

madison AUDUBON society

NEWSLETTER OF THE MADISON AUDUBON SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION: SPRING 2015

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Hope for the Future

I don't know about you, but these days I seem to be on an endless quest for signs of hope for the future of the natural world that we know and love. Give us any sign of encouragement, please, to keep us fighting the good fight against what too often seem like insurmountable odds.

The primary source of encouragement that I see is the amazing resilience of life itself and of living systems. Consider this bit of recent news, for instance: Researchers in Tennessee reported on an experiment to test whether tiny golden-winged warblers can carry geolocators on their backs. The birds had just arrived on their breeding grounds last spring when they were fitted with transmitters. As it turned out, not only did the birds carry the devices, but they also anticipated by more than 24 hours the arrival of a storm that would spawn 84 confirmed tornadoes and kill at least 35 people. The plucky birds suddenly took off on an unscheduled, five-day, 1500-kilometer round-trip migration that took them out of harm's way. If global warming brings more frequent and intense storms, it seems that golden-wings have their emergency management plan in place.

Closer to home, we continue to see signs of natural resilience in response to Madison Audubon's habitat restoration efforts. Showing up more frequently at both sanctuaries are otherwise beleaguered birds that require large areas of open grassland or wetland, such as harriers, short-eared owls, bobolinks, and meadowlarks. Birds across the board are benefitting as well: Of eBird's top six birding hotspots (based on total number of species reported) in Jefferson county for 2014, five sites were protected or restored with help from Madison Audubon, including two sites in Faville Grove Sanctuary. And, of course, Goose Pond Sanctuary is perennially the number one birding hotspot in Columbia county. Even plants seem to pop up from nowhere when we create the right growing conditions for them: Witness the appearance this year of nodding wake-robin, great St. John's wort, and a new population of small white lady's-slippers at Faville Grove.

The second great source of hope is young people—those ever-impressionable kids and young adults. Get them outside and distract them from their electronic gadgets with all the sights, sounds, textures and smells of nature, and before long we'll have new environmental leaders and a citizenry that finally understands and appreciates the natural world. Over the past year, Madison Audubon has greatly expanded our youth education programs, reaching new and more diverse audiences in a variety of new ways. And we've done this while maintaining our unmatched field trip offerings, our public lecture series, and a summer internship program in restoration ecology that is easily one of the best outdoor experiences available to college students.

(See Hope for the Future, p. 2)



A short-eared owl at Faville Grove Sanctuary, December 2014.

Photo courtesy Daniel DeKeyser

madison
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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.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash	\$347,457
Accounts receivable	\$2,433
Prepaid expenses	\$1,128
Investments	\$783,906
Beneficial interest in remainder trust	\$205,131
Property & equipment (net)	\$4,912,398
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,279,453

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$5,456
Accrued expenses	\$34,539
Notes payable	\$66,446
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$106,441

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$5,209,553
Temporarily restricted	\$910,481
Permanently restricted	\$52,978
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$6,173,012

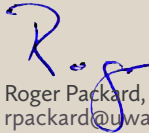
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$6,279,453
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Hope for the Future

(Continued from p. 1)

Habitat, education... That leaves advocacy as both the third leg of Madison Audubon's mission and the third best hope for saving the natural world from the worst of human excesses. This past year, we partnered with National Audubon to call attention to the threat to North American birds posed by human-induced climate change, what Madison Audubon is doing about it, and what more we must all do to address it.

Madison Audubon had a good and hopeful year in 2014. We're looking forward to an even better 2015—and way, way beyond. Thanks for your continuing support.


