

TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2016 Tucson Audubon took flight on a newly updated strategic plan, formally adopted in September. We reorganized and realigned accordingly, and took on new roles and responsibilities to achieve ambitious outcomes for people and birds. With our updated strategic plan we reestablished a commitment to “inspire people to enjoy and protect birds through recreation, education, conservation and restoration of the environment.” It was a big agenda for our little organization and we handled it well!

During the year, we said goodbye to Tucson Audubon staff who migrated on to new opportunities and greeted new people who came onboard. We were saddened by the loss of friends who passed away, including staff member Juliette Connelly, even as our hearts were warmed by their thoughtful provisions for our continued work. We worked hard, celebrated when possible and began gearing up for what we anticipate will be a tough few years as a new administration takes office. 2016 was a year of change, transition and certainly adaptation.

You will see that Tucson Audubon continued to engage in diverse projects and programs, including a new pond in the beautiful Richard Grand Memorial Meadow at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds,

incredibly successful outreach in Benson to engage people with the San Pedro River, numerous citizen science projects like monitoring Azure bluebird nest boxes and the Tucson Bird Count, two Tucson Meet Your Birds events at Sweetwater that drew in nearly 1,000 people to view local birds, and a fascinating day with author Paul Bannick as he released his latest book, *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. These activities, and others like them, honed our skills and fed our excitement about offering 2017's initiative: The Year of the Hummingbird.

Above all, we are so very grateful to our members, donors, volunteers, community and partners, whose support, inspiration and energy give wings to our work. You make this work possible and we thank you with heartfelt gratitude. It is an honor to serve you through Tucson Audubon.

With warmest regards,


Karen Fogas, Executive Director


Les Corey, President

Azure Bluebird Box installation at Las Cienegas IBA, Jennie Macfarland



Trekking Rattlers in the Chiricahua Mountains, Andy Bennett



Viewing an Elegant Trogon, Southeast Arizona Birding Festival



Installing a monarch waystation at Paton's Center for Hummingbirds



San Rafael IBA, Chestnut-collared Longspur survey crew 2017, Deanna MacPhail



Youth volunteer cuckoo surveyor Dorian Escalante, Matt Griffiths

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



WE CARE FOR WILD BIRDS AND I

CONSERVATION

We study and protect wild birds and their habitats

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO

- Over 800 point count surveys to document Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Sky Island habitat (in collaboration with Coronado National Forest) as well as lower elevation riparian zones. Over 400 hours of survey time, 20 routes covered by 25 volunteers and 8 staff.
- Wrote one resource brief for the Sky Island Restoration Cooperative annual report regarding our work on Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Also produced updated annual report on Sky Island cuckoos based on surveys on forest service lands, Pima County, Tucson Audubon, and The Nature Conservancy properties.
- Based on 2015 anecdotal results, we piloted research on trogon aggression toward cuckoos using playback calls. Initial results showed no aggression response to cuckoos by trogon; however, due to constraints the experiment had to be performed before cuckoos had returned to the area and before the breeding season for either species which may have impacted results.

NEST BOX PROGRAMS

- Volunteers (including Cub Scouts and the Desert Woodworker's Club) built roughly 450 nest boxes for Lucy's Warblers, Azure Bluebirds, screech-owls, and kestrels
- Installed and monitored 150 Azure bluebird nest boxes on ranches, vineyards, and people's yards
 - 5 active bluebird nests, also nests of Ash-throated and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Bridled Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Bewick's and House Wrens
 - One site an experiment with UA bluebird researchers
 - Collected roughly 150 hollow logs (oak and elderberry) to use for natural cavity vs. artificial nest box experiment in 2017
 - Sold 30 Lucy's Warbler nest boxes at fall Tucson Meet Your Birds
- Awarded two grants for nest box research experiments in 2017—one with Lucy's Warblers (Tracy Aviary) and one with Azure Bluebirds (North American Bluebird Society)
- Over 3,500 hours of survey time donated by 171 volunteers in our Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program, which is one of the most citizen-science driven and active IBA programs in the United States.
- 187 species were counted by 60 participants during 1,283 point counts surveys for the Tucson Bird Count.
- 5,000 "Recipe Cards" for creating yard habitat for 5 types of birds were distributed to the public with help from partner, Saguaro National Park.
- 1,200 people reached during Spring and Fall SAHBA Home & Garden Show where information on creating bird supporting landscapes was shared

