



madison
AUDUBON
society

May 2018

Madison Audubon
 is your local
 Audubon chapter

Together with our members, we work to protect and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife through land acquisition and management, education and advocacy.

| 2018 |
**YEAR
 OF THE
 BIRD**

This icon indicates the article includes something you can do to celebrate 2018 as Year of the Bird. Find more ideas at madisonaudubon.org/job

COVER: Sandhill crane colts are joyful signs of spring in Wisconsin. *Photo by Arlene Koziol.* ABOVE: Here's lookin' at you, human. *Photo by Monica Hall.* RIGHT: A bumblebee industriously works a native purple prairie clover. *Photo by Carolyn Byers*

Here's lookin' at you, birds

2018 brings reasons to celebrate

Conservation is all about time: the present, past, and future. It's not too hard to sense conservation in the present—you can see the brilliant flashes of color from the spring migrants, smell the prairie renewal that comes from a prescribed burn, or hear the buzz of insects emerging from a winter slumber. These are certainly wonderful, but they don't just pop out of a magic hat. What our senses are able to capture now has only been made possible by the past. And there are many reminders that what we enjoy today is owed to what has come before.

This year marks two important

anniversaries that are at the core of our collective work at Madison Audubon. The first involves a key part of our mission: protecting and restoring habitats and important places for birds and other wildlife to breed, rest, forage, and more. This year, we are thrilled to celebrate the 50th birthday of Goose Pond Sanctuary. Many of you have witnessed the growth and transformation of this wonderful place. Its story has been written by thousands of people: board members, donors, the very first land stewards, current land managers, countless volunteers, interns, and so many more. The next time you visit Goose Pond and are

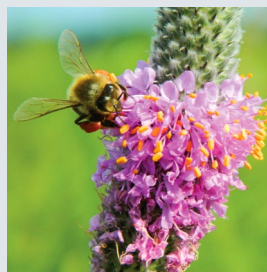


| 2018 |
**YEAR
 OF THE
 BIRD**

Celebrating the Sanctuary

Show your love for Goose Pond this summer

Take a special trip to go birding, hike the trails, or explore the plant life that thrives at Goose Pond Sanctuary. Find a map online or at the sanctuary's kiosk on Prairie Lane.



Attend a 50th anniversary presentation by Laura Erickson on birds, habitat restoration, and what they mean to the heart.

**Sat., Aug. 18*, 5 p.m.,
 Goose Pond Sanctuary**

*Prairie tours and other festivities will also be held on Aug. 18. Watch your email for more info.

standing on that land that has been protected, painstakingly restored and is now buzzing with all kinds of native life, you just might feel that history and those many stories vibrating in the soil beneath you.

The second big anniversary celebrates a full century since

Congress passed the most significant bird-protection law in history. As noted ornithologist Frank Chapman wrote, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was a bold move to halt “numberless attempts to legalize the destruction of birds for private gain.” Thankfully for all of us, it

worked. In honor of this milestone, people around the world are working together to celebrate the “Year of the Bird” and commit to protecting birds. To the bird enthusiasts at Madison Audubon and everywhere else, every year is the Year of the Bird. But, this effort is a great way to be engaged and find ways we can all contribute to continued protection for birds. This is especially important as the MBTA faces significant

threats like the recent removal of potential rulemaking updates and an interpretation of the law that gets rid of enforcement of incidental takes by industries. This action violates the very spirit of the law and jeopardizes much of the good that it has brought through its history.

The next time you visit Goose Pond and are standing on that land... you just might feel that history and those many stories vibrating in the soil beneath you.

Conservation is indeed about the past and the present, and it is certainly about the future. Yes, 2018 brings cause to celebrate as we honor the impact and fiercely defend the MBTA, and look toward another 50 amazing years (and more!) for Goose Pond Sanctuary,

and all bird habitats for that matter. Heck, perhaps someday down the line, someone will write again to celebrate all the wonderful things we’ll make possible for birds over the next half-century.