Roger Packard, president
rpackard@uwalumni.com

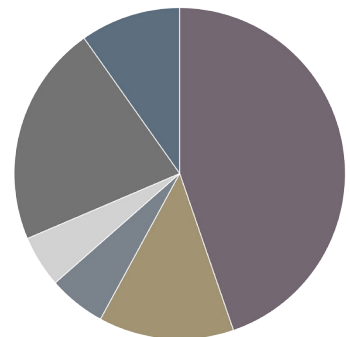


Fiscal Year 2014 Financials

INCOME

Contributions	\$198,645
Grants	\$58,669
Memberships	\$24,858
Special Events	\$22,428
Investments	\$95,925
Other	\$43,540
TOTAL INCOME	\$444,065

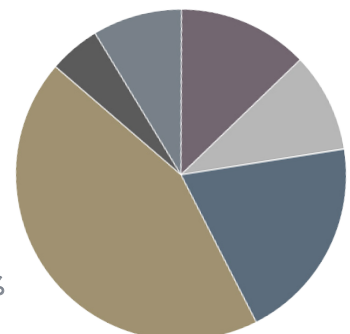
CONTRIBUTIONS - 45%
GRANTS - 13%
MEMBERSHIPS - 5%
SPECIAL EVENTS - 5%
INVESTMENTS - 22%
OTHER - 10%



EXPENSES

Administration	\$56,572
Fundraising	\$43,085
Education	\$88,652
Sanctuaries	\$194,714
Advocacy	\$22,207
Communications	\$38,888
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$444,118

ADMINISTRATION - 13%
FUNDRAISING - 9%
EDUCATION - 20%
SANCTUARIES - 44%
ADVOCACY - 5%
COMMUNICATIONS - 9%



ABOVE: Geese mark the turn of the seasons as they move over the landscape of Goose Pond Sanctuary
Photo by Arlene Koziol

*A final financial audit will be available by April 1, 2015

2014: A Stepping Stone for MAS Education Programs

In spring of 2014, Madison Audubon education programs took flight and expanded their reach to new communities through partnerships with local schools and organizations including AmeriCorps Partners for After School Success (PASS), Dane County Salvation Army Community Center, and Operation Fresh Start. With binoculars in hand, Madison Audubon educators and volunteers provided hands-on environmental education to 2,400 community members this past year.

The overall goal of our pilot programs was to promote observation, exploration, and discovery of the outdoors in order to increase enjoyment and appreciation of nature among youth. We quickly learned that while some kids felt at home outdoors, the majority of children approached field experiences with more trepidation. In urban areas in particular, getting your hands dirty and spending time in nature was not the norm.

Over time, kids began stepping out of their comfort zone. Before you knew it, students were face-to-face with a Wisconsin-native big brown bat and on their hands and knees searching the ground for bugs. The transformation was incredible! Before one of our programs at a local community center, a handful of kids could identify a robin or crow; after a bird identification scavenger hunt (where the kids used binoculars and our *Madison Audubon Bird Guides for Kids*) and a few rounds of Bird Call BINGO, the kids were set for a nature walk. Within minutes, one student eagerly told me that he could hear a cardinal song. Sure enough, another fledgling birder pointed out a cardinal pair and proudly informed me why the female was the duller brown. These were some of the many ways that children began connecting with nature through MAS programs in 2014. It is our hope that they will continue to grow their love of birds and wildlife and take the knowledge they gained to investigate the outdoors on their own.

All of us at MAS are excited to build upon the successes of 2014. We have several new programs in the works, including a pilot project for fourth and fifth graders at Lincoln Elementary School to learn about the impact of climate change on birds. We are also developing a high school Urban Naturalist enrichment program. Our after-school and summer programs at neighborhood centers will help elementary and middle school students focus on service learning with activities like citizen science bird counts, prairie plantings, and invasive species control. We are continuing our work with Operation Fresh Start to improve our Conservation Academy program, which enables disconnected young adults to experience expert presentations and gives them the opportunity to gain marketable, resume-building skills in the environmental field.

Make sure to mark your calendar for June 6 when we'll debut our Summer Trails Festival along the Capital City Trail near the Nine Springs E-Way. This event, in collab-

oration with Friends of Capital Springs Recreation Area and Dane County Parks, is the perfect way for your family to start up your summer's outdoor adventures. Activities will include guided bird walks for kids, meet-and-greets with birds and other animals, and nature exploration stations. Check our website frequently for updates on this new family-friendly event.

