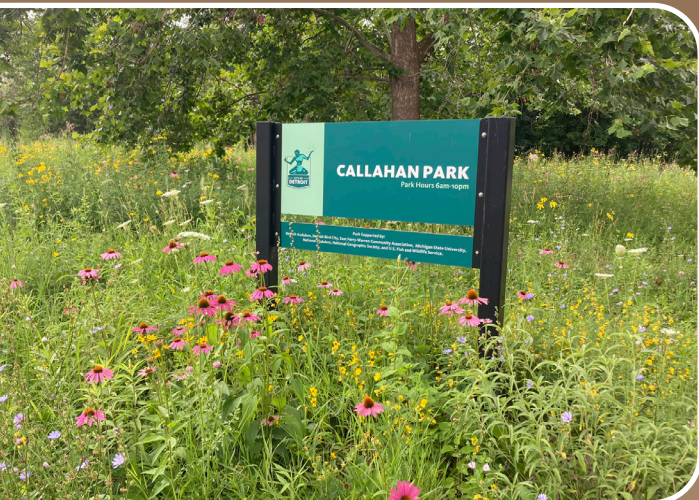
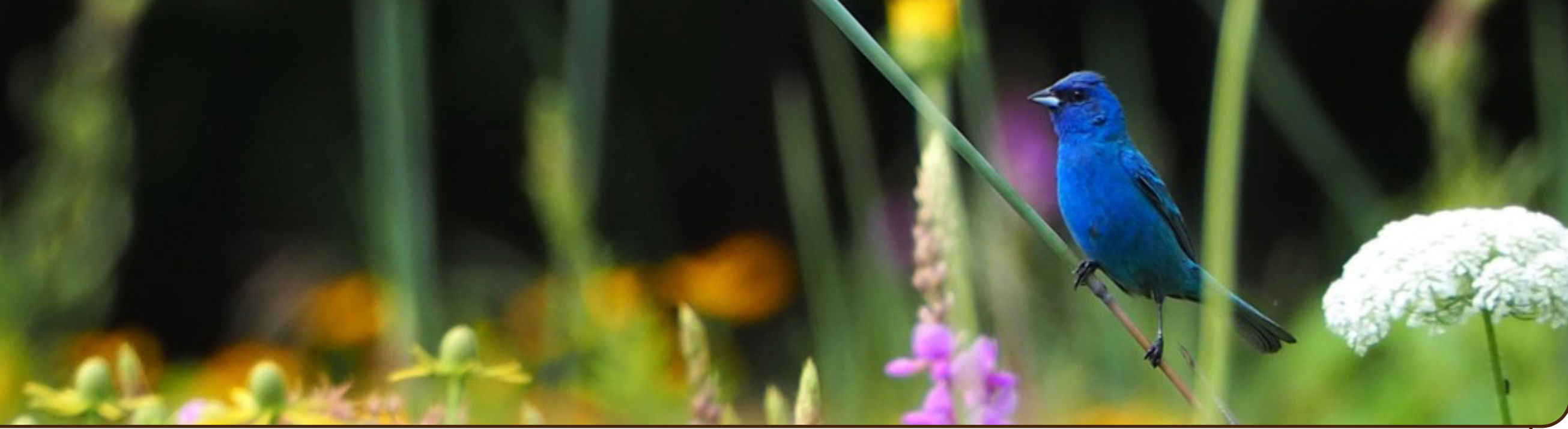




2023 A Year in Review


DETROIT BIRD
ALLIANCE





2023 was a year of historic change. After 84 years as Detroit Audubon, we made the decision to change our name to Detroit Bird Alliance. We are now one of more than 20 National Audubon affiliated chapters across the country that have become part of an alliance. The work to conserve birds and the environment must include the work for equity and justice. Changing our name demonstrates our commitment to include everyone in the march toward a sustainable future for birds.

In 2023, thanks to your support, we expanded our programming to welcome communities underrepresented in the birding world. We brought programs, bird talks, and bird walks to more Detroit public schools and libraries. We welcomed six new board members, each bringing fresh energy and perspective to our organization. We adopted a new look with a new logo, and this year, we'll launch a new website.

While these changes are significant, our mission remains the same: to foster the appreciation and conservation of birds and the environment we share. This conservation work is ambitious, ongoing, and demanding, and we cannot continue working toward our mission without you. Our ability to change and grow is only because of you, our donors and members. Thank you for your support! Together we can continue to make an important difference.

With Gratitude,
Gretchen Abrams
Executive Director

***“Conservation is a state of harmony between
men and land.” - Aldo Leopold***

2023 Impact at a Glance



84
years of bird
advocacy and
conservation

11
years of Great Lakes
Black Tern colony
monitoring

30
acres of total bird
habitat restored

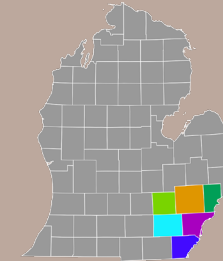


6000+
members

3.5
full time staff

18
Members of the Board of
Directors

40+
partner organizations



6
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125
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Your support helps focus our work in conservation, education, and research

Conservation: Three areas of focus

Habitat Restoration and Land Conservation

Detroit Bird Alliance (DBA) began its partnership with the Detroit Parks and Recreation Department to establish the Detroit Bird City (DBC) project at Callahan Park on Detroit's east side in 2017. In five years, Detroit Bird Alliance, with the support of donors like you, Michigan State University, and US Fish and Wildlife, transformed underused park land into vibrant greenspaces benefitting people, the planet, and birds.

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We have plans to expand the DBC program to include more parks, more residents, and more land in 2024. A growing urban meadow movement and the increasing demand for urban land conservation from both residents and business owners, has us setting our sights on expanding our habitat conservation initiatives beyond Detroit Bird City Parks. Callahan Park, with only four acres of native meadow and more than 100 bird species identified there, has perfectly illustrated that "if you build it they will come." Your generosity sustains our work and has enabled us to lead the charge. Only together can we better protect birds and the environment we share by restoring vital habitat.

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native plant
species seeded



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bird species identified



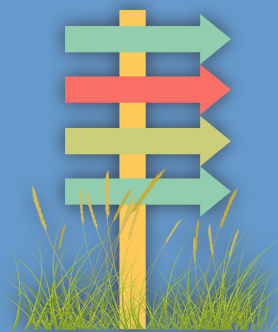
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preventing bird window
collisions



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acres of meadows established by end of
summer 2024



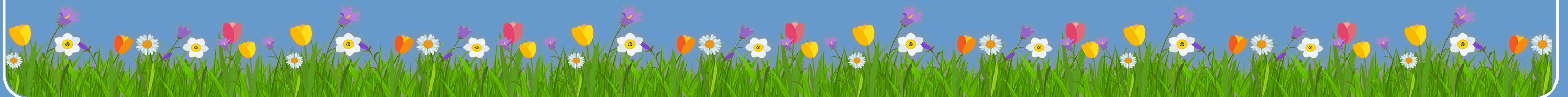
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acres of meadows in total by the
end of 2025



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City of Detroit Parks with bird
meadows



