

TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

We are pleased to share the 2015 Annual Report for the Tucson Audubon Society which highlights our many accomplishments since Karen Fogas arrived just one year ago as Executive Director. We appreciate your passion and commitment to Tucson Audubon as we strive to enjoy and protect birds and the precious habitats entrusted to us here in southeast Arizona.

Tucson Audubon is blessed with an amazing collection of highly talented and dedicated board leaders, staff, and volunteers. The depth of knowledge, significant achievements, visionary leadership, and steadfast commitment demonstrated by the Tucson Audubon Board of Directors is an incredible asset to the organization and the community. We are inspired and gratified by their work on behalf of the organization's mission.

The Tucson Audubon staff is a group of incredibly talented, dedicated, and intelligent individuals whose collective efforts account for far more high-quality, impactful accomplishments on behalf of birds and the environment than one could reasonably expect from such a small handful of people. Over and over, we witness the evolution and refinement of good ideas into excellent work and conservation success. What an honor it is to encourage and support this amazing team of professionals.

But as much as the board and staff contribute to the organization, volunteers provide the lifeblood of our programs, making Tucson Audubon the vital and exciting organization that it is today. Our members and volunteers make the critical difference between success and mediocrity, extending our outreach and making possible the many impressive achievements and conservation outcomes you will read about in this report. Volunteers are integral to our organization and essential to generating the enthusiasm, good ideas, and capacity

required to implement our mission. We salute each and every volunteer for their unselfish commitment and dedication to Tucson Audubon.

This past year brought significant change to Tucson Audubon as we carefully analyzed and realigned our resources and priorities to ensure our relevance to the community and responsibility to our core mission. With a new Executive Director and Board President, we brought about a carefully considered organizational restructuring, executed a strategic plan update to guide our work for multiple years, and refocused our mission statement to better describe our work. Each of these activities required the thoughtful participation of members and volunteers, who shared ideas and experiences; staff, who contributed expertise and historical/ organizational knowledge; and the Board, who participated collectively as responsible leaders on behalf of the community. We believe the resulting plan positions Tucson Audubon to be an even more effective voice for conservation as well as a fun and relevant place to learn about birds and wildlife.

Please join us in celebrating what we have accomplished together in 2015 and continue to actively participate and support us as our work unfolds over the upcoming years. Together, we are a strong voice for birds, wildlife and for the habitat that sustains us all. Thank you.

Les Corey, President

Karen Fogas, Executive Director

Matt Clark



Tucson Meet Your Birds at Sweetwater Wetlands, Mary Zalokar



Sonoran Joint Venture, Ironwood Tree Experience



Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Tom Kaestner

Tucson Audubon inspires people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation, and restoration of the environment upon which we all depend.



Recreation

Inspiring joy through a love for birds has always been a focus of Tucson Audubon Society. An appreciation of birds supports our mission by encouraging citizen involvement in their protection and the protection of the environment upon which we all depend.

In 2015, Tucson Audubon provided opportunities to grow in appreciation for birds in our region through:

- 172 free field trips offered by our 48 volunteer field trip leaders to over 45 different locations in Southeast Arizona, including trips led by volunteers at the Southeast Arizona Birding Festival, with 575 total attendees;
- One special trip into Mexico along the Rio Sonora to learn about birds, habitat, and the local communities, with 22 participants;
- 52 Rare Bird Alert reports, compiled by volunteers and updated on our website and through our phone system, based on submissions via the AZ/NM Listserv and directly through birdwatchers.

Our annual **Southeast Arizona Birding Festival** encourages local, out-of-state, and out-of-country visitors to value the incredible collection of bird species found in Southeast Arizona. During our Festival, we:

- **Welcomed over 800 attendees** to our Festival activities, from in- and out-of-state;
- Offered 30 field trips that were attended by over 300 participants;
- Greeted over 500 attendees to the Vendor Expo and free talks.

Education & Engagement

Connecting people to birds and habitat increases knowledge of the importance of birds to our region, and participating in educational activities increases dedication to supporting the goal of conserving habitat for birds.

