving" section of the Wells Fargo employee handbook was the opportunity to give \$2,000 to a favorite charity every year. Through putting in some volunteer hours, serving on a board, making charitable donations, and then filling out a questionnaire, I have been able to secure

thousands of "free" dollars for Madison Audubon.

What fun it is to tap into these funds from the Wells Fargo Community Care Grants program! And Madison Audubon is a perfect nonprofit to bestow it upon.

I hope you'll look for free money from your company too, and let's keep adding to our beautiful sanctuaries where Wisconsin is still wild and free.



WELCOME TO THREE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS!

The Madison Audubon board of directors consists of 14 members who help the organization make strategic, innovative, and important decisions that benefit birds, our communities, and the environment. Recently, Galen Hasler and Topf Wells finished their nine-year terms on the board (thank you!). We are delighted to welcome three new members, Matt Krueger, Tim Norris, and Dexter Patterson, who bring unique assets to the organization and seek to make the field of conservation stronger. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time on this board—past and present!

Per Madison Audubon's bylaws, these new members have been appointed by the board of directors and will be voted on by our membership during the next annual election in February.

NEW MADISON AUDUBON DONORS JANUARY-APRIL 2022

The amazing donors who contribute to Madison Audubon throughout the year make so much good possible. You can find the full list of donors who have contributed to Madison Audubon this year at madisonaudubon.org/2022-donors.



PREVENT BIRD-WINDOW COLLISIONS AT HOME

Hundreds of millions of birds die after hitting windows in the US each year—and almost half of those happen at houses. We often hear comments like: “I bought a house with a beautiful picture window, but I can’t stand all the birds that hit it,” or “How can I renovate my house to include more natural light, but not kill all sorts of birds?”

And more recently, “I didn’t know how many birds hit my windows until I started working from home during COVID.”

If any of the above are familiar, know that you are not alone. The good news is that there are solutions! Installing barriers, decals, or a DIY solutions can help birds recognize glass and avoid collisions. Explore what causes the problem and how you can solve it at home at madisonaudubon.org/prevent-collisions.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Beginning Birders: Birding Joy*

Date: Sat., Jun. 11, 9–11 AM

Location: Patrick Marsh Wildlife Area (Sun Prairie)

Led by: Dexter Patterson

Butterflies and Wildflowers

Date: Sat., Jun. 18, 10 AM–12 PM

Location: Pleasant Valley (Black Earth)

Led by: Madison Audubon, Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, and The Prairie Enthusiasts

Butterflies and Wildflowers

Date: Sat., Jun. 25, 10 AM–12 PM

Location: Cherokee Marsh (Madison)

Led by: Madison Audubon, Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Beginning Birders: Sunrise Birding

Date: Sat., Jul. 9, 6–7:30 AM

Location: Graber Pond (Middleton)

Led by: Kaitlin Svabek

Birding by Boat: Waubesa Wetlands

Date: Wed., Jul. 15, 9–11 AM

Location: Waubesa Wetlands State Natural Area (Oregon)

Led by: Becky Abel and Brenna Marsicek

Accessible Summer Birding*

Date: Sat., Jul. 16, 9–11 AM

Location: Cherokee Marsh (Madison)

Led by: Madison Audubon, Access Ability Wisconsin, and Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Schoeneberg Marsh & Erstad Prairie

Date: Wed., Jul. 20, 9:30–11:30 AM

Location: Erstad Prairie (Arlington)

Led by: Mark Martin, Sue Foote- Martin, and Graham Steinhauer

Dragonfly and Damselfly Ecology

Date: Sat., Jul. 23, 10 AM–12 PM

Location: Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary (Arlington)

Led by: Bob and Maggie Honig, Mark Martin, and Jim Otto

Goose Pond Prairies

Date: Sat., Jul. 30, 10 AM - 12 PM

Location: Madison Audubon's Goose Pond Sanctuary (Arlington)

Led by: Mark Martin, Sue Foote-Martin, and Graham Steinhauer

Beginning Birders: Cherokee Marsh South*

Date: Sat., Aug. 6, 9–10:30 AM

Location: Cherokee Marsh (Madison)

Led by: Anna Walther

Birding by Boat: Cherokee Marsh

Date: Sun., Aug. 7, 9–11 AM

Location: Cherokee Marsh (Madison)

Led by: Madison Audubon and the BIPOC Birding Club of Wisconsin

Plus, don't miss this hands-on Course:

ALL ABOUT HUMMINGBIRDS (3-part)

Join us for an exploration of these tiny, beautiful birds and learn how to attract them to your yard! Includes one online course, bird banding, and a garden tour.

Part 1: Wed., Sep. 7, 7-8:30 PM (Zoom)

Part 2: Sat., Sep. 10, 7:30 AM
(Whitewater)

Part 3: Sun., Sep. 11, 2 PM (Madison)

Taught by: Kathi and Michael Rock, Emily and Larry Scheunemann

* Outdoor wheelchair access is available.

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 _____

PHOTO CREDITS

P1: Yellow-rumped Warbler by Phil Brown

P2: Aldo Leopold by USFWS

P3: Arlene by Arlene Koziol | Dorothy by Neil Paprocki

P4: Madison by Sue Kaehler | Columbia by Monica Hall

P 5: Faville Grove Ledge by Galen Hasler

P6: Prairie plants by Emily Meier

P7: Stunned Tennessee Warbler by Hannah Sigg

P8: Education fun by Carolyn Byers / Madison Audubon

P10: Pat Clark and dog provided by Pat Clark

P 11: American Kestrel by Mick Thompson | Window art by FLAP Canada

P17: Black-capped Chickadee artwork by Brenna Marsicek

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We are a proud member of the following organizations:



Thank you to our major education program donors:



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