



madison  
**AUDUBON**  
society

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION: SPRING 2014

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## Forward Boldly: We took some *really* big steps in 2013

As 2013 came to a close, Madison Audubon capped off a big year with our favorite big step: protecting land. With the acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on about 14 acres at Faville Grove Sanctuary, MAS brought our holdings there to roughly 575 acres (see p. 2). The year also saw a sanctuary neighbor establish a permanent conservation easement on 153 adjacent acres through the federal Wetlands Reserve Program, bringing the total area protected at Faville Grove by Madison Audubon and our partners to over 1,000 acres.

The *first* really big step of the year was the hiring of the organization's first executive director, Gary Funk. With the addition of his many years of experience and full-time-plus efforts, the pace of activity in the Madison Audubon office took off. With Gary, our other staff and the board of directors working together closely, we quickly began ticking off accomplishments. Specifically, we:

- Established an annual work plan—and have actually been sticking to it. (Read on for the results!)
- Reorganized our office staff, with Karen Etter Hale now serving as partnerships facilitator and Taylor McCabe-Juhnke's internship increased to full time in the role of communications and outreach coordinator.
- Finalized a five-year strategic plan and detailed an ambitious conservation agenda. Revised our mission statement (bottom left) to sharpen our focus on habitat.
- Were selected for the Land Trust Excellence and Advancement Program sponsored by Gathering Waters Conservancy and the Land Trust Alliance. Assessed our adherence to LTA's Land Trust Standards and Practices and are working to reach full compliance with the guidelines and achieve accreditation as a land trust.



Pasqueflower (here and above):  
a favorite of early spring

- Hired two full-time professionals, Rebecca Ressler and Brianna Duran to expand our educational programs and reach new audiences.
- With the city of Waterloo, we hired Elyse Eastman as a full-time intern to staff the new Waterloo Regional Trailhead Facility at the Dr. J.S. Garman Nature Preserve.
- Launched our Conservation Scholars Program to recognize young people and educators who are making a difference in habitat protection and bird-related conservation.
- Strengthened our member communications, enabling us to reach an extended audience by: developing a first-class interactive website; expanding our social networking activity (we celebrated the milestone of reaching 1,000 "Likes" on Facebook this fall); and redesigning this newsletter.

- Moved our offices to accommodate expanded operations.

We did all of this in addition to maintaining our already-active programs of field trips, monthly membership meetings, bird mentoring, and summer internships in restoration ecology, as well as our advocacy efforts, Art Fair, Great Wisconsin Birdathon, Christmas Bird Counts, and of course, maintaining two spectacular wildlife sanctuaries with much help from many dedicated volunteers (see pp. 2-3).

We also closed the year with a tremendous show of support from you in response to our annual appeal (see pp. 6-7). Madison Audubon enters 2014 better funded, better staffed, and better organized than ever. Let's make the most of it!

  
**Roger Packard**, President  
rpackard@uvalumni.com

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Our mission is to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education and advocacy.



## The Year at Faville Grove

2013 was my first full calendar year working at Faville Grove Sanctuary. For me, spending the year immersed in the landscape was an experience that cannot be replicated or forgotten. Few opportunities develop a greater connection to an ecosystem than having each day's activities depend upon the weather and the phenological status of the local flora. I am grateful to have spent the past year working at Faville Grove.

I have always enjoyed the changes that come with each season, but after working here, spring became considerably more meaningful to me. I began working in May 2012, a time when it is easy to take the beauty of the prairie and all its inhabitants for granted. After a long winter, witnessing spring green-up and bird migration was a wonderful feeling.

Changes happen so gradually that we do not realize how quiet and desolate the winter habitat can feel in comparison. Then we hear the first big flock of migrating geese, the first bluebird checking out a birdhouse, and the first meadowlark calling. It is an incredible lift of spirit and a reminder of all the species that make the sights and sounds of the summer prairie a spectacular place to work (and visit).

It might be cruel to start talking about spring so soon, considering the brutal start to winter, but winter has its benefits too. The hustle and bustle of spring, summer, and fall leaves little time for reflection and exploration. Winter gives me the time to review the previous year's management practices and develop plans for the future. It is fitting that the New Year begins in this season.