Matt Reetz, executive director
 mreetz@madisonaudubon.org

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DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY! Laura has authored 11 books about birds, and is a Science Editor at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, columnist and editor for *BirdWatching* magazine, and host/producer of "For the Birds" radio program. More info at lauraerickson.com



Share photos and stories of your time at Goose Pond over the years, including those early years when it was first getting started.

madisonaudubon.org/gps50



FAR LEFT: Laura Erickson, birder and radio host of "For the Birds" will present at Goose Pond Sanctuary this August. Photo provided by Laura Erickson. LEFT: A scene at Goose Pond depicted in the Wisconsin State Journal in 1977. Photo provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society



Maddie Dumas



Monica Hall



Arlene Koziol



Carolyn Byers

FOR THE LO

The promise of the prairie

Goose Pond Sanctuary's first 50 years

Amazing changes have taken place at Goose Pond Sanctuary in the half-century since Madison Audubon's board and donors took a giant leap and purchased the first 60-acre tract of land. Today, the sanctuary encompasses 660 acres of protected habitat, including the entire 40-acre west pond, 20 acres of restored wetlands, and over 400 acres of restored mesic prairie, the rarest prairie habitat in the Midwest.

Had Madison Audubon not taken that bold first step, the pond would likely be hunted each fall, driving waterfowl away, an ethanol plant would discharge large amounts of warm water into the pond daily, 168 homes would dot the Lapinski-

Kitzie Prairie, and the remaining uplands would grow corn and soybeans instead of nodding, buzzing, singing prairie.

Even in the early years of the sanctuary, we can remember when hunters lined the boundary of our small acreage to shoot ducks and geese as they left the pond to feed. The west pond now provides refuge in the fall for thousands of waterfowl. As our acreage increased, so did fall waterfowl numbers. Robert Lerch, who sold MAS its first parcel, would be pleased with today's refuge for these species.

Our priorities have evolved as well. Fifty years ago, Madison Audubon's management objective at

50 YEARS AT GOOSE

1960s: Robert Lerch, duck hunter and owner of part of the west pond, worked with WDNR to establish a two-square mile waterfowl refuge.

1970: WDNR designated 81 acres as Audubon Goose Pond State Natural Area #86.

1970: Evelyn Warner became the first resident manager at Goose Pond Sanctuary.

1978: Forty acres was acquired from the Rudolph Jungeman family that included the rest of the west pond.

1978: Laura Erickson compiled Goose Pond bird checklist of 223 species.

1991: MAS secured the first non-profit Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant to help acquire Sue Ames Prairie.

1968: At the request of the Lerch family, MAS purchased their 60 acre farm for \$30,000 using funds from members, National Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.

1966: Wildlife refuge was dissolved in a court action that resulted from a neighbor who deliberately shot a duck on the east pond.

1976: Ruth and Oliver Wynn became resident managers.

1976: Bicentennial Prairie was planted to honor Goose Pond volunteers.

1979: Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin became resident managers.



Monica Hall



Arlene Koziol



Arlene Koziol



Arlene Koziol

VE OF BIRDS:

Goose Pond was primarily to benefit waterfowl. Today, our work takes a much bigger view. Along with restoring the prairie community, we are also benefiting rare species such as thousands of state-threatened pale purple coneflowers, over 100 federally threatened prairie bush clovers, and, in some years, over 20,000 state-endangered Silphium borer moths.

Goose Pond Sanctuary's designation as an Important Bird Area in 2007 reflects the value of the habitat it provides for grassland as well as wetland birds. Since the first Breeding Bird Atlas in 1995-2000 when we found very few nesting grassland birds, we have restored around 250 acres of prairie. Thanks to this large increase in grassland habitat, we have documented 51 species nesting in the second atlas project (2015-

2019), including healthy populations of sedge wrens, clay-colored sparrows, and eastern meadowlarks, along with one or two pairs of nesting northern harriers each year.

Visitors continue to flock to the sanctuary in great numbers. Thousands of people come annually to view waterfowl and shorebirds, hike the 12 miles of trails to view the prairie flora and fauna, band monarchs, or just stop to connect with nature.

