

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION





Your love of birds can shape the future!

Remembering MAS in your will or estate plan honors a commitment to our natural world and provides support that will protect Wisconsin's amazing birds and share nature with our kids and grandkids forever. We invite you to become a part of our planned giving recognition group, the Legacy Society.

I here are many ways to create a legacy gift. Give Matt a call at (608) 210-1441 and we will help find the perfect solution for you. Learn more at: madisonaudubon.org/legacy-society

If you have already named MAS in your estate plans, we'd love to thank you and invite you to join the Legacy Society.

A special welcome to our newest Legacy Society members:

Barbara Constans and Deb Rohde Kate Gabriel and Fiona McTavish Bob and Peggy Ridgely

Facing the Light

We were up early to greet the New Year, the day beginning dark and cold as always, though not for long. We like to begin the year with a tangible reminder of two of the most important things in life—community and the great outdoors—and the annual sunrise field trip at Faville Grove Sanctuary provides just the reminder we need. But with both bulwarks to our wellbeing under sustained siege and prospects for the near future looking dark, the message was particularly welcome this year. And this year, with Faville Grove Sanctuary larger and more beautiful than ever and with more friends than ever, new and old. participating in the morning hike, the point came through stronger than ever.

Year after year, Madison Audubon works to build community and rebuild and preserve the great outdoors. You can count on it. No matter which way the political winds blow—and let's face it, the headwinds are gale-force these days—we'll work

together as a community of 2,800 members, hundreds of volunteers, six and one-half permanent staff members, and many student interns to restore the land, educate ourselves and the larger community, and stand firm against ill-conceived public policies and proposals that would undermine our good work.

As you will read in the following pages, 2016 was another banner year for Madison Audubon, both in direct accomplishments and in strengthening the organization itself to withstand the inevitable challenges we will face going forward. Together, we'll continue to look toward the light and build our community in 2017.

Thanks for your part in the effort.

Roger Packard, president rpackard@wwalumni.com



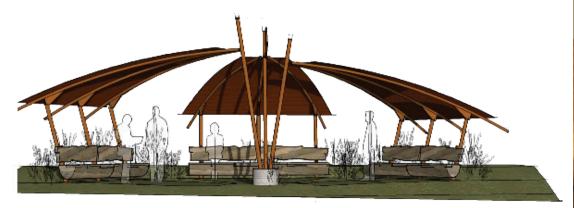
Announcing our New Endowment for Sanctuaries!

Thanks to your generosity, the board of directors was able to set aside seed money to establish the Madison Audubon Sanctuaries Fund, to be administered by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. As this endowment grows, it will help us fulfill our long-term

commitment to the maintenance, expansion, and enhancement of wildlife sanctuaries that so many native species call home. To learn more about the endowment, visit:

madisonaudubon.org/endowment

Wingspan: A Bird's-Eye View of Goose Pond



Goose Pond has a very

hearts... and we dedicate

the pavilion in honor of

Mark and Sue Martin for

their vision and dedication.

-John and Marlen Kaiser

special place in our

Goose Pond Sanctuary is a familiar place to many. A beloved birding hotspot. A restful oasis of prairie and wetlands. A setting for changing seasons, blooming landscapes, and bountiful wildlife.

This year, we seek to honor this special place, as well as the resident managers Mark Martin and Sue Foote-Martin who have worked for four decades to create an expansive, beautifully restored, and wildlife-rich sanctuary. And you can help!

Introducing Wingspan, an effort initiated by John and Marlen Kaiser who came to Madison Audubon with a vision: an observation pavilion set atop the rise on the Bicentennial Prairie overlooking the pond and surrounding habitats. Thanks to their generous matching donation,

the Kaisers have kick-started the funding process that will make the project possible.

A Look at Goose Pond

The Kaiser family has loved, enjoyed, and supported Goose Pond since the 1940s, and has watched it develop into what they describe as the "polished jewel" that so many people enjoy.

Today, Goose Pond is a haven for waterfowl, shorebirds, grassland birds, raptors, and more. But it didn't get that way by accident. It was achieved thanks to decades of countless of hours of effort. care, and dedication by Madison Audubon members and volunteers—particularly Mark and Sue.

