



▶ Nest boxes



▶ Removing invasive species



▶ Citizen Science



▶ Educational opportunities

Photos clockwise from top left: Bluebird nest box made by Dave Gross; weed warriors John & Patty Trnka and Joyce Grier; field trip participants at Root River County Park; Yellow Warbler

In 2021, despite continuing pandemic fears, our volunteers found ways to keep working:

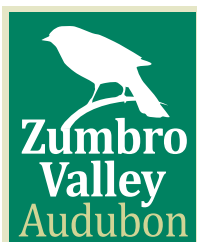
- Leading field trips & bird walks
- Conducting citizen science projects including our Big Birding Day, annual Butterfly Count & Christmas Bird Count
- Advocating for environmental causes
- Connecting via our website and Facebook sites
- Organizing monthly programs & booking speakers for Zoom presentations
- Collecting & sowing seed to restore native prairies and removing invasive plants
- Monitoring and making nest boxes
- Supporting other like-minded environmental groups
- Writing our eNewsletters & much more

In all they put in more than **1,200 hours** of their time and expertise – valued at more than **\$18,000!**

We can't thank them enough!



Jerry Pruett holds an **American Kestrel** chick that was just banded by Kirk Payne. This chick and its 4 siblings were found in one of the Barn Owl nest boxes that Jerry and Jim Peterson constructed and erected earlier. Maybe this year we'll get a Barn Owl family - but we're happy to help out the Kestrels, too!



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PO Box 6244
Rochester, MN 55903

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In 2021 a Great-horned Owl nest in a very public location in Rochester provided an opportunity to teach others about owl behavior and how to photograph them without stressing the birds. Happily both nestlings successfully fledged.

Photo by Sandy Hokanson

Connecting people with nature is more important than ever. Creating spaces where kids and adults can disconnect from digital devices and interact with prairies, woods and lakes is healing and calming for our minds and bodies. Saving and restoring our natural areas, while teaching others about them, is our primary focus.

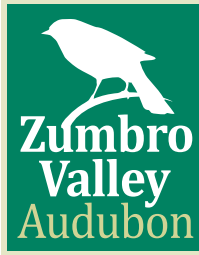
With your help we can bring our mission of environmental awareness, appreciation and advocacy to the community. Donate or learn how to volunteer at ZumbroValleyAudubon.org.



Above: Lance Vrieze (blue shirt) shared his expertise over free lunch hour walks during spring migration at Kutzky Park. He helped many novice birders find species that can only be seen in our area for a few weeks each year.



Right: free informational materials provided at the 2021 Olmsted County Fair.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

We are an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Your gifts are 100% deductible.

Dear Members,

Another year of delayed plans and projects due to the ongoing pandemic was not on anyone's wish list, but we did our best to persevere. In 2021 we hosted a reduced schedule of outdoor walks and used Zoom for monthly meetings. While Zoom does enable us to invite speakers from all over the world, we still prefer in-person meetings and we'll keep our hopes up for later in 2022.

We truly appreciate your donations and support! With your funds we can continue connecting people with nature via free educational programs, field trips and more. **Thank you!**

Joel Dunnette **President / Zumbro Valley Audubon**



Board members after visiting the threatened Great Blue Heron Rookery in southwest Rochester.

From left: Lance Vrieze, Terry Grier, Joyce Grier, Eric Matteson, Sandy Hokanson. Photo by John Molseid

Annual Report / January 1 - December 31, 2021

Programs, Field Trips & Citizen Science.

Technology came to the rescue in 2021, allowing us to continue our free monthly meetings online. We hosted expert speakers and learned more about the Owls of India, tracking birds in Guatemala, Bats, Crows, Bees, the hidden language of Yellow Warblers, and restoring native prairies.

Our outdoor activities were able to go forward and we held many bird walks, field trips, and surveys. We even joined forces with Quarry Hill Nature Center to host a smaller scale outdoor only Monarch tagging event for kids of all ages in August. It was evident to us that everyone was finding joy in being together outside. **We hope to continue and expand these events in 2022.**



Above: Two Great Blue Herons at the Rookery. Photo by Denise Dupras. Left: Monarch tagging event.

We continue to provide educational resources via online meetings, our free eNewsletter, Facebook, fliers, posters, bookmarks, educational handouts, trail signs and our web site at **ZumbroValleyAudubon.org.**

Accomplishments:

- We helped survey a hidden **Great Blue Heron Rookery** and provided support to the **SaveTheRookery.org** group.
- We supported a **MoSI Bird Tracking Station** in Guatemala which bolsters conservation efforts and tracks bird populations.
- Chicks in our **Kestrel nest boxes** were banded and **Barn Owl nest boxes** were monitored but no owls found in 2021.
- We hosted a **bird walk for Spanish speakers.**
- Our experts led many **walks, field trips & citizen science activities** while also introducing folks to local nature areas.
- Our volunteers worked to **restore native plantings and remove invasive species** at several area parks.
- We supported work on the new **Oxbow Park Nature Center.**

2021 Financial Overview

Income:

Annual Fund Drive (Feb.)	
& other donations	\$ 3,354
Audubon Dues	\$ 1,165
IBM Match	\$ 125
Give to the Max Day (Nov.)	\$ 956
Other Donations	\$ 1,591
Total	\$ 7,191

Expenditures:

Grants, sponsorships, outreach, etc.	\$ 4,935
Programs, speaker fees, publicity, website costs	\$ 1,751
Admin, insurance, PO Box, fundraising, printing costs	\$ 1,353
Total	\$ 8,039



61% went toward grants, sponsorships, outreach, and other related costs*

22% went to programs & education

17% went to admin costs

*Some examples include:
\$1,000 - Oxbow Nature Center
\$1,000 - WCS Guatemala Program
\$ 600 - Birdfood for local nature centers
\$ 500 - International Owl Center

Are you ready to do more?

- Would you like to join our volunteer teams and learn more about citizen science?
- Would you like to sit in on one of our board meetings to see what we do?
- Do you have a special project you'd like to bring to our attention?

We can always use extra help and thanks to your generous donations we have some funding available for new projects.

Send your ideas and requests to:

contactZVAS@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org.

Please consider a donation using the enclosed envelope or by visiting **giveMN.org** (click donate, type in **Zumbro Valley Audubon**). Your gifts allow us to do the things we do. **Thank you!**