In 2015, **Tucson Audubon offered an abundance of opportunities** for our members, visitors, and the public to learn, engage and support birds, including:

- 19 free presentations about nature and birds in our region and beyond, open to members and non-members in Tucson, Green Valley, and Patagonia, with over 750 in attendance;
- 13 education classes and workshops offered to over 140 participants on a range of topics, including Access to Birding Areas, Museum Birding, Southwestern Owls, Wild Bird Feeding, Birds and Conservation, Bats, Backyard Birding, Gardening to Attract Birds, Birding by Ear, Birding Identification Skills, Birding by Habitat, and Sparrows and Raptors
- **Over 5,000 members and visitors welcomed** by our staff and volunteers

to our Nature Shops, which provided items to further their love and enjoyment of birds and nature, including 285 pairs of binoculars, 495 field guides, and 238 memberships;

- **Keeping our members and the community informed:** Rare Bird Alert visited over 31,000 times; 318,000 webpage views and 124,000 visits (a 24% increase over 2014); 13,000 distributed copies of our Vermilion Flycatcher magazine; over 3400 people receiving our weekly electronic newsletter; 29 Blog posts read by over 5100 people; and over 8800 combined likes to our Facebook pages; **Over 20,000 visitors welcomed** to our Paton Center for Hummingbirds;
- 1500 "Recipe Cards" developed and distributed to help local residents learn about the types of plants to include in yard landscaping that help support habitat and food sources for our desert birds.

Tucson Audubon also expanded our **nest box test program** in hope of providing nesting spots to birds that are losing habitat to development to include:

- Four nest box building workshops with over 70 participants;
- **55 nest boxes built**, deployed directly into neighborhoods and backyards or sold through our Nature Shops. Nesting success was recorded in four of the nest boxes through statistics captured on nestwatch.org.

Working with children is especially important to encourage future generations to love and appreciate southeast Arizona's birds and their habitats. In 2015, we engaged children and students through classes such as nest box building, special bird watching field trips, and programs in local schools. Our Growing Skills for the Green Economy program and Trekking Rattlers Hiking and Birding Club successes in 2015 include:

- 1,830 hours dedicated by Tucson Audubon staff and by teachers and students at Changemaker High School;
 - Three greenhouses and shade houses build for growing native plants
 - Four rainwater-harvesting cisterns and eight rain gardens installed and planted with 185 native plants, providing 7,500 gallons of rainwater harvesting capacity;
 - Two acres cleared of invasive plant species and planted with 400 pots of native plants;
 - One community event to sell student-grown native plants;
 - Two student trips to regional restoration projects for cross-pollination learning;
- **One class added to Changemaker High School curriculum dedicated to Restorative Ecology.**
- 74 students at Billy-Lane Lauffer Middle School participated in the Trekking Rattlers club
- 41 volunteers providing a total of 328 hours to support seven outings for the Trekking Rattlers group;



Without **Volunteers**, our work and Mission would be impossible and we cannot thank our volunteers enough for giving so much and for sharing the love of birds! In 2015, Tucson Audubon and our volunteers supported:

- Over 200 volunteer opportunities in 26 different areas, some of which are: Nature Shops, bird surveys, membership, Festival, Gala, restoration work, library, and outreach
- 650 active volunteers;
- Over 11,000 volunteer hours.
- Creating a trail connecting the Paton Center for Hummingbirds with the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve;
- Providing and setting up the hummingbird and suet cams at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds;
- Arriving at 4:00 am to prepare vans for field trips at our Festival, and filling over 30 different volunteer roles throughout the day;
- Nurturing an urban garden at our University Blvd. office location;
- Caring for and maintaining Mason Center grounds;
- Cataloging and maintaining our University Blvd. library;
- Weekly Rare Bird Alert compilation and posting;
- Organizing our Gala event.