Reviewing my field notes from the previous year, I would like to share some of my favorite memories from 2013:

- Hearing whip-poor-wills calling in the Lake Mills Ledge.
- Seeing the short-eared owls return to the Crawfish River floodplain (Martin, Tillotson, and Charles prairies) after a couple years without their presence.
- Watching a doe find her fawn out in the prairie to nurse.
- Discovering two new native species on the sanctuary—Prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*—a threatened species in Wisconsin) and grape honeysuckle (*Lonicera reticulata*).
- Confirming that Eastern Prairie White-Fringed Orchids (on the state endangered species list) are recovering on Snapper and Faville Prairie State Natural Areas after flooding and drought damaged the populations.
- Collecting 15 pounds of spiderwort seed in the north Lake Mills Ledge Uplands.
- Conducting our first-ever summer burn and watching the prairie recover with several species flowering late into September and October including spiderwort, compass plant, prairie dock, sawtooth sunflower, ironweed, rattlesnake master, and prairie blazing star.
- Collecting 139 native species with 48 individual volunteers and 354 volunteer hours (not including groups).

Matt Weber, Faville Grove land steward  
[faville@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:faville@madisonaudubon.org)



## ...and at Goose Pond

After drying out in June 2012, Goose Pond refilled with spring and summer runoff, providing ideal habitat for waterfowl and marsh birds. In fact, 3,000 American coots were present much of the fall. We also found fathead minnows only three months after water returned. Frogs and tiger salamanders also benefited from the return of water.

Uncommon birds sighted at Goose Pond Sanctuary included horned grebes, red-necked grebes, American white pelicans, peregrine falcons, American avocets, short-eared owls, and a snowy owl. A summer bat survey found high numbers of bats hunting moths over Goose Pond.

Four pairs of American kestrels at Goose Pond raised young. Kestrels greatly benefit from grassland habitat and nearby nest boxes for their use.

## Christmas Bird Count Results

Seventy-five species and 12,703 birds were found on the Poynette Christmas Bird Count coordinated by the Martins. Al and Gail Shea and Quentin Yoerger found a record of 60 species in their area that included the Wisconsin River and the Portage power plant. This was the most species that one party has found in the 114-year history of Christmas

MAS secured a Citizen-Based Monitoring Grant from the DNR to erect and monitor an additional 40 kestrel nest boxes in 2014. With volunteer assistance from William Damm, we completed the construction phase of the project. We are developing partnerships in Cookville, Beaver Dam, Blanchardville, and Columbia, Dane, and Iowa counties, where kestrel boxes will be installed and volunteers will assist with monitoring.

Volunteers and interns harvested prairie seed to plant a 4.5-acre restoration in the Browne Prairie tract, and for our partners to plant 18 acres at Patrick Marsh in Sun Prairie, 14 acres of parkland in the City of DeForest, 13 acres at Mud Lake State Wildlife Area (Columbia County), and 3 acres at Natural Heritage Land Trust's Westport Drumlin Prairie.

Bird Counts in Wisconsin. Counters found 19 species near Goose Pond Sanctuary including 46 ring-necked pheasants, a bald eagle, a short-eared owl, 40 Lapland longspurs, and 320 snow buntings.

Visit [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org) to view details of the local Christmas Bird Count results.

## Stay up to date with Madison Audubon

Want to be among the first to know when that snowy owl shows up at Goose Pond? Or learn about the latest MAS land acquisition? Want to receive timely reminders of upcoming field trips, monthly meetings, and other events? Summaries

of recent events and activities? Or do you just want to learn a bit about local birds each week on our *FeatheredFridayFeature*? Then "like" Madison Audubon at: [facebook.com/MadisonAudubon](https://facebook.com/MadisonAudubon) and receive the news directly to your newsfeed!



## Welcome, Tony!

We are pleased to announce that Tony Abate joined the Madison Audubon staff on Jan. 1 as Goose Pond Sanctuary land steward. Tony has been an intern at Goose Pond since late May, and he will assist Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin with prairie restoration, volunteer events, and field work.

Tony, a 2013 University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate, majored in Environmental Studies and Philosophy.

This new position is made possible by proceeds from our recently established Madison Audubon Society Endowment (see the next page.).



## Time to Start Rebuilding This Soil

Madison Audubon has acquired a perpetual conservation easement from the Burkhard Laas Survivors' Trust on about 14 acres of land adjacent to our Faville Grove Sanctuary.

The eroded farmland in the foreground (lower right) will be planted to prairie next fall to connect our sanctuary lands to Helga's Prairie, visible in the middle distance. Madison Audubon planted this prairie on the Laas farm in 2000 to protect the high-quality wetland beyond the first band of trees from erosion, and later named it in memory of Helga Laas.