We're continuing our strong tradition of offering and co-sponsoring great outdoor education opportunities with our field trips, and this year we're highlighting 28 Signature Trips, with several new offerings. Some of these new outings were created especially with kids and families in mind, such as Winter World at UW Arboretum, Beginning Birding, and Owl Prowls. Of course all ages are welcome! Check the insert in your newsletter for detailed information.

Finally, a big thank you to Brianna Duran, our former Conservation Education Coordinator who helped create so many of our education programs. While Brianna now lives in New Zealand, her contributions to MAS live on and will continue to educate and advocate for bird conservation. Brianna recently shared that she sighted a new lifer: a black stilt.

Madison Audubon wishes to thank all our collaborators, participants, and volunteers for their part in making our programs a success! If you're interested in making a difference in the community, consider volunteering at one of our upcoming education programs!

Rebecca

Rebecca Ressler, education director
rressl@madisonaudubon.org

Madison Audubon Society's conservation education programming is made possible by a generous grant from the Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith Family Foundation. Additional program-specific support was provided by The Madison Community Foundation, The Fund for Children, The Evjue Foundation, and The Endres Manufacturing Company Foundation.



TOP: A student helps keep phenology records during our ongoing Climate Change & Birds program at Lincoln Elementary School.
Photo by Emily Meier

BELOW: Middle School students from Waterloo explore the Lake Mills Ledge at Faville Grove Sanctuary, where they learned about soils, geology, natural history, and, of course, birds.
Photo by Taylor McCabe-Juhnke



LEADERSHIP THROUGH LEGACY

Legacy gifts have played a vital role in our work to protect bird habitats and connect people to the outdoors.

Legacy Society member's planned gifts assure that this important work can continue for generations to come.

"As the resident managers of Goose Pond Sanctuary since 1979, we have witnessed firsthand the amazing accomplishments of this conservation organization. Our Legacy Society gift honors those who have come before us, and is our personal contribution to those who will come in the future."

- Sue Foote-Martin & Mark Martin

Contact executive director Matt Reetz at mreetz@madisonaudubon.org or (608) 255-2473 for more information on how to join our Legacy Society.



Notes from Faville Grove

Faville Grove Sanctuary is an intriguingly diverse array of ecological communities with countless opportunities for exploration - and restoration! From wetlands to high, rolling, recessional moraine, and lots in between, there is much to see, learn and experience.

Now a 15 year tradition, New Year's Day 2015 started off at Faville Grove with a sunrise walk across Faville Marsh, a largely intact northern wetland plant community created by the receding glacier some 12,000 years ago. Primarily a floating mat of sphagnum moss surrounded by open water, it is essentially inaccessible except during the coldest months. Even then the intrepid explorer must be on the lookout for soft spots where deep springs prevent the surface from freezing over. A small stand of tamarack is perched on the bog at its center, surrounded by dense patches of pinkish-grey leatherleaf, a member of the blueberry family. Here and there are scattered clumps of winterberry, which is Wisconsin's only native holly, the diminutive bog birch, steplebush spirea, poison sumac and willow. Cotton grass, marsh shield fern, wiregrass sedge, Canadian St. John's wort, great water dock, wool-grass, cattail and soft-stemmed bulrush, among other wetland species, are part of the bog's rich plant community. After many years of aggressively battling reed canary grass on the perimeter of the marsh, we are making significant gains knocking back that wetland scourge and replacing it with native vegetation.

The 12,000 year-old Faville Marsh is but a blink in the existence of the Lake Mills Ledge located at the western edge of the Crawfish River floodplain. Composed of 1.8 billion year-old metamorphic Waterloo quartzite, the ledge is the eastern-most exposure of the rock formation that makes up the Baraboo Range. In Precambrian times the outcropping was a monadnock, an isolated knob or ridge, rising high above the surrounding terrain. The extremely hard quartzite stood firm during subsequent millennia, including the most recent period of glaciation, that formed the landscape as we know

it today. The thin soil and rock outcroppings in the ledge support a savanna habitat of scattered open-grown hickories and bur and white oaks where Native Americans once set up their teepees while hunting the area. The unique ledge landscape, popular with visitors to Faville Grove, served as an outdoor classroom in the spring of 2014 when Madison Audubon introduced approximately 130 sixth- and eighth-grade students from Waterloo to the wonders of birding and to the sanctuary's geology, soils and its natural history.