We feel fortunate indeed to have the support needed to provide a landscape-sized property that brings the promise of the prairie to both wildlife and the public.

Mark Martin and Susan Foote-Martin
Goose Pond Sanctuary resident managers
goosep@madisonaudubon.org

Arlene Koziol

POND SANCTUARY

2002: MAS led the opposition to defeat an ethanol plant in the Arlington industrial park that prevented excessive water from the plant from entering Goose Pond.

2004: MAS's bid of \$1,500,000 was accepted for the 116-acres that became the Lapinski-Kitze Prairie.

2000: Willy Hutcheson saw six species of geese at one time on Goose Pond.

2003: The Village of Arlington annexed 116 acres of the former Delmonte land from the Town of Arlington and rezoned it for 168 residences.

2015: The state-endangered Silphium borer moth was discovered at Goose Pond Sanctuary and is the largest known population anywhere in its range.

2007: MAS completed the second purchase of the Kampen Road residence and farmland from Yelk family, formerly owned by Jungemans.

2007: Goose Pond Sanctuary was named as an Important Birding Area by National Audubon Society.

2017: The pileated woodpecker was added to the bird list bring the total to 260 species.

2017: The John Kaiser family provided matching funds for Wingspan, which was dedicated in honor of Mark and Sue and the Kaiser Family.

2016: Heather Inzalaco documented 51 bird species and 1,663 pairs of birds nesting on the property.

Madison Audubon is a proud member of the following organizations:



BELOW and OPPOSITE: Hard work and time have released Hope Lake Bog's understory from a dense weedy thicket.

A cartographer's playground

The thrill of the ever-changing scenery at Faville Grove

The physical map of Faville Grove only hints at the complexity of the landscape. In the topography of my mind, and the minds of those who spend time here, the substance of a map becomes irrelevant as you churn through Buddy's Prairie, a true tallgrass prairie—Indian grass and big bluestem towering over you—in mid-summer and feel as the early settlers may have, lost in a sea of grass.

Two springs ago, a group of 40 university students came to help pull garlic mustard in Faville Woods. Starting from Woodland Road and heading due north to Highway 89 seemed a simple task, but the large group soon became separated along the wooded recessional moraines and kettle depressions. I began finding stragglers, lost and confused. Multiple people even ended up back where we started on Woodland Road, waiting expectantly for a bus that was stationed on Highway 89.

Even in the fragmented landscape of southeastern Wisconsin, I am delighted to report that it's easy to get

lost at Faville Grove. As I look toward summer and the start of the interns' tenure, I'm certain that at many points I'll hear those young students say, "I have no idea where we are." While concerning to some, the value of getting lost—with smartphone in hand—is a lost practice, found again here at Faville Grove.

My own mental maps of the sanctuary allow me to navigate without becoming physically lost, but sometimes I find myself lost in the sheer beauty and diversity of the landscape. A little fog at dawn helps me imagine farm fields as prairies, filled with birds and life. A new patch of blue-eyed grass gets marked in the GPS on my phone, but I will likely never have to reference it, because I cannot forget the thrill of finding this Persian blue delicacy on a restored prairie.

This is one of the most rewarding exercises of mental map-making at Faville Grove: revision. At Hope Lake Bog, long in my head a mental mess of buckthorn, I couldn't see

BEFORE

AFTER



Faville Grove continued...



BEFORE

AFTER

the savanna for the invasive underbrush. Restoration of that savanna, through clearing of buckthorn and honeysuckle, has revealed spectacular topography and marvelous white oaks; a happy revision of my map.

My mental maps keep getting revised as restoration, such a hopeful and positive endeavor, continues. Come spring and

summer, those revisions take on a new intensity, and what a wonderful time it is to be a cartographer at Faville Grove.

Drew Harry
Faville Grove Sanctuary land steward
faville@madisonaudubon.org

Coming Soon: A MAS Sanctuaries brochure with maps! Pick yours up at the office or at one of the sanctuaries, and get lost in the prairie this summer.

| 2018 |
YEAR OF THE BIRD



Thank you to our major
education program
donors:



Theda & Tamblin Clark Smith
FAMILY FOUNDATION



How do we measure success?