The upcoming planting will further protect the wetland and provide additional contiguous habitat for grassland birds, waterfowl and other wildlife. These dry sandy soils near wetlands are particularly valuable nesting habitat for Blanding's turtles, a threatened species in Wisconsin.

Funding for the acquisition came from a grant provided under the federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act and private donations. Thanks to the Natural Heritage Land Trust for administering the NAWCA grant.



Join BOTH Madison Audubon  
and National Audubon

- New Membership  
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 \$25 Student Membership  
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Additional Gift to Madison Audubon  
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- Check to Madison Audubon  
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Please return this form to the  
address on p. 8  
or give online at  
[madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org)

Madison Audubon Society and National Audubon Society are tax-exempt, not-for-profit organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. When you join, you will receive subscriptions to both the Madison Audubon newsletter, published four times per year, and to AUDUBON magazine, published six times per year. (Please allow six to eight weeks to receive your first issue.) Your membership and gifts to Audubon are tax-deductible except for \$7.50 allocated to AUDUBON magazine for a one year membership.

## Spring Field Trips

Saturday, Mar. 8: 7 a.m.  
Lower Mud Lake Spring Migrants

Saturday, Mar. 22: 9 a.m.  
Rose Lake State Natural Area

Saturday, Mar. 29: 7:30 a.m.  
Beginning Birding at Picnic Point

Saturday, Mar. 29: 8 a.m.  
Spring Birds of Columbia County

Friday, April 11: 6:30 p.m.  
Evening at Cherokee Marsh

Sunday, April 13: 9 a.m.  
Spring Birding at Lake Farm Park

Saturday, April 19: 6 a.m.  
Birding Horicon Marsh

Saturday, April 19, 7:30 a.m.  
Beginning Birding at Picnic Point

Wednesday, April 16: 6:30 p.m.  
Evening at Turville Point

Friday, April 18: 6:30 p.m.  
Spring Evening at Goose Pond

Thursday, April 24: 6 a.m.  
Warbler Walk at Pheasant Branch

Saturday, April 26: 8 a.m.  
Baraboo Hills Birds and Wildflowers

Sunday, April 27: 9 a.m.  
Ice Age National Scientific Reserve

Tuesday, April 29: 6 a.m.  
Warbler Walk at UW Arboretum

## Monthly Field Trips:

Jefferson-Dodge Bird Walks  
Every third Saturday or Sunday

Cherokee Marsh Walk  
Every first Sunday: 1:30 p.m.



We have 122 field trips planned for 2014! Family-friendly field trips, easy trips and more challenging ones... Find one that's right for you!



Details at: [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org)  
or call 608.255.2473.

## The Inaugural Madison Audubon Legacy Society

Planned giving is vitally important to Madison Audubon and our ability to protect habitat and connect people to the outdoors for generations to come. Our newly established Madison Audubon Legacy Society recognizes and celebrates individuals

and families who have included Madison Audubon in their estate planning.

Thank you to the following founding members of the Madison Audubon Legacy Society for their philanthropic leadership:

Tom and Kathie Brock  
Curt and Arlys Caslavka  
Dorothy Haines  
Arnold Jackson  
Elsie Lapinski

Lu M. Kummerow  
Marcia MacKenzie  
Jill\* and Jerry Martin  
Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin  
\*Jill Martin passed away in 2009

David Musolf  
Roger Packard  
Don Schmidt  
Susan Slapnick  
Jim Shurts



*"It is a good feeling to know that my lifetime efforts will outlive me in the form of a compass plant building soil, making honey via the bees, feeding a goldfinch, giving rest to a monarch and shelter for a field mouse in winter."*

—Sue Slapnick

## Madison Audubon Society Endowment

The Madison Audubon Society Endowment was formally established in 2013 by the board of directors. The board also approved a set of endowment principles, as well as an investment and distribution policy. Although planned gifts will always be essential in endowment building, there are many benefits of major giving during your lifetime as well, including tax benefits and the knowledge that your gift will be put to work immediately.

Currently, the MAS Endowment includes five funds:

- Arnold Jackson Charitable Remainder Trust
- Lois Kitze Endowment Fund
- The Jerry and Jill Martin Goose Pond Land Acquisition Fund
- Jill Martin Wildlife Management Endowment Fund
- Mary Muckenhirn Endowment Fund

As of Dec. 31, 2013 these five funds had combined assets of \$1,089,472 and provided more than \$30,000 in disbursements during the last 12 months of our previous fiscal period.