Spreading Our Wings, Together

We are excited about making the *Wingspan* vision a reality with a dedication ceremony by Fall 2017. But there is much to do!

Don Schmidt of Custom Metals will fabricate and install the pavilion, a one-of-a-kind structure designed by Jim Gempler

of GMK Architecture. These in-kind gifts have gotten us off to a great start!

You can be part of this spectacular addition to Goose Pond. Thanks to the generous matching donation from the Kaiser family, your donation will be doubled! All donors giving \$250 and above will be recognized on a permanent plaque

on the site. Use the form to the right or go to madisonaudubon.org/wingspan to join with others to build something special that will welcome visitors for many generations to come.

Thank you for your help in making this project possible. Keep an eye out for updates on our website and Facebook page.

madisonaudubon.org/wingspan facebook.com/madisonaudubon





BECOME A WINGSPAN DONOR TODAY!

Help us reach \$50,000 to make Wingspan a reality! Thanks to John and Marlen Kaiser, all donations will be matched up to \$25,000.

Donors giving \$250 and above will be recognized on a permanent plaque on-site.

Gift amount: \$
Name(s)
Address
Email
Phone
Check to Madison Audubon enclosed
Pay by 🔲 Visa 🔲 MasterCard
Name on card
Card #
Expiration Date

Please return this form to the address on page 8, or donate online by visiting:

Three-digit code on card back

madisonaudubon.org/ wingspan

2d16: A YEAR

GOOSE POND SANCTUARY

FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM 2016



Maddie: Finding the nest of a northern harrier. The interns and I were surveying a prairie for silphium borer moths when we saw a female harrier rise up from the ground very near us. After some searching, we discovered a well-hidden nest with two young chicks. Seeing such powerful and beautiful young birds up close was an unforgettable experience!

Sue: The thrill of seeing both tundra and trumpeter swans together with their families on Goose Pond this fall was heartwarming and occupied my thoughts on many days. The sound of their calls as they took to the air for daily exercise flights often brought tears to my eyes!

Mark: Seeing a short-eared owl fly down Kampen Road at dusk on the Poynette Christmas Bird Count on New Year's Eve will rank as a special sighting.



GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2016

- Thanks to Heather Inzalaco's master's project, we found 51 species and 1,633 pairs of breeding birds at Goose Pond and the adjacent Manthe farm. For more information on breeding birds at Goose Pond, visit madisonaudubon.org/wildlife-surveys.
- Volunteers helped tag a record 801 monarchs at Goose Pond, and partners tagged an additional 166 monarchs in the area. Of the 651 monarchs tagged in 2015, seven were found at the Monarch Butterfly Preserve in Mexico last winter!
- Madison Audubon member, friend, and volunteer Sandy Stark made possible the paving of the Kampen Road residence driveway, creating a safer work environment for staff and volunteers.

• Construct a

GOALS FOR 2017



- Construct a pavilion on the Bicentennial Prairie south of Prairie Lane to provide an elevated view of the pond and surrounding landscape. This one-of-a-kind pavilion will offer a welcoming site for Goose Pond Sanctuary visitors starting fall of 2017. Learn more on page 3 ("Wingspan: A Bird's-Eye View of Goose Pond").
- Begin planning installation of a large rain garden at the Kampen Road residence to capture and hold surface runoff from our driveway and building rooftops, take up pollutants, and replace a weedy area with beautiful and hardy native wildflowers.
- Establish nursery beds with local genotypes of prairie violets, a mesic prairie species
 that is the host plant for the regal fritillary, a butterfly presently listed as a Federal
 Species of Concern and Endangered in Wisconsin. When enough prairie violets are
 present then we can reintroduce this beautiful prairie butterfly.



FAVILLE GROVE SANCTUARY

FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM 2016

Drew: Commandeering an old rowboat on the Laas pond with the interns to collect bounties of blue flag iris seed from the pond's edge.

David: The immense gratification of a five-inch snowfall on Dec. 4, covering and settling the native prairie seed that 45 volunteers the previous day had dispersed across 17 acres of eroded and worn-out agricultural land. Or perhaps observing in early March lots of digging in Buddy's Prairie, and later that month having a volunteer's trail camera confirm the presence of badgers.



GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2016

- We were honored to be awarded a grant through the North American Wetland Conservation Act (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) to help fund the acquisition of 96 acres of farmland, savanna, and high-quality wetland.
- With help from volunteers, we collected seeds from 214 native species, planted across 17 acres of open land and back-seeded in savanna, prairie, and woodland communities, to enhance habitat for birds, pollinators, and wildlife.
- We conducted prescribed burns on over 200 acres last spring.



GOALS FOR 2017

- Continue engaging volunteers and the local community in managing and enjoying the sanctuary, through year-round outdoor activities like brush cutting, monitoring, seed collecting, and field trips.
- Further expand our restorations and enhance diversity through robust seed collecting, especially targeting early blooming species.
- Document nesting of birds that have been seen regularly within the sanctuary in recent breeding seasons, including red-headed woodpeckers, northern harriers, and American kestrels.
- Celebrate the 20th anniversity of the establishment of Faville Grove Sanctuary.



2016: A YEAR IN

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2016

- We reached over 2,800 kids with our programming, and 97 percent of our programs were delivered to underserved kids.
- Our MicroExplorers program was especially successful—young kids used our dissecting microscopes to see the world in a whole new way!
- Our partnership with Lincoln Elementary grew by leaps and bounds. In the 2015-16 school year, five classrooms went through our Climate Change Curricula and earned class field trips.

GOALS FOR 2017

- Continue providing hands-on, interactive environmental education programming to classrooms and community centers supporting underserved families.
- Continue incorporating science, technology, engineering, art, math, and the great outdoors in our lessons.
- Welcome two education interns, Olivia Sanderfoot and Abe Lenoch, this spring and continue our intern program this summer and fall.

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMS



GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2016

- Citizen scientists tagged a MAS-record of monarch butterflies, which is part of the larger Monarch Watch program (learn more at monarchwatch.org).
- Citizen scientists also observed and maintained over 130 American kestrel nesting boxes, banded kestrel chicks, and collected kestrel feathers to submit for DNA extraction and analysis for kestrel migration ecology (learn more at peregrinefund.org/projects/american-kestrel).

GOALS FOR 2017

- Coordinate the Climate Watch program for our chapter area. The program, which runs in January and July, looks at how climate change is affecting bird habitat. Learn more at madisonaudubon.org/climate-watch-2017.
- Continue to find ways for more of our members to engage in citizen science work.

REVIEW, continued

MADISON AUDUBON OFFICE

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2016

- Thanks to the generosity of our members and grantors, we met our program goals and continued to build our long-term financial capacity.
- Hosted a successful field trip program that provided many opportunities to see and learn about birds, insects, native plants and more. We also enjoyed increased attendance as well as the chance to meet many Madison Audubon members.

GOALS FOR 2017

- Become a nationally accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation
 Council. Accreditation is awarded to conservation groups that meet national
 standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that conservation efforts
 are permanent.
- Our members are what makes Madison Audubon tick. We look forward to finding
 ways to get to know you better and provide unique and memorable opportunities to
 be engaged in our collective work.

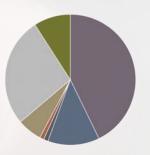
Fiscal Year 2016 Financials

A final financial audit will be available by April 1, 2017

INCOME

Contributions	\$329,368
Grants	98,356
Memberships	8,511
Special Events	7,920
Investments	46,978
Bequests*	208,446
Other [†]	69,929
TOTAL INCOME	\$769,508

CONTRIBUTIONS—43%
GRANTS—13%
MEMBERSHIPS—1%
SPECIAL EVENTS—1%
INVESTMENTS—6%
BEQUESTS—27%
OTHER—9%

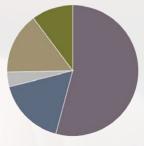


EXPENSES

Sanctuaries	\$246,730
Education	76,646
Advocacy	16,674
Administration	69,053
Fundraising	46,476

TOTAL EXPENSES \$455,580

SANCTUARIES—54%
EDUCATION—17%
ADVOCACY—4%
ADMINISTRATION—15%
FUNDRAISING—10%



*Per MAS financial practices, bequests are placed into long-term investments. †Includes land rent, government land programs, and merchandise sales.