Conservation

We cannot continue to enjoy the diversity of species and the beauty of Southeast Arizona without working to **protect our natural areas and support the birds and other wildlife that depend on these environments**. Our staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure we are directly involved in conservation efforts through surveying, issuing formal comments on policy, supporting policy that protects the biodiversity of this region and engaging on issues affecting Important Bird Areas and sensitive bird habitats in Arizona. Of the many conservation efforts we led in 2015, some highlights are:

- Over 3,000 hours of survey time by 150 volunteers in our Important Bird Areas (IBA) program, which is one of most active and involved IBA programs in the United States; in 2015 we monitored 46 IBA areas in Arizona, 16 of which have Global Status;
- **Over 1,500 point count surveys** to document the threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat, including over 950 hours of survey time and 40 routes covered by 50 volunteers, concluding in formal documentation to support designation of Critical Habitat;
- 359,265 individual birds counted by 59 volunteers during 1,147 point count surveys for the Tucson Bird Count;
- 50 Azure Bluebird nest boxes installed in six different vineyards in the Sonoita, AZ area.

- Lead author in **125 pages of comments directed to decision and policy makers**;
- Joint supporter of 185 pages of coalition letters on a range of issues;
- Author of five Conservation Action Alerts that generated over 1,800 letters and emails to decision makers on key conservation issues.

Restoration

Tucson Audubon also **works directly on the ground restoring lands that provide habitat for birds**. Restoration efforts are mainly concentrated along riparian areas, as improving habitat along waterways is one of the most efficient ways to support birds and other wildlife. In 2015, Tucson Audubon's Restoration crew and volunteers:

- Planted over 700 plants and 12 fruiting trees for birds and wildlife at our Paton Center for Hummingbirds;
- Wrote three resource brief reports provided to the Sky Islands Restoration Cooperative and one presentation to the Society for Ecological Restoration on Restoration in Novel Environments;
- Planned two re-vegetation, native-plant salvage, and vegetation management projects for local businesses, with baseline documentation report for El Coronado Ranch Forestry Easement;
- Developed a plan for Tucson Audubon to mitigate development impacts statewide and began work on our first independent mitigation project along the lower Santa Cruz River.

Our Atturbury Wash Riparian Stewardship Project was completed in 2015, with dozens of local schools and community organizations pitching in to restore this riparian area and beautify the local park nearby. This project resulted in:

- 950 native plants planted and 12 major stream restoration structures composed;
- Seven demonstration water-harvesting rain gardens;
- 74 hand-laid rock water-harvesting structures;
- Over 2,000 volunteer hours; 20 volunteer work days;
- 365 site tours, 12 of which were recreational birding field trips;
- Six high school education events;
- **One long-term natural resource monitoring education program set up at nearby Santa Rita High School.**

Tucson Audubon Society would like to applaud all of our members, donors, volunteers, staff, supporters, partners and interested visitors who supported all of the amazing activities carried out by Tucson Audubon Society in 2015!



Officers, Board and Staff

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD

Les Corey - President, Retired
 Robert Hernbrode - Vice President, Retired
 Claire Zucker - Secretary, UA Director for Water Sustainability Program
 John Kennedy - Treasurer, Retired
 Matthew Bailey - Tucson Electric Power
 Ardeth Barnhart - UA Renewable Energy Network
 Gavin Bieber - WINGS Tours
 Richard Carlson - Retired
 Ed Curley - Retired
 Kimberly Drew - Realtor, Long Realty
 David Dunford - Retired
 Debra Finch - Retired
 Jesus Garcia - Education Specialist with Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 Kathy Jacobs - Director of Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions with the Institute of the Environment
 Cynthia Pruett - Retired
 Ruth Russell - Retired
 Mary Walker - Retired
 Nancy Young Wright - former AZ legislator