Anchored by two prairie remnant state natural areas, Faville Grove's high diversity, local genotype-based prairie restorations range from wet to dry, providing excellent habitat for grassland birds (including harriers, bobolinks, dickcissels, eastern meadowlarks, short-eared owls, and several species of sparrows) and other wildlife. The success of our restorations is due in large part to our volunteers and to our summer interns. The 2014 internship program at Faville Grove supported four students, though it might be more accurate to say that they supported us! Two interns from UW-Madison, one from UW-Platteville and one from UW-Whitewater were a part of the team this summer. Much of the interns' work and learning about plants, ecology and restoration takes place in the prairies where they help us control a broad range of invasive species that would otherwise threaten the success of the plantings, conduct controlled burns, participate in our annual survey of the federally endangered Eastern prairie white-fringed orchid, and collect seed for our next restoration. Seed collecting in 2014 was a challenge due to the lack of adequate precipitation in July and August, which adversely affected seed production of many species. Rising to the challenge however, we ended the year, with the help of more than 60 volunteers and through our partnership with Jefferson County, by planting approximately 31.5 acres for an adjacent landowner who has permanently enrolled his land in the Wetland Reserve Program.



Fewer Buildings, More Prairie at Goose Pond Sanctuary

A new year means a new look for the facilities at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Visitors to the sanctuary will notice a clean, expansive look to the farmstead on Kampen Road, the home of the resident managers and the hub of operations for the sanctuary. Five dilapidated buildings, three unstable silos, and a concrete stockyard were demolished this winter at Goose Pond properties. In their place, we created a small visitor parking lot and planted two acres of prairie. Topsoil for the planting sites was taken from a small wetland basin south of Kampen Road. By removing sediment that had eroded into the basin from earlier farming operations, we restored a quarter-acre of wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife.

Grassland birds and human visitors alike will enjoy expanded views at the sanctuary with less evidence of the human hand. Besides the new and improved visage of the farmstead, 2014 provided countless opportunities for appreciation of south-central Wisconsin's incredible beauty and ecology. Some highlights of the year included the following:

- A whooping crane visited the sanctuary among a flock of sandhills during spring migration.
- Thanks largely to the eight kestrel nest boxes erected in the sanctuary, 27 American Kestrels fledged at Goose Pond this year. We look forward to observing their grasshopper hunts again in late summer. Thanks to Brand Smith for coordinating the kestrel box program.
- We located a large population of state-endangered Silphium borer moths at Goose Pond. The first caterpillars were found on the Wood Family Prairie, and are an exciting example of the undeniable importance of the restored habitats at MAS Sanctuaries.
- Volunteers once again monitored monarch butterfly populations, and tagged a record 367 individuals between late August and early October. As we savor the frigid temperatures of February in Wisconsin, it is encouraging to think that many of the tagged butterflies are enjoying winter at their migration grounds in Mexico. During the July 2 North American Butterfly Count, 19 species of butterflies were observed on Goose Pond Sanctuary properties.
- All four Wisconsin falcon species were sighted, including a gyrfalcon both in spring and winter, a new species for the Goose Pond bird checklist.
- MAS hired four summer interns as part of its prairie partner internship program, and two other interns were sponsored by UW-Platteville. Interns assisted with data collection regarding Silphium borer moths, invasive plant removal, and seed collecting. Interns also began the first year of a long-term vegetation survey on burned sites that

will allow MAS to monitor species diversity and richness for years to come. In addition to these accomplishments, the interns located two northern harrier nests in the sanctuary.