GIVE TODAY!

Your generosity funds important conservation and education programs throughout south-central Wisconsin*

Yes, I'd like to support Madison Audubon, my local chapter!

Gift amount:
Name(s)
Address
Email
Check to Madison Audubon enclosed
Pay by Visa MasterCard
Name on card
Card #
Expiration Date

MEMBERSHIPS

Three-digit code on card back

I would like to find out more

If you are a member of both Madison and National Audubon (One Audubon), please renew at audubon.org/takeaction or call 1-844-428-3826. Thanks for your additional gift to Madison Audubon!

If you are a member of Madison Audubon only, your gift of \$20 or more will renew your membership for one year.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS ON PAGE 8, OR GIVE ONLINE AT madisonaudubon.org

*Madison Audubon serves Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Richland, Jefferson, Dodge, and Marquette counties.

Madison Audubon Society is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



The Chapter Spotlight is a new section of the MAS newsletter featuring an interesting, timely, and/or inspiring bird-related story from all corners of the Madison Audubon chapter boundaries. Do you have a story in mind for an upcoming newsletter? Email bmarsicek@madisonaudubon.org with information.

TOP: A Wisconsin rarity: Townsend's solitares at Devil's Lake State Park. Photo by Myles Hulburt | ABOVE: A ruffed grouse is a lovely sight in winter. Photo by Head Harbour Lightstation, Flickr Creative Commons

Chapter Spotlight: Townsend's Solitaires in Baraboo

Townsend's solitaires aren't your everyday Wisconsin bird. These medium-sized, pale gray, long, and slim songbirds are rarely ever seen in the dairy state... unless you're hanging out in the dead of winter on the East Bluff of Devil's Lake State Park, that is.

Aaron Holschbach, Wisconsin native, avid birder, and former resident of Baraboo, has a knack for finding Townsend's solitaires.

"The first Townsend's solitaire I saw at Devil's Lake was in 2001. I had previously seen solitaires in the mountains of the western U.S., so when I first saw one at the top of the bluffs at Devil's Lake I realized how much the surroundings looked like those where I had observed solitaires out west. I lived in Baraboo for the next three years which afforded me the opportunity to make numerous visits to Devil's Lake, with multiple solitaire sightings. On one occasion I even observed seven solitaires together in one tree at the top of the East Bluff, something I'd never expect to see in Wisconsin." - Aaron Holschbach



This bird species isn't noteable because it's particularly flashy or a keystone species in Wisconsin. Rather, it's very far from home! Cornell Lab of Ornithology's range map shows the winter range's most eastern extent is central Nebraska. Just one more reason to explore Devil's Lake this winter.

Christmas Bird Count 2016: MAS Chapter Results

For 117 years, birders have banded together to brave the cold, escape from the holiday madness, and count as many birds as possible in a day. Christmas Bird Count is a wrap for 2016, with 12 groups and 411 birders within Madison Audubon's chapter lines reporting data on nearly 100,000 individual birds in a two-week time frame. Congratulations CBC coordinators and volunteers for a great year! See the full results at madisonaudubon.org/news.

Location	Volunteers	Species	Birds	Rare finds (more online)
Baraboo	63	60	8,976	Townsend's solitaire, hooded merganser, eastern phoebe, wood duck
Clyde	14	54	4,268	Goldeneye, grackle, goshawk
Horicon Marsh	13	35	3,699	Not available
Madison	120	89	26,000+	Pine warbler, summer tanager
Mount Horeb	55	54	8,019	Sharp-shinned hawk, northern saw-whet owl, long-eared owl, fox sparrow
Pardeeville	27	56	9,953	Ruffed grouse, long-eared owl, white- crowned sparrow, gadwall, raven
Poynette	47	59	8,743	Peregrine falcon, northern pintail, belted kingfisher, great blue heron
Randolf	9	31	11,023	Brown thrasher, Eurasian collared dove
Richland Center	30	34	7,209	American pipit, Carolina wren, white- crowned sparrow, Lapland longspur
Waterloo	33	49	8,878	Wood duck, short-eared owl

Columbus and Sauk City data not available

VOTE FOR MADISON AUDUBON BOARD

Six highly qualified candidates have been nominated to fill six staggered terms on the Madison Audubon board of directors—three expiring terms and three new positions to expand the board to 12 members.