Inquiring minds want to know

We're often asked how we measure the success of our education programming. Grant reports require us to include the number of people we reach or hours we teach. Foundations want stories about specific groups of kids and how their lives are impacted by our work. Sometimes we do quick before-and-after lesson surveys with kids to quantify information retention. This is all useful stuff, but I prefer to measure our success by the questions kids ask.

Questions reveal a lot about where a person is in their educational journey. A child who isn't asking anything may be bored or preoccupied. One who asks "what's that?" is interested and excited, but doesn't know much about the topic. The more detailed the question, the greater the knowledge of the asker.

I recently encountered my favorite question at Vera Court Neighbor-

hood Center. It was April 17, and several inches of snow were hiding the grass. I had prepared an indoor lesson, since kids often don't dress for winter weather when they're expecting spring. As I explained the plan for the day, the kids began slouching, sighing, and eye-rolling. I was thinking of ways that I could alter the lesson to better fit their mood when one child asked, "**Can't we just go outside?!**" All of the other kids chorused their agreement, and I was happy to indulge them. We ended up at Cherokee Marsh scouting for places to look for amphibians when the weather warmed.

While on our walk, the quality questions kept on coming: "why is it that if a plant is growing up through



ABOVE: The questions that Carolyn's kids at Vera Court ask keep her on her toes. *MAS Photo*. RIGHT: A northern leopard frog is just one of the amphibians Vera children are learning about this spring. *Photo by Arlene Koziol*

Introducing *Into the Nest*

An original series about the trials of nesting in the prairie

Grassland birds work hard to create cozy nests under the cover of tall prairie plants. But what does that hidden life look like? What does it take to bring up a new generation of grassland birds?

This summer, education director Carolyn Byers will share stories, photos, and nest camera videos* that dive into the ground-level world of grassland bird nesting ecology: territories, nests, predation, and more.

This summer, during the Year of the Bird, join us as we go *Into the Nest*.

madisonaudubon.org/into-the-nest

*Video footage provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Madison, WI

Year of the Bird Challenge: Help nesting birds

- Reduce your waste and compost food
- Eat food that is easier on the planet (for example, locally produced, less meat-based)
- Avoid disposable plastic
- Vote in every election. Consider candidates that respect the natural world
- Volunteer at a wildlife sanctuary, park, or land trust to help with habitat restoration (for example, seed collecting, planting, invasive species removal)
- Plant native grasses and wildflowers in your yard. Check out audubon.org/native-plants for suggestions for bird-friendly native plants



Education continued...

snow, the snow right around the plant is melted?” and “why is that bush brown at the base and red near the tips of the branches?” and “how is that sandhill crane standing in the snow? Don’t its feet get cold?”

Success.

Vera Court is the education department’s closest community partner, and we’ve been working with them for about 5 years. These kids have come a long way since I first met them, and our successes at Vera keep me working hard with all the kids at our other partner organizations.

Carolyn

Carolyn Byers, education director
carolyn.byers@madisonaudubon.org



ABOVE: The mysterious world of grassland bird nesting will be revealed in *Into the Nest* this summer. *Photo by Carolyn Byers.* LEFT: Does this sandhill crane have cold feet? *Photo by Arlene Koziol*

Citizen science round-up

Volunteers are hard at work studying birds this spring

MAS CITIZEN SCIENTISTS:

By the numbers

(Jan—mid-May 2018)



VOLUNTEERS: 97



TIME DONATED: 923 hours



BIRDS OBSERVED: 3,495

TOP LEFT: Bald eaglets are far from bald. *Photo by USFWS Midwest.* TOP RIGHT: This bluebird wants YOU to help track climate change! *Photo by Pat Ready.* RIGHT: This Nashville warbler, victim of a window collision, was picked up by a volunteer in the Bird Collision Corps. *Photo by Wilma Ross*



Bald Eagle Nest Watch continues as we move from egg incubation to feeding young. Of the 15 nests that our 50 volunteers monitor each week, 11 are home to proud parents and young. However, April's winter storms were hard on eagles, causing four nests to fail.



