



DETROIT
AUDUBON



2022 Detroit Audubon Donor Impact Report

Letter from the Executive Director

While birds continue to be in steep decline, three billion lost in just 50 years, Detroit Audubon (DA) remains steadfast in our commitment to protect birds and the environment we share. Thanks to your support, 2022 marked a year of substantial growth for our organization. For the first time in more than 30 years, Detroit Audubon has an Executive Director.

I joined a team of two full time staff, while maintaining our research, conservation, and education initiatives. With two dedicated staff members and more than 100 volunteers, we increased our education and outreach across six counties by an impressive forty percent. As we continued to share our enthusiasm for birds it was important that we also prioritized habitat conservation and research. Although we are energized by the recent growth of our organization, we know that the work needed to protect birds requires ongoing attention and donor support.

According to the 2022 State of the Birds report, we know that decades of investment in protecting wetland habitat have seen significant gains in waterfowl populations. The solution to mitigating the grassland bird decline is no different. Grasslands need to be protected, and protection requires investment. The Detroit Bird City initiative demonstrates our ongoing commitment to protect habitat by restoring grasslands while engaging the surrounding Detroit communities. This successful and expanding initiative is dependent upon you, our members and donors, who share this commitment to birds and their environments.

As our sights are set on expanding our education and conservation initiatives, we need to rally everyone in our community to affect change. Just as the natural environment is home to all birds, it is also home to all people. The work to conserve birds and the environment is not mutually exclusive from the work for equity and justice. In 2022 we made intentional efforts to increase our presence and expand our partnerships and programming in communities underrepresented in the birding world. It is everyone's role to be a steward for natural habitats.

Bird conservation benefits everyone and we need everyone in the fight for birds. Your generosity sustains our work and enables us to lead the charge. Thank you for your partnership in DA's mission. Only together can we better protect birds and the environment we share.

Gretchen Abrams
Executive Director
Detroit Audubon



Mission Statement

The mission of Detroit Audubon is to foster appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share.

Vision Statement

Detroit Audubon will build a culture of community engagement, inclusion and inspiration that fosters respect and appreciation for birds, for each other and the environment in which we live.

Equity Diversity Inclusion and Belonging Statement

We strive for diverse representation, and promote engagement with all communities regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, gender, or age. We pledge to interact with communities where we work with sensitivity and openness not only about what we are doing, but with genuine openness to the needs and desires of people in those communities

83

Years of bird advocacy and conservation

6

Counties served in SE Michigan

1200+

Chapter members

3

Full-time staff

125

Volunteers

Community Outreach

Our focus in 2022 was to expand our partnerships and work to expand our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion(EDI) initiatives.

Our new local partnerships include Black to the Land Coalition, Detroit Outdoors, and InsideOut Detroit. Some of our new regional partners are BIPOC Birders of MI, Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, and the Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association. Additionally, Detroit Audubon forged partnerships as far afield as Michigan State University and Birds Canada.

Thanks to our donors, dedicated volunteers, and all of our partners, we were able to increase our programming by 40% in 2022. This 40% increase is reflected in 140 field trips and programs that

reached 4,860 people. To remain as accessible as possible, programs are open to members and non-members alike. We also offered 12 webinars that attracted 1,500 viewers.

Perhaps most telling of our vital role in the community are the 1,500 hours our 125 consistent and reliable volunteers donated to lead walks, work table events, pick up litter, and help us spread the word about Detroit Audubon.

While we work hard to foster new partnerships with other environmental organizations, we also make it a priority to attend neighborhood community meetings ensuring that our work is relevant and beneficial to the residents in whose communities we work.

2022: A Year of Expansion



Our Partners

Local

27 Letter Book
Arboretum Detroit
Belle Isle Nature Center
Black to the Land Coalition
Detroit City Parks and Recreation
Detroit Future City
Detroit Outdoors
Detroit Public Library
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
East Ferry Warren Community Association
Historic Elmwood Cemetery
Holliday Nature Preserve Association
InsideOut Detroit
Manistique Community Tree House Center
Outdoor Afro-Detroit
The Greening of Detroit
Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
Wayne State University
Woodbridge Neighborhood Development

Regional

BIPOC Birders of MI
Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
Detroit Zoological Society
Environmental Interpretive Center (UofM Dearborn)
Friends of Rouge Park
Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy
Grosse Pointe Audubon
Holliday Nature Preserve Association
Huron-Clinton Metroparks
Jackson Audubon
Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association
Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
Washtenaw Audubon
Wayne County Parks

...and Beyond

Audubon Great Lakes
Birds Canada
Grand Traverse Audubon Club
Michigan State University
University of Michigan SEAS
US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife



Conservation

In 2017, Detroit Audubon began its partnership with the Detroit Parks and Recreation and General Services Department to establish the Detroit Bird City project at Callahan Park on Detroit's east side. In five years, Detroit Audubon, with the support of its donors and partners, has transformed over 12 acres of underused park land and unused lots into vibrant natural spaces.