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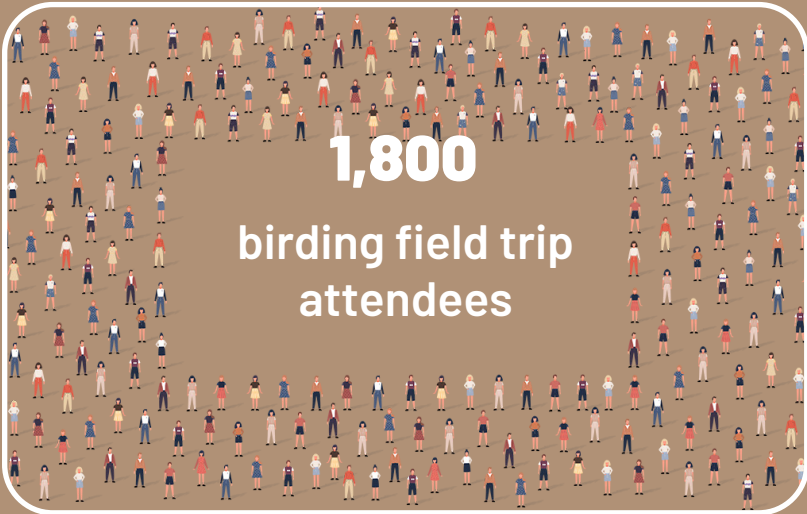
In the ongoing effort to diversify our membership and expand our reach, we offered all new programs that provided new ways for new audiences to access birding. In addition to designing programming for hearing impaired students, we offered a bus tour, a boat cruise, a movie night, and bird themed trivia nights. We are excited to have new bird advocates join our mission. We are grateful to our members and donors for embracing these new programs.

Advocacy

While we work hard to advocate for birds and the environment here at home, we know the work must be done on a national and hemispheric level. We remain affiliated with National Audubon to increase our impact. We depend on their resources to stay on top of legislation impacting birds and the environment at the national and state level. Look for action alerts in emails and on social media to stay connected with the latest ways to help make change happen for good at the federal, state, and local levels.



Your support for Detroit Bird Alliance funds **EDUCATION** efforts throughout SE Michigan



Research: Three major projects

Black Tern Colony Monitoring

We continue to support the work of Audubon Great Lakes and the Michigan DNR by supporting the research of nesting colonies of the threatened Black Tern in the St. Clair Flats (Black Tern hatchling at the St. Clair Flats pictured right).

Our work in 2023 provided more insight into the effectiveness of artificial nesting platforms to support Black Terns. The ongoing use of trail cameras loaned to us by the Detroit Zoological Society allows us to closely monitor the nests with very little disturbance to the birds. Thanks to the use of these cameras, we were thrilled to observe Black Terns and Forster's Terns nesting on top of the canvas and foam platforms. Again, thanks to your support, we are excited to take this information and continue experimenting with 20 new platforms in 2024.

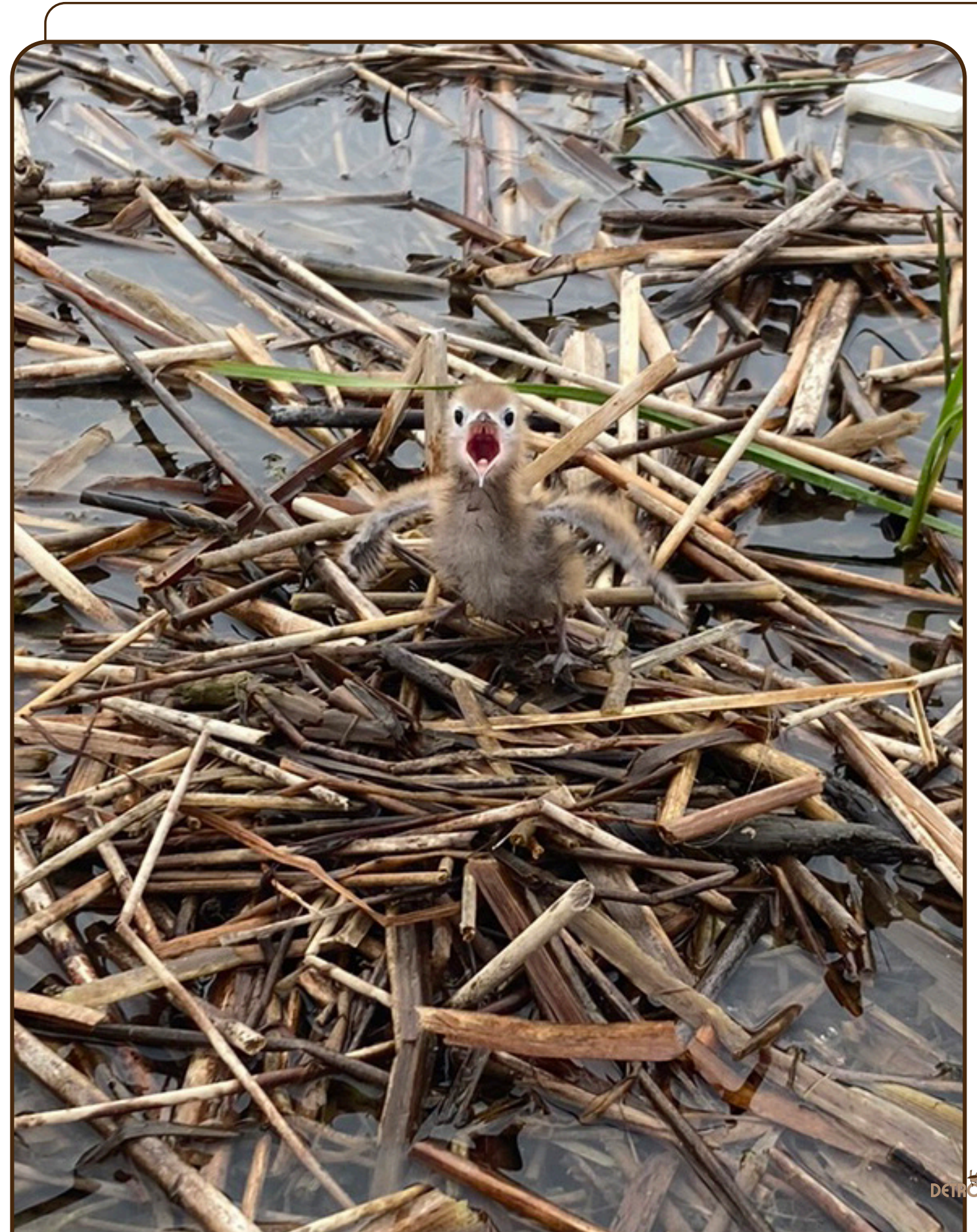
Winter Waterfowl Counts

Detroit Bird Alliance has been partnering with Birds Canada on the Lower Detroit River Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) Waterbird Surveys (or what we call our Winter Waterfowl Counts) since 2016. The IBA Program is an international initiative to identify, monitor, and conserve the world's most important sites for birds and biodiversity.