- Fifty people attended the August 10 Wood Family Prairie dedication to recognize the innumerable contributions of the Wood family to MAS and Goose Pond Sanctuary. The dedication included a hike through the 60-acre mesic restored prairie on a beautiful late-summer day.
- With the help of 10 volunteers, another five acres of prairie were planted within the Browne Prairie, with over 40 short-grass prairie species using local genotype seed.
- There were a record 27 field trips and events at Goose Pond in 2014 that reached over 630 people. Participants included students from seven schools and three classes from UW-Madison. Topics for the tours, talks, and trips included bird watching, monarch tagging, prairie restoration, and seed collecting.
- Last but not least, Goose Pond is once again the chosen landing site for snowy owls in another record-breaking irruption year. The owls provide a chance for hundreds of people to connect with nature by adding a snowy owl to their bird list. MAS is excited to collaborate locally with Project Snowstorm, an ongoing snowy owl research effort to gather data about these magnificent and mysterious birds.

Visit madisonaudubon.org/snowy-owls to find out more about owls near our Goose Pond Sanctuary and how you can get involved.



Snowy owl sunset at Goose Pond Sanctuary, December 2014. Photo by Lester Doyle

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 Blue Moon Restaurant

*Special thanks to our new
 Legacy Society Members*

John Aeschlimann
 Gary and Jana Funk
 Galen and Grace Hasler
 Jim and Marci Hess
 Harriet Irwin
 Topf Wells and Sally Probasco

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Glenn Forchione
 William Rudolph
In Honor of Gareth Green
 Katie Green
In Honor of Karen Etter Hale
 John Minnich
 Jim and Kathy Shurts
*In Honor of Aunt Mary Jenkin on
 her 100th birthday*
 Barbara Jenkin
In Honor of Carolyn Kammholz
 Dorothy and Warren Rebholz
*In Honor of Mark Martin and
 Sue Foote-Martin*
 Tim and Linda Eisele
 Charlie Luthin
 Sandy Stark
In Honor of Jerry Minnich
 Carla Wright
In Honor of Brand Smith
 Alliant Energy Foundation
In Honor of Robin Wagner
 Lisa Lepeak
In Honor of Nancy Washburn
 Luba Konowalskyj
In Honor of Topf Wells and his dog Rosie
 Kathleen Falk



Photo by Arlene Koziol

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UPCOMING PUBLIC PROGRAMS WITH MADISON AUDUBON

Annual Board Elections

Three members of the Madison Audubon board of directors have terms that expire in March 2015. The board of directors has unanimously nominated all three to stand for re-election.

BALLOT FOR BOARD ELECTION

Each Madison Audubon Society Member may vote for up to three candidates to serve three-year terms on the nine-member MAS board of directors. For family memberships, two members of the family may vote.

Please indicate your vote(s) by checking the boxes below, or vote on our website at: madisonaudubon.org/ballot

- Marcia MacKenzie
 Roger Packard
 Mareda Weiss

You may vote electronically or cut out this ballot and mail it to the Madison Audubon Society office:

1400 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE
SUITE 170
MADISON, WI 53703



Illustration by Brendan Wenzel

THE SAOLA & THE WILDLIFE EXTINCTION CRISIS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Join local scientist Bill Robichaud as he discusses a recently discovered, extremely rare ungulate and the extinction crisis occurring in its home region.

February 17 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
UW-Madison Union South - Room TBD day of event
1308 West Dayton Street | Madison, WI

ALL ABOUT THE WISCONSIN BREEDING BIRD ATLAS II

Bill Mueller and Mike Reese will discuss what is considered one of the most important projects for bird monitoring in Wisconsin in the coming decade. Find out how you can get involved in this project and help create the second edition of the Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas.

March 17 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Capitol Lakes Downstairs Auditorium
333 West Main Street | Madison, WI



ANNUAL MEETING: WITH GUEST BILL BERRY

Join us for our annual meeting with author Bill Berry. Berry will discuss his recent book, *Banning DDT: How Wisconsin Activists Led the Way*, which details how the citizens, scientists, reporters, and traditional conservationists of Wisconsin rallied to fight DDT.

April 21 | 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Lussier Family Heritage Center
3101 Lake Farm Road | Madison, WI