For more information on gift options, including endowment gifts or planned gifts, please contact executive director Gary Funk at 608.255.2473  
[gfunk@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:gfunk@madisonaudubon.org)

## Lapinski-Kitze Prairie: A Tribute to Giving

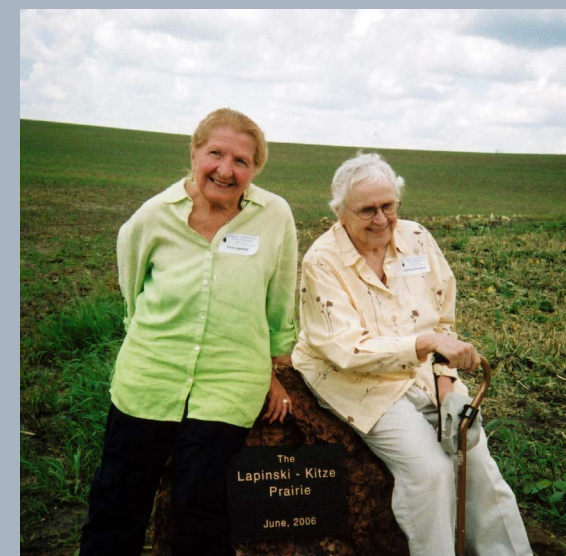
It was only natural that Elsie Lapinski and Lois Kitze Smithies, given their 50-year friendship, joined together to fund the purchase of a prairie. Both had distinguished science careers: Elsie as chief of microbiology at the VA Hospital, Lois as chief of virology at Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene. Both grew up in northern Wisconsin and spent their childhoods exploring the woods and waters near their homes. Inspired by the example of Sue Ames, who also funded an Audubon prairie, Elsie and Lois decided to protect a special habitat through a land purchase at Goose Pond Sanctuary. The Lapinski-Kitze prairie was dedicated in 2006.

About half of the 116-acre Lapinski-Kitze Prairie is planted to native grasses and forbs. Another 45 acres have shorter, nonnative, cool-season plants to attract nesting birds such as bobolinks and blue-winged teal. This planting also provides ideal habitat for northern harriers, rough-legged hawks, American kestrels, and short-eared owls that prefer hunting small mammals in short cover.

A one-acre wetland restoration is providing ideal habitat for breeding waterfowl and migrating

shorebirds. Plans are underway to begin planting a two-acre cover unit on the edge of the parcel in 2014. Part of the property was planted to corn for migrating waterfowl, winter songbirds, rabbits, and pheasants.

Managing and sustaining valuable natural habitat requires long-term resources, something both Elsie and Lois recognized. Prior to Lois' death in 2010, she made a planned gift to the Madison Audubon Society to support the ongoing maintenance of the Lapinski-Kitze Prairie. Today, the Lois Kitze Fund is a cornerstone of our new Madison Audubon Society Endowment, and annual distributions from the fund ensure that the killdeer,



Elsie and Lois enjoying the prairie named in their honor

sedge wrens, dickcissels, and dunlins have appropriate habitat.

Honoring the intent of donors like Lois and Elsie is the essence of the MAS Endowment. Guided by board-approved investment and distribution policies, the MAS Endowment secures a strong organizational future while ensuring that funds are utilized in accordance with donors' wishes.



One for the ages: a seedling bur oak in a Faville Grove prairie/savanna restoration

## Fiscal Year 2013 Financials

(18 months: 7/1/12-12/31/13)\*

FY '13 Revenue	FY '13 Expenses
\$509,088	\$481,438

### Statement of Assets (12/31/13)

Operations	\$95,024
Operational Reserve	\$100,000
Designated Funds	\$10,007
MAS Endowment	\$1,089,472
Fixed Assets	\$5,586,694
Liabilities	(\$22,401)
Net Assets	\$6,858,796

\*A final audit will be available by April 1, 2014. The 18 month budget is due to a transition in the Madison Audubon fiscal calendar.