The Great Lakes Region hosts the overwintering habitat for a variety of waterfowl not normally seen here in the summer. Many of these arctic and boreal-breeding ducks depend on the Detroit River for food when northern bodies of water are frozen over. Staff and volunteers count species such as Canvasbacks, Common Mergansers, and Buffleheads which can number in the thousands! In 2024 we are expanding the survey efforts farther south along the Detroit River. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering to participate in this important work.

Community Science

We also support research through community science programs. Through our outreach, we encourage individuals, classrooms, and community groups to contribute to national and global research through community science projects like: The Great Backyard Bird Count, The Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and birdmapper.org. You can learn more about each of these research efforts on our website at detroitbirdalliance.org.



Your support for Detroit Bird Alliance funds **RESEARCH** efforts throughout SE Michigan



Do just **1** thing

\$30

buys a **1**-year membership for a friend

\$500

supports the purchase of **1** scope and stand

\$2,500

underwrites **1** Detroit Bird Alliance annual conference

\$10,000

supports the purchase of unused city land for conservation

\$100

supports the purchase of **1** classroom kit

\$1,000

pays for **1** Detroit Bird City interpretive sign

\$5,000

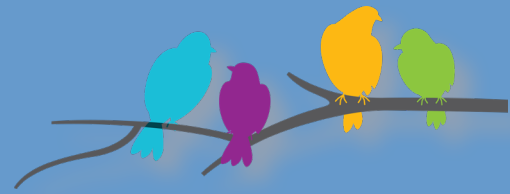
restores **1** acre of city park to bird habitat

\$20,000

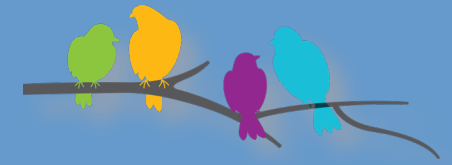
supports **1** year of publishing, printing, and mailing our membership magazine

\$250

underwrites **1** Trivia Night



Birds of a Feather Flock Together



Local

Arboretum Detroit
 Belle Isle Nature Center
 Black to the Land Coalition
 Brewery Faisan
 City of Livonia, Greenmead
 Detroit City Parks and Recreation Department
 Detroit Future City
 Detroit Outdoors
 Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
 Detroit Public Library
 Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
 DNR Outdoor Adventure Center
 East Ferry Warren Community Association
 Historic Elmwood Cemetery
 Holliday Nature Preserve Association
 INNOVATE 313
 InsideOut Literary Arts Detroit
 Manistique Community Tree House Center
 Outdoor Afro-Detroit
 Sidewalk Detroit
 The Greening of Detroit
 Urban neighborhood Initiatives
 Wayne State University
 Wild Indigo
 Woodbridge Neighborhood Development

Regional

BIPOC Birders of MI
 Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
 Detroit Zoological Society
 U of M Dearborn-Environmental Interpretive Center
 Friends of Rouge Park
 Friends of the Rouge
 Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy
 Grosse Pointe Audubon
 Holliday Nature Preserve Association
 Huron-Clinton Metroparks
 Jackson Audubon
 Michigan Bluebird Society
 Sierra Club-Southeast Michigan Group
 Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association
 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
 Washtenaw Audubon
 Wayne County Parks
 Wayne County Community School District to Regional
 Wild Birds Unlimited

... and Beyond

Audubon Great Lakes
 Birds Canada
 Grand Traverse Audubon Club
 Grand Traverse Bike Tours
 MI Birds
 MI DNR
 Michigan State University
 National Wildlife Federation
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of Michigan SEAS
 US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife
 Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



Donor Support

If your business or business you know is interested in sponsoring our conservation, research, or outreach initiatives, please visit detroitbirdalliance.org/sponsorship-packages. Contact Executive Director Gretchen Abrams (313) 588 1015 for more information.

Legacy Donation

Help us continue our 85 year legacy of protecting birds by making a planned gift to Detroit Bird Alliance today.

Corporate Sponsors

If your business or a business you know is interested in sponsoring our conservation, research, or outreach initiatives, to help reduce the cost to members, to demonstrate the business support of our mission to our members, please visit our website for details. Contact Executive Director, Gretchen Abrams at (313) 588-1015 to learn more. Visit our website: detroitbirdalliance.org/sponsorship-packages