Climate Watch starts again in May, the fourth survey period of searching for bluebirds and nuthatches to understand how climate change is impacting bird habitat. Forty volunteers survey locations all over south-central Wisconsin.



Bird Collision Corps looks at bird injury and mortality caused by window strikes on the UW-Madison campus. More than 30 volunteers

are studying which buildings cause collisions and how they can be prevented. We're partnering with the UW's Depts. of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and Facilities Planning and Management, key players in understanding the problem and then taking action once the data are analyzed.

More information online at: madisonaudubon.org/citizen-science

Year of the Bird Challenge: Join a bird-oriented citizen science project

You don't have to be a biologist to study nature, and there are citizen science projects that come in every shape, size, and flavor. In addition to the ones Madison Audubon runs, here are a few other projects you can get involved with:

Great Backyard Bird Count
gbbc.birdcount.org

Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II
wsobirds.org/atlas

Christmas Bird Count
audubon.org/christmas-bird-count

Project FeederWatch
feederwatch.org

NestWatch
nestwatch.org

Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin
braw.org

eBird
ebird.org

Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Network
(library of citizen science programs in Wisconsin)
wiatri.net/cbm

| 2018 |
**YEAR
OF THE
BIRD**

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Thank you to those who donated January-April

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GIVE TODAY!

Your generosity funds important conservation and education programs throughout south-central Wisconsin*

Yes, I'd like to support Madison Audubon, my local chapter!

Gift amount: _____

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I would like to find out more about Madison Audubon's Legacy Society. Please contact me!

MEMBERSHIPS

If you are a member of both Madison and National Audubon (One Audubon), please renew at audubon.org/take-action or call 1-844-428-3826. Thanks for your additional gift to Madison Audubon!

If you are a member of Madison Audubon only, your gift of \$20 or more above will renew your membership for one year.

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS ON PAGE 8, OR GIVE ONLINE AT madisonaudubon.org

*Madison Audubon serves Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Iowa, Richland, Jefferson, Dodge, and Marquette counties.

Madison Audubon Society is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

BACKGROUND: This dickcissel is singing the praises of our awesome donors. Photo by Monica Hall



#WheresWilson

The great gray is on the move

Have you met Wilson yet? Madison Audubon is bringing our taxidermied great gray owl, lovingly dubbed Wilson, to many of our education and outreach events. If you get a picture with him, tag us on social media and use the hashtag #WheresWilson to show us where you found him!

MADISON AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Free, open to the public, family-friendly

Get the list at madisonaudubon.org/field-trips



ABOVE: Wilson wants to meet you at a Madison Audubon event soon! *MAS Photo*.
ABOVE RIGHT: The outdoors is calling! Join us for a free field trip. *Photo by Arlene Koziol*.
BELOW: Goose Pond Sanctuary hosts the rare pale purple coneflower, thanks to your generosity and dedication to restoration. *MAS Photo*

The gift that keeps on giving

Sanctuaries Fund helps keep restoration going

Would you like to make a gift to conservation that will last? In 2016 our board of directors created the Madison Audubon Sanctuaries Fund to offer our friends and members the opportunity to do just that. Gifts are invested in the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin's Conservation Endowment and will support management of Madison Audubon's sanctuaries. All gifts are held in perpetuity and are placed into investment by NRF. Investment income, usually 5 percent of the fund principal, is disbursed each year, restricted by the fund agreement to use in managing our wildlife sanctuaries.

Management of our Goose Pond and

Faville Grove Sanctuaries requires a long-term commitment. Your gift to the Sanctuaries Fund will last forever, and help to support our conservation work far beyond any of our lifetimes. You can contribute to the fund by naming it in your estate, or by giving directly to Madison Audubon. Make sure to indicate that you would like your gift to be directed to the fund. More information is available at madisonaudubon.org/endowment.

Thank you for supporting conservation in Wisconsin.

 John Minnich,
financial manager
jminnich@madisonaudubon.org

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