Memorial Gifts

In Memory of Carole Brandt Scott Brandt
In Memory of Susan Connell-Magee Kevin Magee
In Memory of Harold & Hazel Cottington Tom Cottington
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Lois Lehmann
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Peggy Lemon
Roma Lenehan
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Cynthia Linnabary
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Mark McCabe-Juhnke
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Wini Meier-Oakes
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Bob & Sue Wallen
Matt Weber
Amy Weh
Georgia Weithe
Warren Werner
Kathleen Wessels
Jan Westemeier
Angela Wheaten
Alvin Whitaker
Eleanor White
John & Jane Whitney
Levi & Janet Wood
Honorary Gifts
In Honor of Benjamin Falkinham Harvey & Judith Sokolow
In Honor of Dave Fallow Margaret Skinner
In Honor of Karen & Jim Hale Curtis & Helen Mansfield
In Honor of Marcia MacKenzie Elizabeth Henrickson
In Honor of Mark Martin & Sue Foote-Martin Tim & Linda Eisele
Janet Flynn
Elizabeth Middleton
Gary & Penny Shackelford
Sandy Stark
Anonymous
In Honor of Paul Noeldner Barbara Jenkin
In Honor of David Musolf & Roger Packard Sarah Packard
Ed & Sil Pembleton
In honor of Nancy Rebolz John & Donna Sereda
In honor of Mary Young Anonymous
In Honor of Mary & Steve Young Mary Manering

Memorial Gifts (continued)

Mary Washburn
Nancy Washburn & Mark Spring
Sally & Ben Washburn
In Memory of Jim & Laura Tyndall Marilyn Meade
In Memory of Andrew Wallen Bob & Sue Wallen
In Memory of E. Weston & Jane H. Wood, their daughter Amy Wood & son Ken Wood Tom Wolfe & Pat Powers
In Memory of Ken Wood Helen Baldwin
Caroline Beckett & Frank Sandner
Tom & Kathie Brock
Curt & Arlys Caslavka
Glenda Denniston
John & Nancy Diekelmann
Stan & Jean Druckenmiller
Janet Flynn
Don & Paula Hanson
John & Cate Harrington
Tod Highsmith & Joan Braune
Sarah Hole
Kris & Tom Kesselhon
Dorothy Klinefelter
Sylvia Marek
Mark Martin & Sue Foote-Martin
David Musolf
Roger Packard
Patrick & Debra Ready
John Reindl
Max & Betty Rosenbaum
Jim & Rose Sime
Margaret Skinner
Gregory Tiedt
Cathy & Thaddeus Waskowski
Eleanor Anne White
John & Jane Whitney
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Ed & Sil Pembleton
In honor of Nancy Rebolz John & Donna Sereda
In honor of Mary Young Anonymous
In Honor of Mary & Steve Young Mary Manering

Many thanks to all contributors!



## Twittering Timberdoodles!

Join us Tues. April 15 for our annual meeting: a fun evening with fellow MAS members at the Lussier Family Heritage Center just south of Madison.

At 7 p.m. DNR biologist Andy Paulios will discuss the behavior and conservation of the American woodcock (timberdoodle). We will step outside in the fading light to observe the courtship flight of the woodcock, and finally return indoors for a reception and conversation.

Details at: [madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org)

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[madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org) · 608.255.2473

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## Public Programs at Capitol Lakes

333 West Main St.  
in Madison

7 p.m. Reception  
7:30 p.m. Program

Free Parking  
across the street

Optional dinners  
with the speakers

Details at:  
[madisonaudubon.org](http://madisonaudubon.org)

## Remembering a Lost Bird:

The Centennial of the Passenger Pigeon's Extinction  
**Feb. 18, 2014; First Floor Ballroom**

In 1914, the last surviving passenger pigeon died in a Cincinnati zoo after a calamitous 50-year decline from a population of billions as a result of uncontrolled market hunting and disruption of nesting colonies. On the centennial of this tragedy, Stan Temple, Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation at UW-Madison, will reflect on Wisconsin's rich history with the passenger pigeon and lessons we can learn concerning the world's ongoing extinction crisis and our relationship with other species.

## The Long Walk for Birds:

Walking Across Wisconsin for Bird Conservation  
**March 18, 2014; First Floor Ballroom**

Bill Mueller walked 246 miles across Wisconsin last spring with two goals: to raise funds for the Bird Protection Fund, and to raise awareness about bird conservation. Bill will share adventures from his "Long Walk for Birds," talk about the 158 bird species he recorded, and enlist your help for the 2014 Great Wisconsin Birdathon. Bill is director of the Western Great Lakes Bird & Bat Observatory, in Belgium, WI.