Volunteer Board of Directors

Diane Cheklich, President, Conservation Committee Chair

Meredith Meyer, Vice President, Safe Flight And Finance Committee Chair

Colleen Sturm, Treasurer, Fundraising Committee Chair

Carla VanKampen, Secretary

Rochelle Breitenbach, Past President

Jim Bull

Sharon Crockett

Evan Deutsch

Patrick Filbin

Amy Greene

Rosann Kovalcik

Gisela Lendle-King

Tom McKarns

Kyle Schanta

Sara Sirivansan

Jack Smiley

Jeremiah Steen

Eric Woodhams

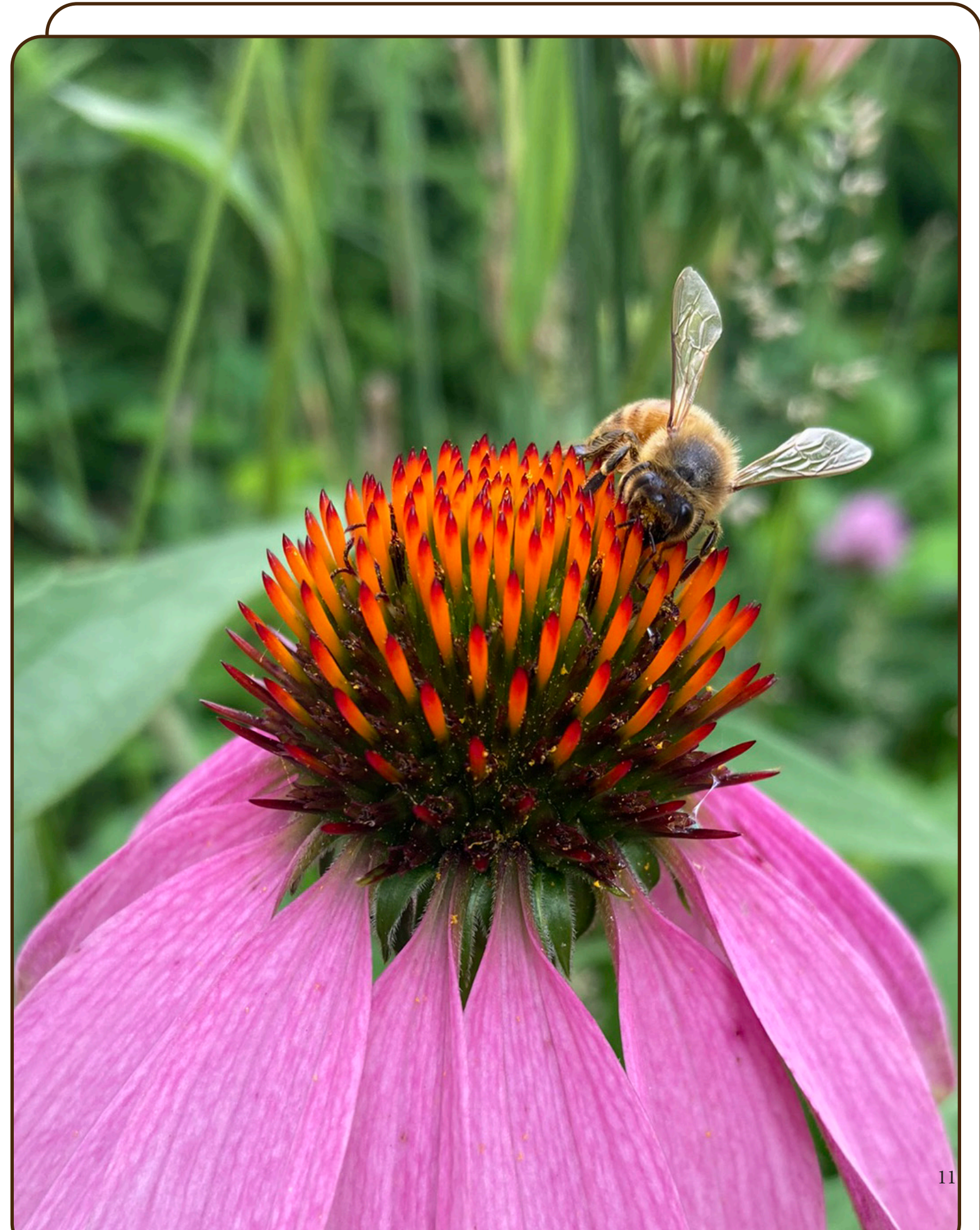
Staff

Gretchen Abrams, Executive Director

Kathy Garrett, Member and Donor Relations Assistant

Ava Landgraf, Conservation and Research Coordinator

Brittany Leick, Program Coordinator and Office Administrator



2023 Donors

\$30-\$99

844 members members contributed at this level.

\$100 - 499

Alan Evans
Alison Uzieblo
Amy Greene
Ann E Bueche
Anna Gladstone
Anonymous Donor
Antoinette P Book
Barbara J Cingel
Barbara Kay
Barbara Siepierski
Barry S Rubin
Beth C Venier
Bill Sturm
Billie Hickey
Bonnie M Foucher
Brian R Blatz
Brigitte Murray

Candace Elisevich
Carol K Bernbeck
Carol Osborne
Carol Ox
Carolyn Carr
Catherine Snygg
Charles F Moss

Cherie Foster

Christine Chow
Christine Klein
Christine O'Bryan
Christine Yancy
Christopher Dark
Cindy Siegler
Colleen Sturm
Cris Sunstrum
Daniel Atherton
Daniel Frohardt-Lane
David Baughman
David G Miles

David Goeddeke
David Golomb
David Redfield
Dean S Musgrave
Dean Stevens
Denise Figlewicz
Dennis A Mazurek
Dennis Maloney

Diane Cheklich
Diane D. Marston
Diane Van Buren
Donna Ford
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Dwight Hatfield
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Gerald DeMarie
Gerald Hasspacher
Gisela Lendle-King
Glenn O'Kray

Grant Gellert
Gretchen Baron
Gwyn Koss
Henry D Appelman
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Jack Smiley

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Joanna R. Pease
Joanne Cantoni
Jon Miller
Joseph LaVela
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Joyce Bickel
Joyce E. Delamarter
Joyce Fennell
Joyce M Arakelian
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Judy Bennett
Judy M Judd
Julia Woodling
Julie Robertson
Kameshwari Pothukuchi
Karen C Brown
Karen L Knopper
Karl Dorn
Katherine A Cooper
Katherine P White
Kathleen Fulgenzi
Kathleen Lawrence
Kathryn Sigouin
Kelly Konieczki
Ken Grunow
Kenneth E Jacobsen
Kevin Murphy
Kirk Martin

KTD Printing
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Laura Pingilley
Leonard Weber
Leslyn Rank
Linda Waldman
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Lori Chafetz
Louie Blocker
Lucie Audette
Lucille D Kimpel
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Marla Moiseev
Marsha A Boettger
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Mary Lou L Zangerle
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Matthew Ciaramitaro
Megan McKnight
Meredith C. Simpson
Michael Dobosenski
Michael Frank
Michael Hartmann
Michelle McCrackin

Morris Hoffman
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Terrence Conway
The Henry Ford
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Thomas McKarns
Thomas Wilczak
Timothy O'Neill
Tom Allenson
Tyler Joswick
Vanessa Martienssen
Virginia Hieber
Virginia L Weingate
Vivian Cheklich
Wandra Lulek
Wild Birds Unlimited Woodhaven
William Hillegas
William J Irvine

\$500 - \$999

Alice Marczewski Schacht
Anonymous Donor
Carol Nederlander

Colleen Sturm
Cynthia Dooley
Doug and Sue Weber Family Fund
Emily J Simon
Eric Stempien
Jeremy Walker
Jewish Community Foundation
Kathleen Moore
Leonard Weber
Marilyn Kedzierski
Meredith Meyer
Michigan State University
PayPal Giving Fund
Ronald Kustra
Scott Harper
Thomas & Carol Cracchiolo Foundation

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Brian Chandler Campbell
Carl F. Galeana
Carol Best
Donald S Phillips
Dorr and Hoenscheid Family Foundation
Joanna Cohen
Kathy Cannon
Lei Chen Family Charitable Fund
Margaret Baxter
Mary Moix
Michigan State University
National Wildlife Federation
Richard P Baks
Stephen R Polk
Thomas McKarns

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Diane Cheklich
Nelson F. Gregory for Evelyn Fisher
Levin Freeman Family Fund
Michigan State University
Margaret Steiner

\$10,000

Salam Chaudhary and Meredith Meyer Family
Weyerhaeuser Day Foundation

\$20,000 and up

In memory of Jack and Wilma Arakelian
Anonymous Donor

In-Kind Donations

Jerry Jung Family supported the tilling, seeding and planting of DBC Meadows with staff, Derek Sunderland and heavy equipment

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.