The first step in establishing a Detroit Bird City park is to engage with the surrounding community to learn their aspirations for their neighborhood park. Together, along with our partners from the city of Detroit, we plan which native plants would best restore underused park spaces into vibrant flower meadows that attract pollinators. Next comes the installation of signs, benches and pathways that welcome visitors to these new spaces, and finally, Detroit Audubon offers educational programming and conservation events in these revitalized parks. Each step of establishing a Detroit Bird City park is possible only through the support of donations and partnerships.

A Detroit Bird City meadow takes three years to

establish. Once established, these meadows require far less maintenance and dispel the need for chemical intervention that grass lawns often require. These meadows are natural habitats and aesthetic resources that also provide ecological functions such as pollination, stormwater capture, carbon sequestration as well as air and water pollution mitigation.

Easy access to natural spaces offers the surrounding community the opportunity to explore, learn, and enjoy a beautiful outdoor space without having to leave their neighborhood. With donor support, Detroit Audubon has been able to improve several Detroit City parks and thus the neighborhoods around these parks. Since its establishment, Detroit Bird City's Callahan Park has attracted over 110 species of birds, and some species such as Indigo Buntings are breeding at the park. With success like this, Detroit Audubon has every intention of expanding our Detroit Bird City program to include more parks, more Detroit residents, and more donors to make Detroit's green spaces welcoming not just to people, but to bird populations year round.

12 acres of meadows established to date

10 community organizations engaged

110 bird species identified

41 native plant species seeded

*"You can't solve any conservation problem if you don't address human relationships as well as human-land relationships."
— Aldo Leopold*



Research

2022: A Year of Progress for the Black Tern

St. Clair Flats State Wildlife Area and Wigwam Bay State Wildlife Area are home to the largest colonies of state threatened Black Terns in Michigan. Donor support allows us to continue monitoring and learning how to better support the population..

An exciting observation was that a platform Detroit Audubon placed near the Tern nest supported a nest of chicks after their original nest failed.

These observations and the increase in the tern population indicate that your support has us headed toward success with the threatened Black Tern population.

Donor support has also facilitated Detroit Audubon's partnership with Audubon Great Lakes, Michigan DNR, and Common Coast Research and Conservation to study Black Terns in Michigan to inform land management strategies to increase Black Tern nesting success.

The numbers are encouraging, but there is still a long way to go. Continued support from our partners and donors is vital. Together we can work toward rectifying a 10-year decrease in the Black Tern population.



8

nest cameras placed

31

birds banded

9

years of research

150

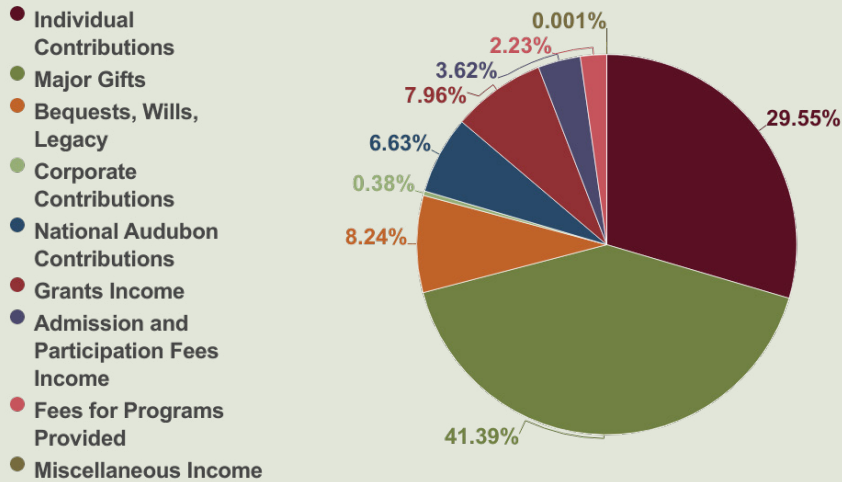
hours in the field

70

nests identified

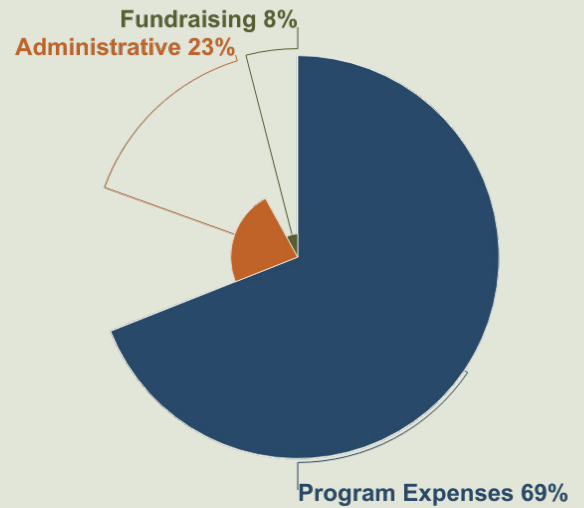
Financials & Administration

2022 Income



Please find the full financial report [here](#).

