



Bird surveys



Prairie restoration & pollinator gardens



Butterfly counts



Citizen Science

We can do anything when we work together.

Photos clockwise from top left: Blackburnian Warbler; Liatris & Goldenrod; Ruthann Yaeger surveying butterflies; American Copper Butterfly.

2020 was challenging but our volunteers kept working. They masked up and went out alone or in very small groups to continue our work:

- Leading field trips & bird walks
- Conducting citizen science projects including our Big Birding Day, annual Butterfly Count & Christmas Bird Count
- Advocating for environmental causes
- Managing our website and Facebook sites
- Taking care of administrative tasks
- Organizing monthly programs & booking speakers (and learning how to use ZOOM!)
- Collecting & spreading seed to restore native prairies and removing invasive plants
- Monitoring and making nest boxes
- Writing our newsletters & much more

In all they put in more than **1,200 hours** of their time and expertise – valued at more than **\$12,000!**

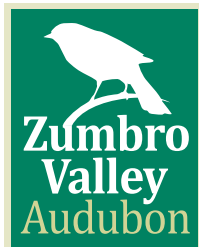
**We can't thank them enough!**



Terry & Joyce Grier spotting shorebirds and ducks at the Armstrong Wetlands near Rice Lake State Park.

*"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."*

*Albert Einstein*



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

PO Box 6244  
Rochester, MN 55903

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American Kestrel.

Each spring Kirk Payne monitors several Kestrel nest boxes and bands any chicks that are hatched.

**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](http://ZumbroValleyAudubon.org).



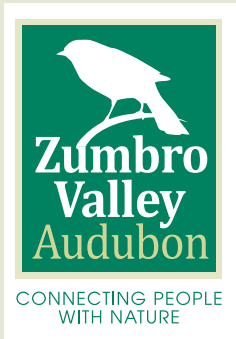
Free guided bird walks take place on the first Saturday of each month at Quarry Hill.

We provided a Spanish translation guide of common Minnesota birds at our first bird walk for Spanish speakers.



Follow Zumbro Valley Audubon on Facebook – like us!

[ZumbroValleyAudubon.org](http://ZumbroValleyAudubon.org)



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

**Your gifts are 100% deductible.**

## Dear Members,

In 2020 birds and wildlife of all kinds raised their families and searched for food, all to the delight of humankind, many of whom were witnessing these natural sights for the first time as they sheltered in place and sought peace outdoors. A silver lining to a challenging year perhaps – as more people now recognize the benefits of connecting with and protecting our fragile environment.

### Your donations are our largest source of funds.

With your support we can continue working to connect people with nature via free educational programs, field trips and much more.

### Thank you!

Joel Dunnette **President / Zumbro Valley Audubon**



There's a free nature show playing 24/7 outside your back door – you just have to get out there and notice.

Photo by Brendan Lanpher

## Annual Report / January 1 - December 31, 2020

### Programs, Field Trips & Citizen Science.

Several programs were canceled in 2020, but technology helped us continue meeting online. We were able to host expert speakers from farther afield and learned how vultures can help solve crimes, about Puffin research and winter finch irruptions.

Our field trips, kids' activities and bird walks were severely impacted by the virus and many were canceled – a serious blow to our mission of teaching people of all ages about the environment. To compensate, we ramped up our Facebook posts and increased our eNewsletters to twice per month – but online experiences are not the same as holding a live butterfly in your hand. **We hope 2021 brings us back together in-person again.**



Jim Peterson & Jerry Pruett getting ready to install a Barn Owl nest box.

**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 attended and supported the **International Festival of Owls**.
- Chicks hatched in several of our **Kestrel nest boxes** and were successfully banded by volunteers.
- We funded a request by members Jerry Pruett and Jim Peterson to construct **Barn Owl nesting boxes**.
- In September we hosted our first **bird walk for Spanish speakers**.
- **We provided funding** for other environmental groups in need.
- Our **Big Birding Day, Butterfly Count & Christmas Bird Count** were held with limited participants.
- Volunteers did **bird surveys** and worked to **restore native prairies and/or remove invasive species** at Quarry Hill, Chester Woods, Root River County Park & the new Prairie Crossings Park.

## 2020 Financial Overview

### Income:

Annual Fund Drive (Feb.) & other donations	\$ 2,540
Audubon Dues	\$ 1,065
IBM Match	\$ 175
Give to the Max Day (Nov.)	\$ 715
Other Donations	\$ 1,810
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,305</b>

### Expenditures:

Grants, sponsorships, signs, outreach, etc.	\$ 3,343
Programs, speaker fees, room rental, publicity, website	\$ 1,022
Admin, insurance, PO Box, fundraising, print costs	\$ 921
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,286</b>



**63%** went toward grants, sponsorships, outreach, signs, and other related costs\*

**20%** went to programs & education

**17%** went to admin costs

\*Examples include:  
\$500 - International Owl Center  
\$500 - MN Audubon  
\$600 - Birdfood for local nature centers

## Do you have a new project idea?

Are you thinking about building a Chimney Swift Tower, or how about an Osprey platform near one of our reservoirs? Maybe you'd like to create a pollinator garden in a public space. Thanks to your generous donations we have funding available for some 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 provide free programs and much more!

**Thank you!**