Photo credits

Cover page: Top right Bluebirds by Glen Miller, all other photos by DBA staff

Page 2: Diane Cheklich

Page 6: DBA Staff

Page 8: Ava Landgraf

Page 11: Evan Deutsch

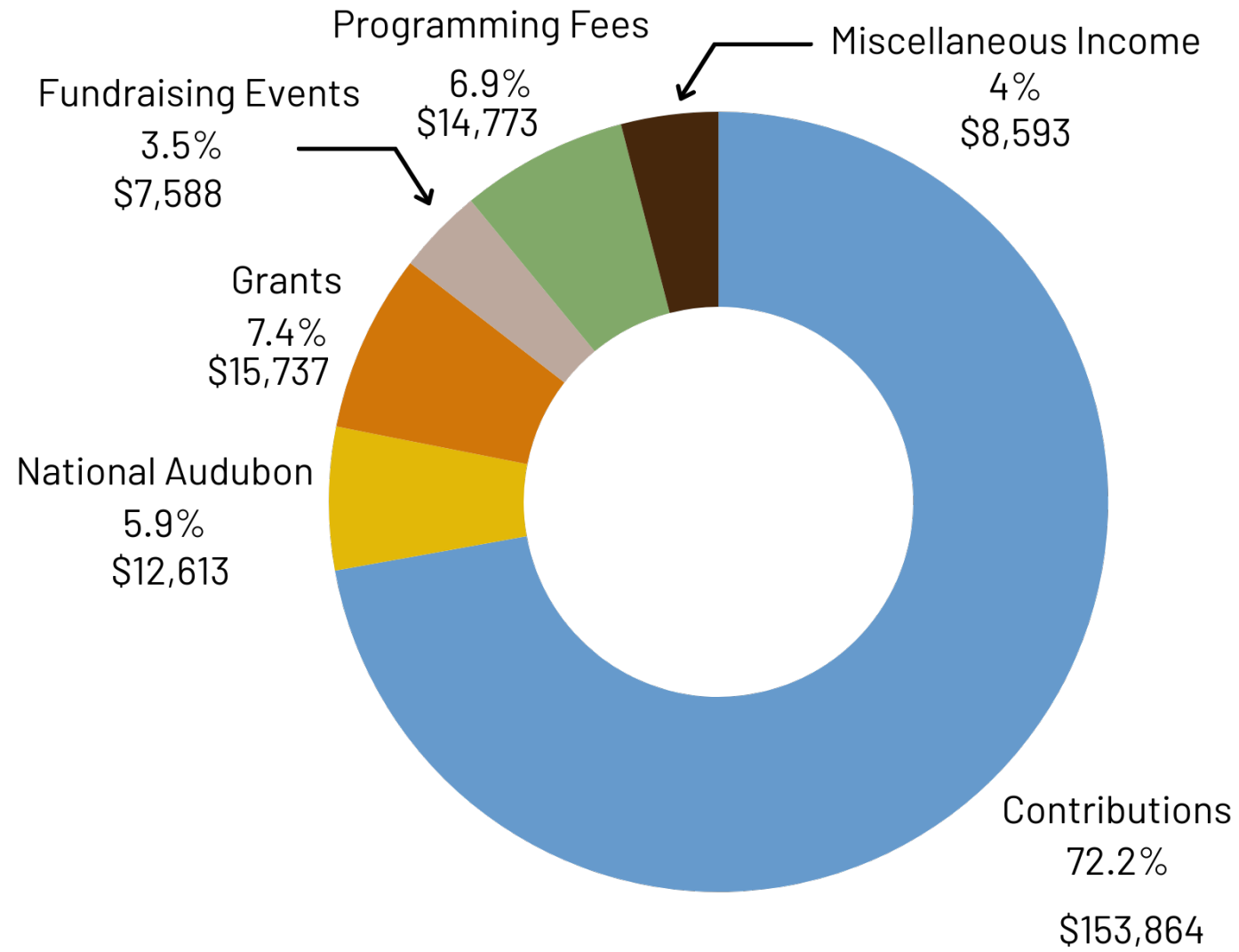
Page 14: Glen Miller



2023 Financials

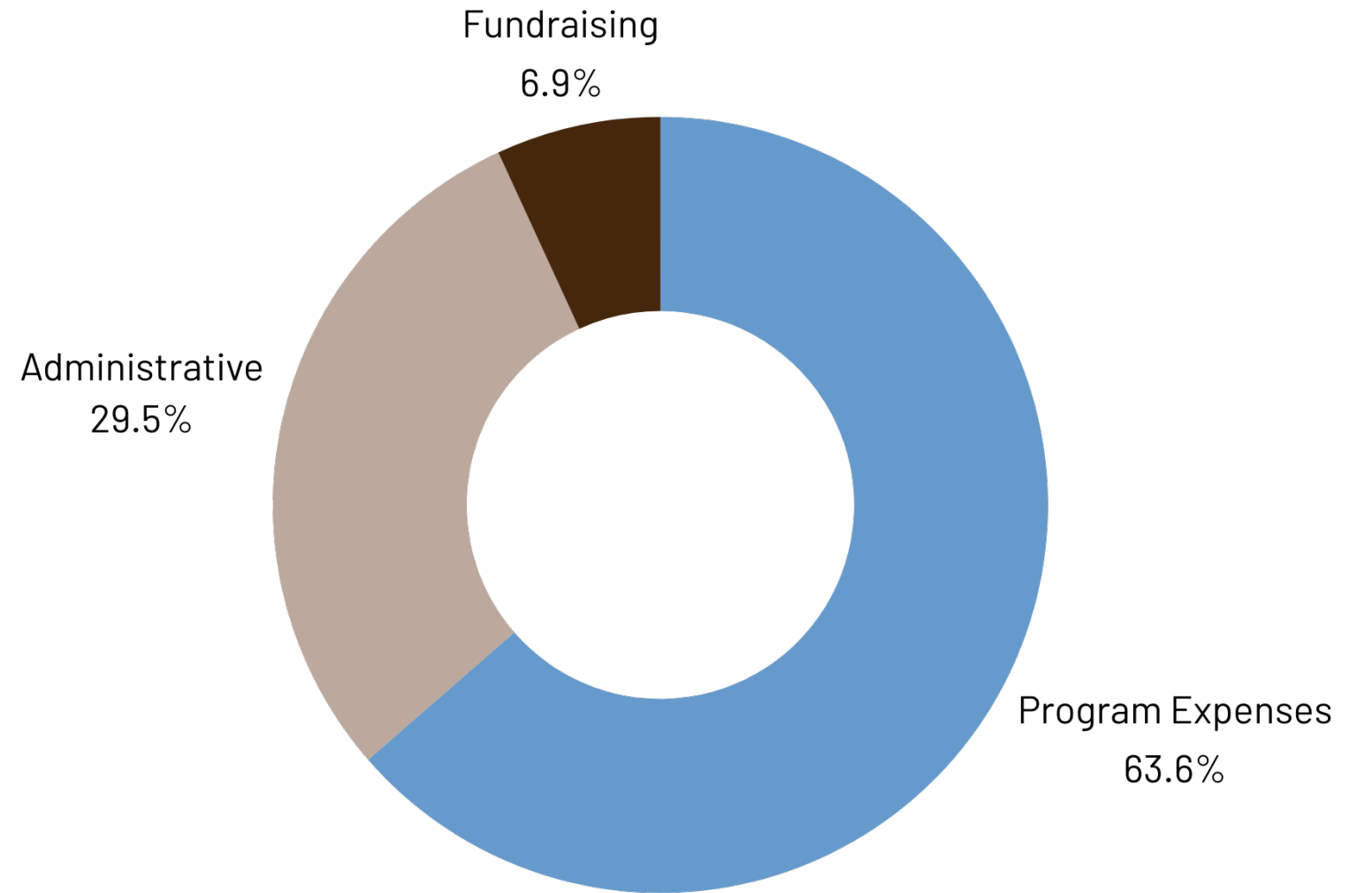
Income Sources

Total: \$213,168



Functional Expense Allocation

Total: \$268,360







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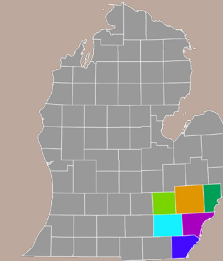