STAFF

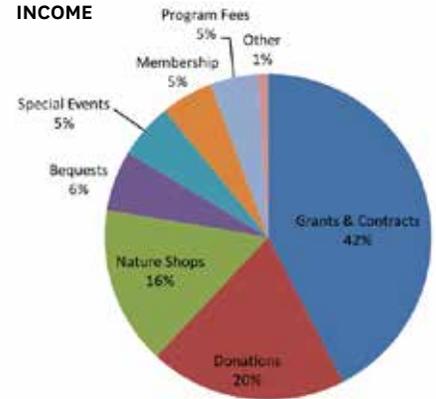
Keith Ashley, Resource Development Director - 3 years
 Nick Beaugard, Paton Center Coordinator - 3 months
 Andy Bennett, Restoration Project Manager and K-12 Coordinator - 5 years
 Matt Clark, Conservation Policy Analyst - 3 years
 Karen Fogas, Executive Director - 1 year
 Matt Griffiths, Digital Media Coordinator - 10 years
 Jonathan Horst, Conservation Director - 4 years
 Bete Jones, Former Events Manager - 5 years
 Mark Krietemeyer, Finance Director - 3 months
 Kendall Kroesen, Bringing Birds Home Program Manager - 14 years
 Daniel Lehman, Restoration Crew - 8 years
 Rodd Lancaster, Field Crew Supervisor - 14 years
 Sharon Long, Former Volunteer Coordinator - 2 years
 Jennie MacFarland, Bird Conservation Biologist - 6 years
 Kimberly Matsushino, Retail & Operations Assistant - 6 months
 Olya Phillips, Bird Survey Assistant - 1 year
 Sara Pike, Marketing & Operations Director - 11 years
 Diana Rosenblum, Membership Coordinator - 2 years
 Sarah Whelan, Retail Coordinator - 2 years

Tucson Audubon Society Income & Expenses Summary

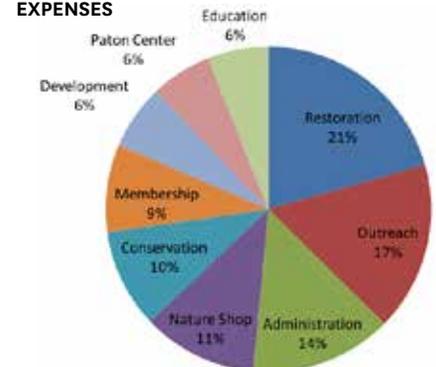
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

Income	\$1,677,840
Expenses	(1,656,602)
Investment Activity	(12,470)
NET	\$8,768

INCOME



EXPENSES



Tucson Audubon Society Board of Directors



Tucson Audubon Society Staff

Partners in Conservation

American Bird Conservancy
 Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative
 Arizona Field Ornithologists
 Arizona Game and Fish Department
 Arizona Land and Water Trust
 Arizona League of Conversation Voters
 Arizona Mining Reform Coalition
 Arizona Native Plant Society
 Arizona State Forestry
 Arizona Water Protection Fund
 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 Audubon Arizona
 Audubon Urban Chapter Network
 Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School
 Biosphere 2
 Borderlands Restoration
 Bureau of Land Management
 Care2Enhance
 Cascabel Conservation Association
 Center for Biological Diversity
 Changemaker High School
 Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
 Community Water Coalition
 Conserve to Enhance

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 Coronado National Forest
 City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
 City of Tucson Office of the Mayor
 City of Tucson Clean and Beautiful
 City of Tucson Office of Economic Development
 City of Tucson Ward Offices 1-6
 Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 Desert Survivors
 Earthjustice
 Environmental Education Exchange
 Farmers Investment Company
 Friends of the San Pedro River
 Green Valley Recreation, Inc.
 Huachuca Audubon Society
 Inspiring Connections Outdoors
 Ironwood Tree Experience
 Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance
 Manzo Elementary School
 Maricopa Audubon Society
 Mountain View High School
 National Audubon
 National Park Service
 National Parks Conservation Association

Nature and Conservation International
 Nighthawk Natives
 Native Seeds/SEARCH
 Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
 Pima Association of Governments
 Pima Community College
 Pima County Department of Sustainability
 Pima County Department of Community and Economic Development
 Pima County Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation
 Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department
 Pima County Regional Flood Control District
 Sam Hughes Elementary School
 Santa Cruz County
 Santa Rita High School
 Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
 Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter
 Sky Island Alliance
 Sky Island Restoration Partnership
 Sky Island School
 Sonoran Institute
 Sonoran Joint Venture

Southwest Conservation Corps
 The Nature Conservancy
 The Wilderness Society
 Town of Marana
 Toyota TogetherGreen
 Trees for Tucson
 Trust for Public Land
 Tucson Water
 Tumamoc: People and Habitats
 University of Arizona Institute of the Environment
 University of Arizona Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and the Environment
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 Watershed Management Group
 Western Rivers Action Network
 Wildlands Network