



Clockwise from top left: Banding a Kestrel chick; learning about insects; visiting the International Crane Center; searching for migrating sparrows at the Kalmar Reservoir.

### In 2022 our volunteers:

- Organized monthly programs, booked speakers, planned outreach events & shared their knowledge.
- Led field trips and bird walks at local "hot spots" and further afield.
- Introduced people to citizen science projects like the Christmas Bird Count, the Butterfly Count, Swift Sits and Big Birding Day.
- Advocated for environmental causes.
- Managed our website and Facebook page to keep people informed.
- Took care of administrative tasks.
- Produced our eNewsletters & more.

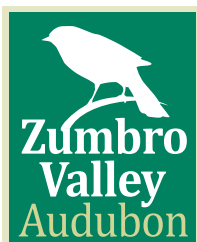
They gave more than **1,300 hours** of their time and expertise and **we can't thank them enough!**



Red-headed Woodpeckers by Terry Grifer

*"The earth is what we all have in common."*

*Wendell Berry*



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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Top: Birding field trip to the Rock Dell Wildlife Management Area.

Left: A Great Spangled Fritillary on clover.

Left: Searching for and recording butterfly species at Chester Woods.

### Science & Fun

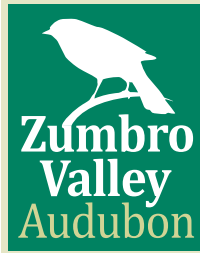
Connecting people with nature is our focus and we do that by offering no-pressure, free events where participants learn at their own pace.

**Your generous support will enable us to tackle bigger projects** in the future, host more varied learning opportunities, and provide grant money for special projects to like-minded environmental groups.

**Thank you** for being part of the solution!







CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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

Your gifts are 100% deductible.

## Dear Members,

In 2022 we hosted more field trips than ever before and helped people connect with nature in meaningful ways. And after two years of virtual programs, we began hosting in-person programs again. What a joy to be back together! Remote programs enable us to book expert speakers from outside Minnesota, so we'll likely continue using virtual programs during the winter when travel can be difficult.

**As we've said before, it's your support that makes what we do possible.** With your help we'll continue offering **free** educational programs, field trips and much more.

**Thank you!**

Joel Dunnette **President / Zumbro Valley Audubon**



Joel at Weaver Dunes



Joel at Whitewater State Park

Joel Dunnette has spent many years surveying, documenting and learning about native plants and the structure of prairies. Joel passes his knowledge on by taking small groups on field trips to these and other areas.

## Annual Report / January 1 - December 31, 2022

**A highlight of 2022** was bringing **Marcial Cordova**, (head bander and biologist at the MoSi station we sponsor in Guatemala) to Minnesota. He told us about the work being done there and how students are trained to assist in catching, banding and documenting specific birds. It's surprising how many birds we have in common and it's important that habitat is preserved both here in the U.S. and on their wintering grounds in Central America.

We also connected Marcial with researchers at Hawk Ridge with hopes of future joint raptor monitoring efforts.

**We hope you were able to attend some of our free programs** which included talks about the birds of Peru, how birds adapt to extreme cold, where Great Blue Herons spend the winter, how to create bird-safe windows,



Lance Vrieze and Marcial Cordova (from Guatemala) on a bird walk at Quarry Hill. ZVAS members helped Marcial add several "lifer" birds to his list during his visit here.

Cerulean Warblers, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. See our online calendar for 2023 program updates.

**Free guided field trips** were very popular and hundreds of people were introduced to new birding spots and learned from our experts.

## We kept busy!

- We worked with the Rochester Parks Dept. to **improve local birding areas**.
- Our **Kestrel nest boxes** continue to be used and several chicks were banded.
- We supported **infrastructure work** to create safer access at two popular birding spots in the Haverhill WMA.
- We led a "**Birding by Ear**" walk at Chester Woods to help people connect with birds on a deeper level.
- Our volunteers worked "overtime" to **restore native plantings and remove invasive species** at several area parks. (*These people are our heroes!*)
- Dozens of kids and adults gave a thumbs up at our **Bug Hunt** and **Monarch Tagging** events.
- We did in-person outreach at the **Owl Fest, Earthfest, Arbor Day, Olmsted County Fair** and other events.

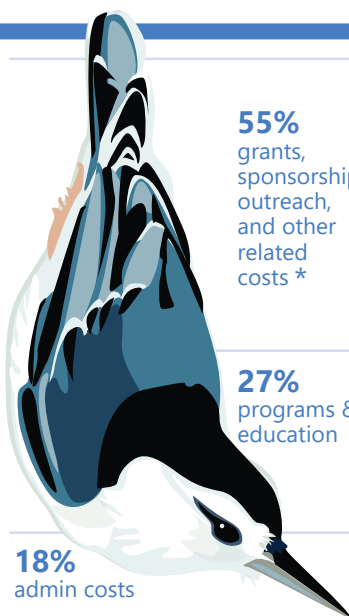
## 2022 Financial Overview

### Income:

Annual Fund Drive (Feb.) & other donations	\$ 4,018
Audubon Dues	\$ 350
IBM Match	\$ 175
Give to the Max Day (Nov.)	\$ 932
Other Donations	\$ 1,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,213</b>

### Expenditures:

Grants, sponsorships, outreach	\$ 2,666
Programs, speaker fees, publicity, website, education	\$ 1,294
Admin, insurance, PO Box, fundraising, printing	\$ 846
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,806</b>



**55%** grants, sponsorships, outreach, and other related costs \*

**27%** programs & education

**18%** admin costs

\*Examples include:

- \$ 500 International Owl Center
- \$ 500 Guatemala MoSi Program
- \$ 681 Bookmarks for outreach
- \$ 350 Wild Child Run & Audubon Adventures at QHNC
- \$ 250 Earthfest

## Ideas & volunteers needed:

- **Help lead** citizen science projects such as Bluebird monitoring, Butterfly Count, Big Birding Day, Bug Hunts, and more.
- **Attend a Board Meeting** to get a feel for what we do - or pitch a project of your own.
- **Learn how to advocate** for nature at the local, state and national level.

Ready to do more? Email us at: [contactZVAS@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org](mailto:contactZVAS@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org).

## Your donations mean everything to us!

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit [giveMN.org](http://giveMN.org) (click donate, type in Zumbro Valley Audubon). Your gifts allow us to continue doing the things we do. **Thank you!**