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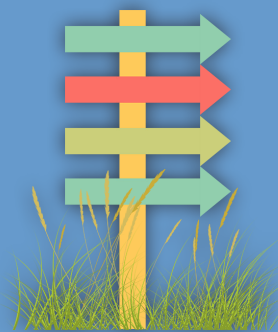
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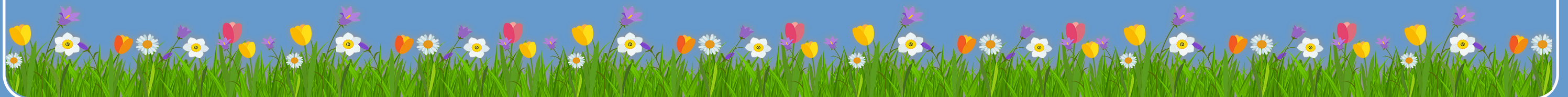
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Perhaps most telling of the impact our outreach has are the 2,800 hours our 125 consistent and reliable volunteers donated to lead walks, work table events, pick up litter, and help us spread the word about Detroit Bird Alliance. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the value of an hour of volunteer time to a non profit organization like ours is \$30.15. While it is difficult to quantify the enormous value our volunteers provide, the estimate helps acknowledge those who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to DBA. In 2023, this translates to approximately \$84,000.

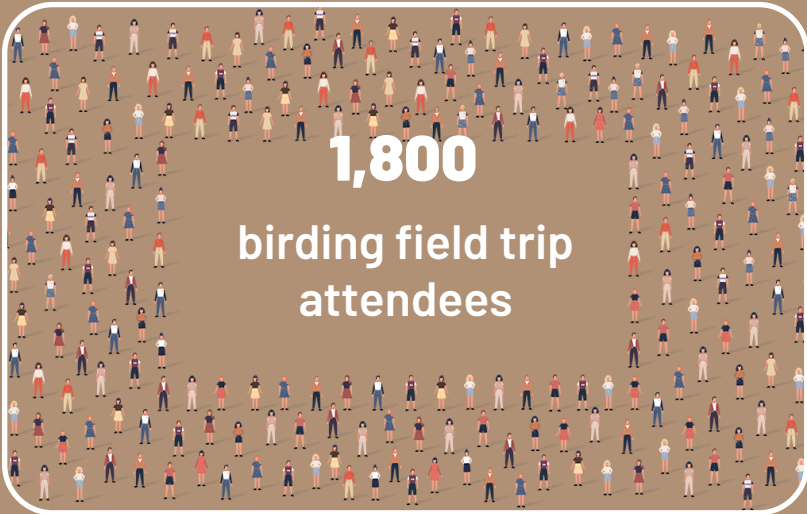
In the ongoing effort to diversify our membership and expand our reach, we offered all new programs that provided new ways for new audiences to access birding. In addition to designing programming for hearing impaired students, we offered a bus tour, a boat cruise, a movie night, and bird themed trivia nights. We are excited to have new bird advocates join our mission. We are grateful to our members and donors for embracing these new programs.

Advocacy

While we work hard to advocate for birds and the environment here at home, we know the work must be done on a national and hemispheric level. We remain affiliated with National Audubon to increase our impact. We depend on their resources to stay on top of legislation impacting birds and the environment at the national and state level. Look for action alerts in emails and on social media to stay connected with the latest ways to help make change happen for good at the federal, state, and local levels.



Your support for Detroit Bird Alliance funds **EDUCATION** efforts throughout SE Michigan



Research: Three major projects

Black Tern Colony Monitoring

We continue to support the work of Audubon Great Lakes and the Michigan DNR by supporting the research of nesting colonies of the threatened Black Tern in the St. Clair Flats (Black Tern hatchling at the St. Clair Flats pictured right).

Our work in 2023 provided more insight into the effectiveness of artificial nesting platforms to support Black Terns. The ongoing use of trail cameras loaned to us by the Detroit Zoological Society allows us to closely monitor the nests with very little disturbance to the birds. Thanks to the use of these cameras, we were thrilled to observe Black Terns and Forster's Terns nesting on top of the canvas and foam platforms. Again, thanks to your support, we are excited to take this information and continue experimenting with 20 new platforms in 2024.