2022 Expenses



Board of Directors

Rochelle Breitenbach, President
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 Sharon Crockett, Secretary
 Evan Deutsch
 Patrick Filbin
 Amy Greene
 Rosann Kovalcik, Treasurer
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 Sara Sirivansan
 Jack Smiley
 Jeremiah Steen
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 Colleen Sturm
 Carla VanKampen

Staff

Gretchen Abrams, Executive Director
 Ava Landgraf, Conservation and Research Coordinator
 Brittany Leick, Program Coordinator and Office Administrator
 Kathy Garrett, Member and Donor Relations Assistant



Donors

Thanks to Donors like you, 2022 was a year of growth!

As our organization grows, so do our ambitions.

In 2023, plans are underway to expand the meadow movement. Word has gotten out about our Detroit Bird City initiative. We have 40 more acres of City parks planned to create bird meadows this year and more than a dozen residents who want to do the same with their own property. We plan to expand our safe passage initiatives with a Lights Out campaign and continued education about window collision prevention. As with all of our programs, our first step is to engage community members to share knowledge about the dangers of light pollution and window collisions to bird populations. Partnerships with organizations with similar goals, such as Wayne State University and the Detroit Zoological Society are vital.

We are looking forward to even more field trips in the coming year, and are already at work fostering new partnerships. The increase in the Black Tern population has us thinking of even more ways to keep this momentum going. But we need you.

With only two full time staff in 2022, what we accomplished at Detroit Audubon with volunteers and partners is remarkable. We do this work because we share your passion for our natural communities. The need for environmental activism to halt the destruction of natural habitats has never been greater. This is our work. We are proud to be a part of the solution. However, this work cannot happen without donor support. When you support Detroit Audubon, you support the restoration of habitat, the fostering of relationships with the natural world, and the preservation of birds. Birds tell us. Birds tell us where we are and where we are headed. Your support to Detroit Audubon points us all in the right direction - the direction toward sustainability and vibrant communities.

Legacy Donation:

Help us continue our 80+ year legacy of protecting birds by making a planned gift to Detroit Audubon today. Contact Executive Director, Gretchen Abrams at detroitauduboned@gmail.com to learn more.

Recurring Donation:

A convenient and easy way to support Detroit Audubon is to make an automatic monthly recurring

donation using your credit card. To make a recurring donation, visit our website: <https://www.detroitaudubon.org/get-involved/donate/>

To donate by check, make a check payable to Detroit Audubon and mail it to:

Detroit Audubon
4840 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit, MI 48207

Please help us spread the word about the work we do by liking us on Facebook, Instagram, and inviting friends and family to subscribe to our e-newsletter. Those interested in receiving the e-newsletter can email their request to kathy.das313@gmail.com.

\$10,000 supports one year's worth of Black Tern research

\$5,000 supports the restoration of one acre of underutilized park land and the transformation of unused lots into bird habitat

\$1,500 supports the purchase and installation of a bench in Detroit Bird City Parks

\$500 supports the building and installation of three artificial nesting platforms

\$150 supports one pair of binoculars for sharing

Donations to our general fund allow us to allocate your support where the need is greatest.

Detroit Audubon 2022 Donors

Thank you to our many donors! We could not do our work without you!

659 people donate \$30 and up annually

\$100 and up

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Allen Salyer
Allison Harris
Amy Rust Higgins
Andy Levin
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Anne Jordanek
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\$1,000 and up

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Mary Moix and Eugene Knaff
Natalie and Brian Campbell
Robert and Catherine Anthony

\$5,000 and up

Barbara Widdis
Drew and Karen Peslar
Margaret Steiner
National Audubon

\$10,000 and up

Detroit Zoological Society
Robert Roney
Weyerhaeuser Day Foundation

\$20,000 and up

Evelyn Fisher

In-Kind Donations

Jerry Jung and family donated the use of heavy equipment and operator services to prepare parks for the Detroit Bird City project.

Detroit Zoological Society lent 8 nest cameras for monitoring Black Tern nests.

US Fish and Wildlife Service donated all the native wildflower and grass seeds for seeding parks for the Detroit Bird City Project.

Thank you to our volunteers for their donation of time and expertise.

Image credits:

Jim Bull, Wood duck family
Jim Mahon, Black-throated Warbler
Jim Mahon, Kirtland's Warbler
Evan Deutsch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Jim Mahon, Sandhill Crane and Colt
Diana Whiting, Black Tern