Candidate statements and ballots are available online. The Madison Audubon board recommends a vote for all six candidates, although members may vote for fewer candidates. Please vote to assure that we have the required quorum in the election.

Members, please return this ballot to the MAS office, or vote online at:

madisonaudubon.org/2017-board-ballot

Your name:				
	Vote for all candidates			
OR				
New	director candidates:			
	Pat Eagan Dave Rihn ohn Shillinglaw			
Con	tinuing director candidates:			
	Galen Hasler Danne Jones			
□ Jı	im Shurts			





ACTION ALERT!

Tell DOT: No Interstate Through Goose Pond Sanctuary

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is currently studying ways to relieve congestion in the I-39/90/94 corridor east and north of Madison. Three of the five options under consideration would severely affect Goose Pond Sanctuary.

The most destructive options involve construction of a new section of interstate highway running east of DeForest and Arlington, through Goose Pond Sanctuary at Ankenbrandt Prairie, and rejoining the existing interstate corridor near the Wisconsin River. In addition to destroying and fragmenting prairie habitat, including habitat for the endangered silphium borer moth and other threatened grassland species, the new highway would bring noise, light, air, and water pollution to the sanctuary, and would severely detract from public enjoyment of one of our area's premier birding hotspots.

While construction won't begin until 2025 or later, a decision on a preferred option is expected by this summer. We are hopeful, for a variety of economic, social, and environmental reasons, that DOT will elect to confine any capacity expansion to the existing interstate corridor rather than create a new roadway. Nonetheless, to assure this outcome, it is crucial that everyone who loves Goose Pond let DOT know that any new route through or near Goose Pond Sanctuary will pass through a minefield of public opposition. Let's bury them with public comments now. Please email the DOT project manager at robert.knorr@dot.wi.gov, and visit madisonaudubon.org/news for more information and updates.



Stay Active!

From all indications, we will need to call on all MAS members more frequently to engage in advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin's environment. This includes, most immediately, speaking up in opposition to the interstate issue described here and to an upcoming proposal from DNR to further undermine the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for land acquisition by imposing extremely restrictive project selection criteria.

Follow our Facebook page, visit the News section of the website, and watch your email for action alerts.

In addition, the MAS advocacy committee is looking for a few new, energetic members, so please contact info@madisonaudubon.org if you are interested in being considered for committee service!

LEFT: Christmas Bird Count Pardeeville volunteers search the landscape for birds to add to their tally. *Photo by Maddie Dumas*





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A special thank you to our Freauent Flvers!

Automatically recurring gifts are a wonderful and easy way to support Madison Audubon! To learn more about joining our Frequent Flyers club, visit madisonaudubon.org/take-action. Thank you to our Frequent Flyers, noted with FF in the donor list.

Madison Audubon Society 2016 Donors

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EVENINGS WITH AUDUBON SPRING 2017 SCHEDULE

PEREGRINES OF CHICAGO AND BEYOND: BACK FROM THE BRINK

MARY HENNEN, THE FIELD MUSEUM

Once on the Endangered Species List and extirpated in Illinois, the peregrine falcon population is now soaring past historic levels. Mary's presentation will take us through the monumental recovery of the peregrine. Co-hosted with the UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies.

FEBRUARY 21 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Wisconsin Institutes for Discoveries | 330 N. Orchard St. | Madison

ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF WISCONSIN'S REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS JEFF LORCH, USDA NATIONAL WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER

Wisconsin is home to over 55 species of reptiles and amphibians, and greater than half are species of greatest conservation need. Come learn about the fascinating life histories of these animals, their importance to healthy ecosystems, the threats they face, and what you can do to help them.

MARCH 21 | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Location TBD—Check the website for updates



SAVE THE DATE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT:

THE BIRDS OF CUBA
ERNESTO REYES, CUBAN BIRD PHOTOGRAPHER AND
TOUR GUIDE

Date and location TBD—Check the website for updates

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