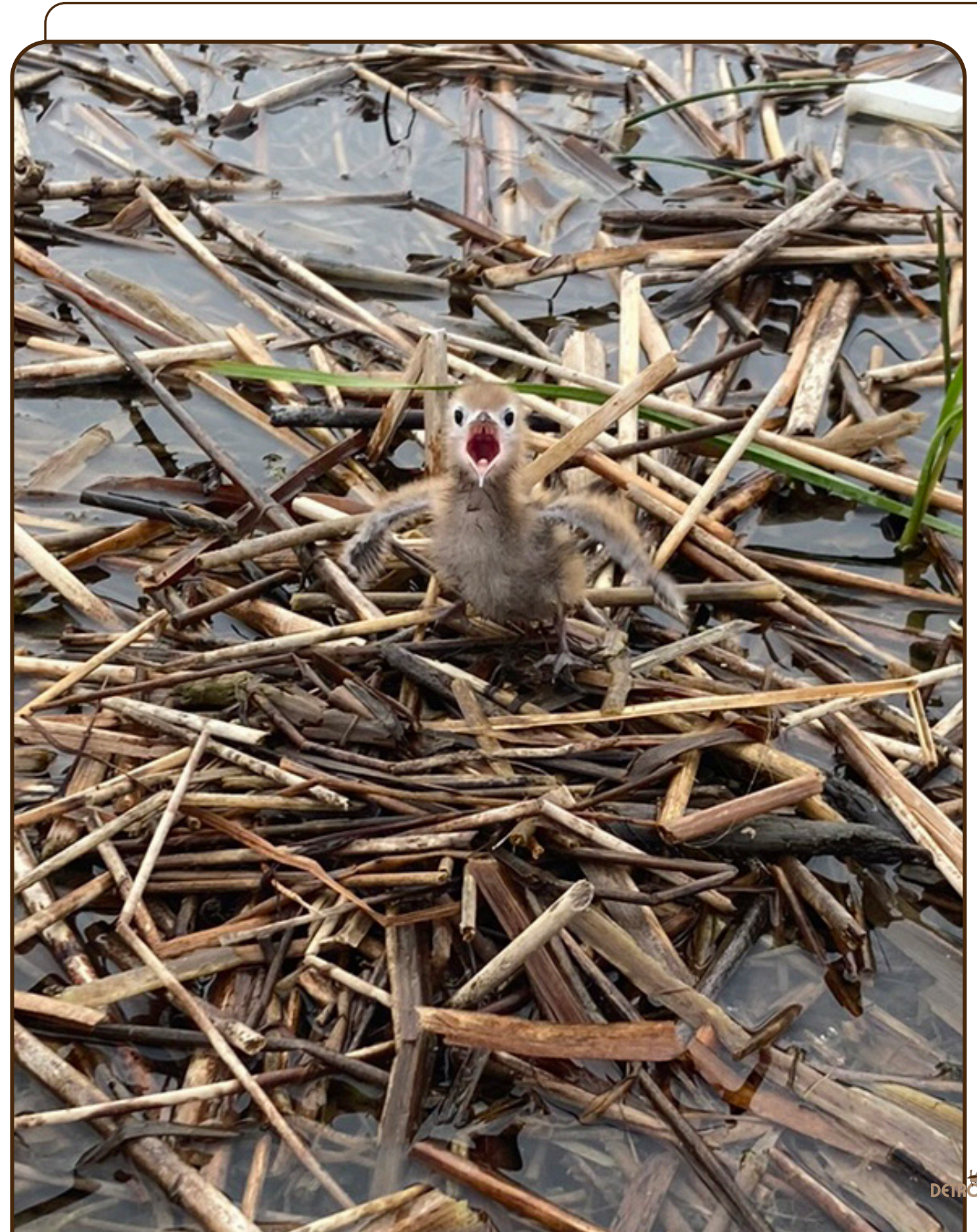
Winter Waterfowl Counts

Detroit Bird Alliance has been partnering with Birds Canada on the Lower Detroit River Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) Waterbird Surveys (or what we call our Winter Waterfowl Counts) since 2016. The IBA Program is an international initiative to identify, monitor, and conserve the world's most important sites for birds and biodiversity.

The Great Lakes Region hosts the overwintering habitat for a variety of waterfowl not normally seen here in the summer. Many of these arctic and boreal-breeding ducks depend on the Detroit River for food when northern bodies of water are frozen over. Staff and volunteers count species such as Canvasbacks, Common Mergansers, and Buffleheads which can number in the thousands! In 2024 we are expanding the survey efforts farther south along the Detroit River. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering to participate in this important work.

Community Science

We also support research through community science programs. Through our outreach, we encourage individuals, classrooms, and community groups to contribute to national and global research through community science projects like: The Great Backyard Bird Count, The Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and birdmapper.org. You can learn more about each of these research efforts on our website at detroitbirdalliance.org.



Your support for Detroit Bird Alliance funds **RESEARCH** efforts throughout SE Michigan



Do just **1** thing

\$30

buys a **1**-year membership for a friend

\$500

supports the purchase of **1** scope and stand

\$2,500

underwrites **1** Detroit Bird Alliance annual conference

\$10,000

supports the purchase of unused city land for conservation

\$100

supports the purchase of **1** classroom kit

\$1,000

pays for **1** Detroit Bird City interpretive sign

\$5,000

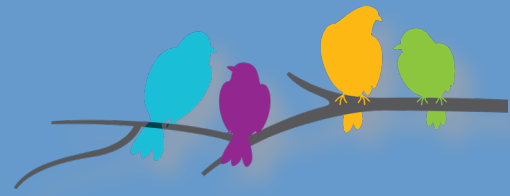
restores **1** acre of city park to bird habitat

\$20,000

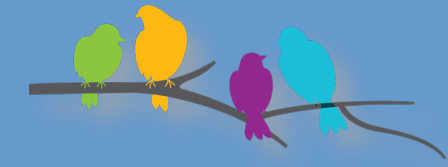
supports **1** year of publishing, printing, and mailing our membership magazine

\$250

underwrites **1** Trivia Night



Birds of a Feather Flock Together



Local

Arboretum Detroit
 Belle Isle Nature Center
 Black to the Land Coalition
 Brewery Faisan
 City of Livonia, Greenmead
 Detroit City Parks and Recreation Department
 Detroit Future City
 Detroit Outdoors
 Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
 Detroit Public Library
 Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
 DNR Outdoor Adventure Center
 East Ferry Warren Community Association
 Historic Elmwood Cemetery
 Holliday Nature Preserve Association
 INNOVATE 313
 InsideOut Literary Arts Detroit
 Manistique Community Tree House Center
 Outdoor Afro-Detroit
 Sidewalk Detroit
 The Greening of Detroit
 Urban neighborhood Initiatives
 Wayne State University
 Wild Indigo
 Woodbridge Neighborhood Development

Regional

BIPOC Birders of MI
 Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
 Detroit Zoological Society
 U of M Dearborn-Environmental Interpretive Center
 Friends of Rouge Park
 Friends of the Rouge
 Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy
 Grosse Pointe Audubon
 Holliday Nature Preserve Association
 Huron-Clinton Metroparks
 Jackson Audubon
 Michigan Bluebird Society
 Sierra Club-Southeast Michigan Group
 Southeast Michigan Butterfly Association
 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
 Washtenaw Audubon
 Wayne County Parks
 Wayne County Community School District to Regional
 Wild Birds Unlimited

... and Beyond

Audubon Great Lakes
 Birds Canada
 Grand Traverse Audubon Club
 Grand Traverse Bike Tours
 MI Birds
 MI DNR
 Michigan State University
 National Wildlife Federation
 The Nature Conservancy
 University of Michigan SEAS
 US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Wildlife
 Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation



Donor Support

If your business or business you know is interested in sponsoring our conservation, research, or outreach initiatives, please visit detroitbirdalliance.org/sponsorship-packages. Contact Executive Director Gretchen Abrams (313) 588 1015 for more information.

Legacy Donation

Help us continue our 85 year legacy of protecting birds by making a planned gift to Detroit Bird Alliance today.

Corporate Sponsors

If your business or a business you know is interested in sponsoring our conservation, research, or outreach initiatives, to help reduce the cost to members, to demonstrate the business support of our mission to our members, please visit our website for details. Contact Executive Director, Gretchen Abrams at (313) 588-1015 to learn more. Visit our website: detroitbirdalliance.org/sponsorship-packages

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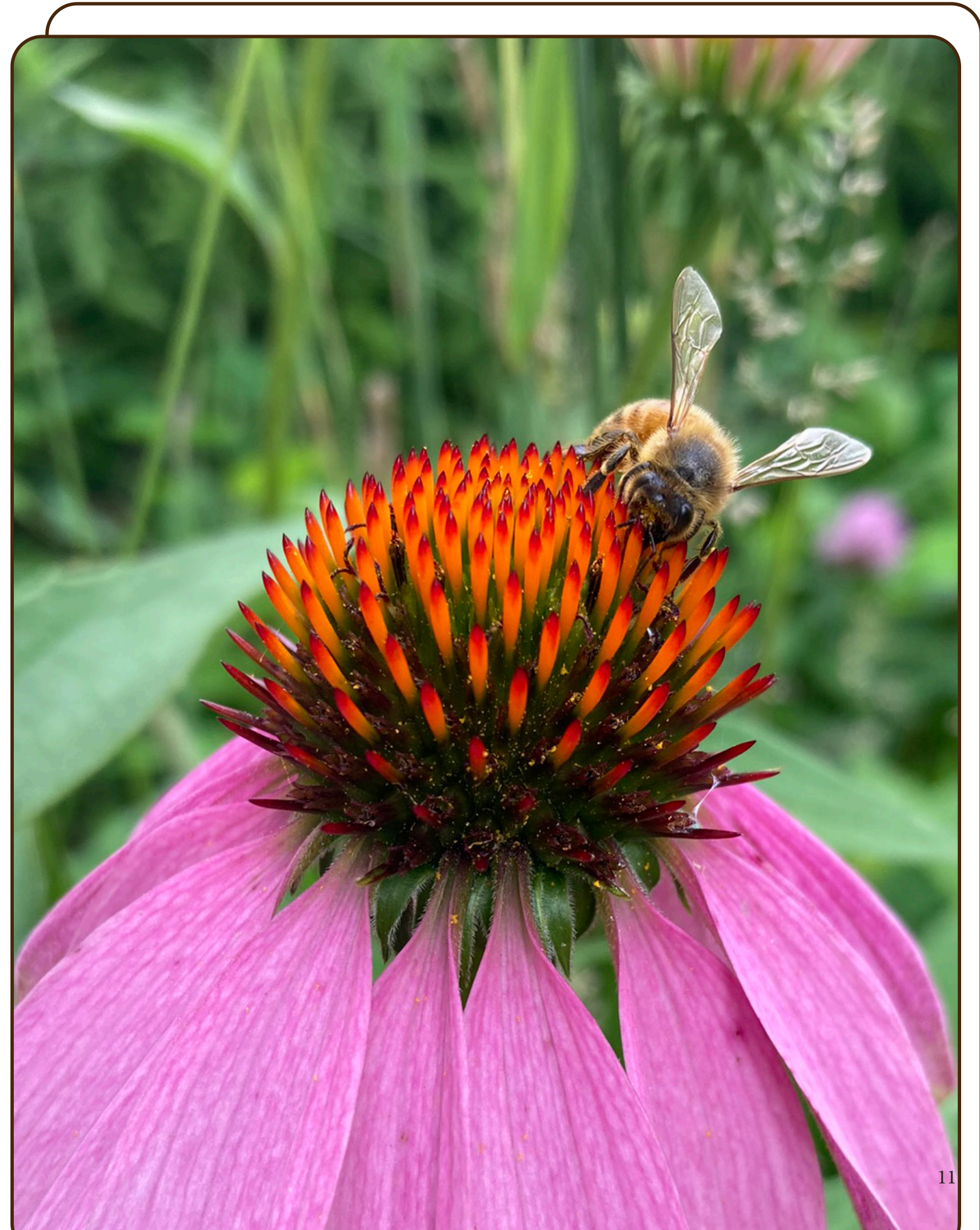
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Kathy Garrett, Member and Donor Relations Assistant

Ava Landgraf, Conservation and Research Coordinator

Brittany Leick, Program Coordinator and Office Administrator



2023 Donors

\$30-\$99

844 members members contributed at this level.

\$100 - 499

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In-Kind Donations

Jerry Jung Family supported the tilling, seeding and planting of DBC Meadows with staff, Derek Sunderland and heavy equipment

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.

Photo credits

Cover page: Top right Bluebirds by Glen Miller, all other photos by DBA staff

Page 2: Diane Cheklich

Page 6: DBA Staff

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Page 11: Evan Deutsch

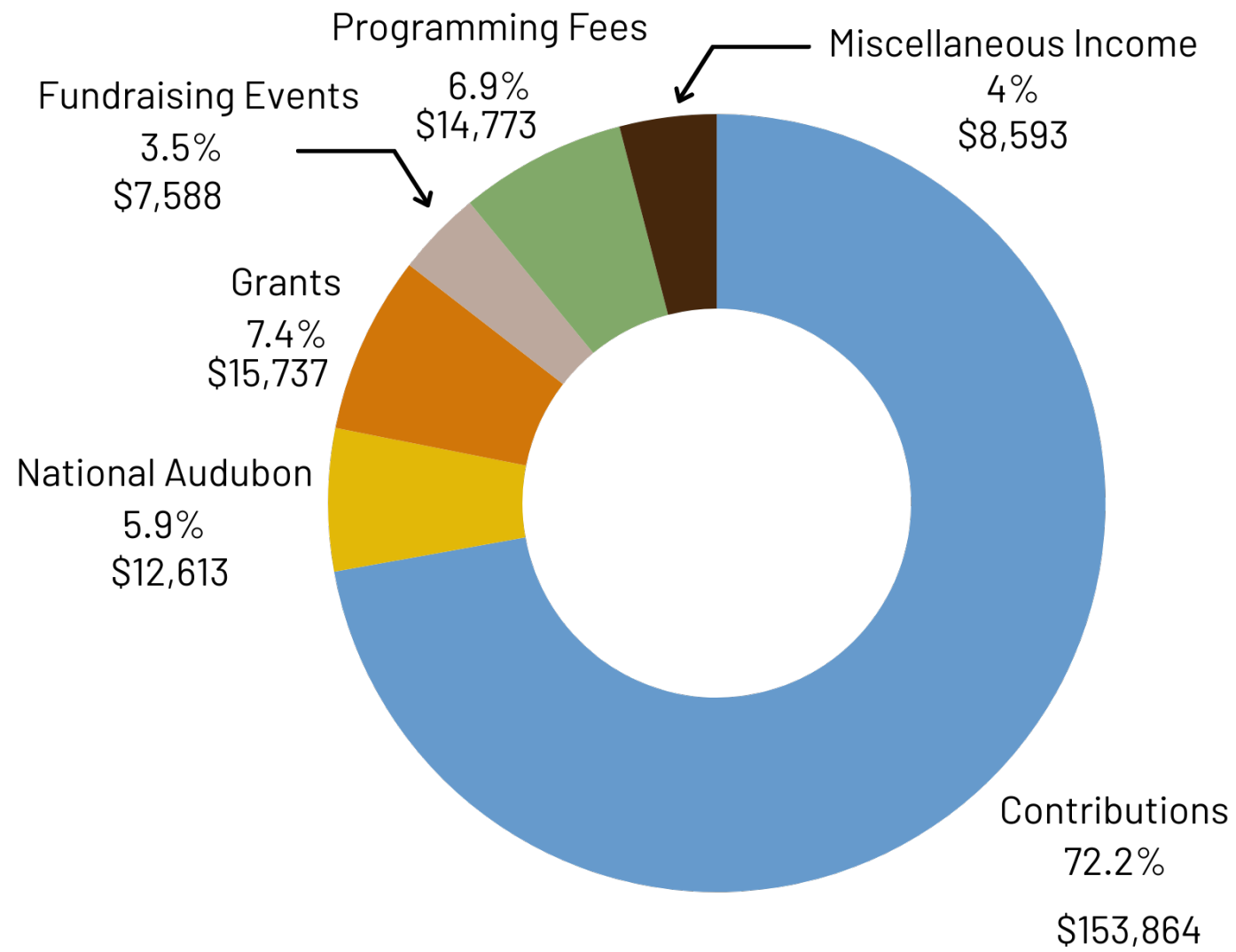
Page 14: Glen Miller



2023 Financials

Income Sources

Total: \$213,168



Functional Expense Allocation

Total: \$268,360