ADVOCACY

We speak out for wild birds and their homes

- 325 "I love the San Pedro River because ..." postcards completed by the public and sent to Benson City Administrators, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and The Army Corps of Engineers
- 6,000 citizens informed by Tucson Audubon about pressing threats via email alerts, the *Vermillion Flycatcher* and our coalition networks
- Numerous additional units of critical habitat designations for the Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo in multiple sky island mountain ranges
- One 404 Permit suspended by The Army Corps of Engineers for Whetstone Ranch (a.k.a Villages at Vigneto)
- Two legislative attacks on Arizona's Groundwater Management Act defeated by conservation partners, including Tucson Audubon
- Numerous coalition letters on important policy issues. Examples include: window strikes/federal buildings introduced legislation, pollinator-poisoning pesticides/neonics, Migratory Bird Treaty Act incidental take permitting, proposed Resolution Copper mine at Oak Flat, protecting the Endangered Species Act, the value of distributed energy generation, EPA authority over mining-related financial assurance, strengthening the take rule for bald and golden eagles, and more.

Over 3,500 hours of survey time donated by 171 volunteers in our Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program



Over 800 point count surveys to document Threatened Western Yellow-billed Cuckoos



187 species were counted by 60 participants during 1,283 point counts surveys for the Tucson Bird Count

Axhel Munoz teaches youth about riparian ecosystems

INSPIRE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!

RESTORATION

We create sustainable wild bird habitat

- Completed a baseline survey and report on the Arnett Creek for the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. Report focused on Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Lowland Leopard Frogs, endangered minnows, and vegetative characteristics of the project reach.
- Salvaged 15 Saguaros, 15 barrel cactus, 5 hedgehog cactus, and 70 pincushion cactus from road expansion along Cortaro Rd; plants were relocated to the Mason Center for Education and Ironwood Preservation.
- Completed baseline surveys for In-lieu Fee Mitigation project on lower Santa Cruz River, completed multiple scoping options for project.
- Awarded two grants through Partners for Fish and Wildlife for projects around Patagonia to support cuckoos, hummingbirds, and pollinators, including on the 5-acre parcel adjacent to the Paton Center for Hummingbirds.
- Installed Monarch Waystations in collaboration with the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum at the Paton Center for Hummingbirds and at the Mason Center for Education and Ironwood Preservation.
- Presented on Tucson Audubon restoration work along the Santa Cruz River at the Santa Cruz River Research Days Symposium.

ENGAGEMENT

We help people connect with wild birds

- 2,808 participants went on 182 birding field trips to 49 Arizona hotspots
- 377 volunteers put in 9,627 volunteer hours in support of our mission
- We had 361 Southeast Arizona Birding Festival participants from 37 states and 2 foreign countries. There were 37 field trips led by 31 trip leaders
- 19 adult education classes and workshops were offered
- 5 youth education classes and workshops were offered
- Engaged 326 youth in various programs and 14 outings
- Our Nature Shops welcomed 5,326 members and other visitors
- Our Storytelling on the San Pedro event drew 140 people
- Totally Owlrageous: A Day with Paul Bannick drew 133
- 900 people came to Tucson Meet Your Birds in February, 425 to the October edition
- The 20 Living With Nature Programs drew 1131 people

Meet Your Birds at Sweetwater Wetlands, Sara Grimm



325 "I love the San Pedro River because ..." postcards completed by the public

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Survey, Rincon Mountains



Salvaged **15** Saguaros, **15** barrel cactus, **5** hedgehog cactus, and **70** pincushion cactus from road expansion along Cortaro Rd

Volunteers Peter Bengtson and Nancy Young Wright, Joanna Strohn



377 volunteers put in **9,627** volunteer hours

361 Southeast Arizona Birding Festival participants from **37** states and **2** foreign countries. There were **37** field trips led by **31** trip leaders



Trekking Rattlers exploring southeast Arizona

Officers, Board and Staff

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND BOARD

Les Corey - President, Retired
 Mary Walker - Vice President, Retired
 Deb Vath - Secretary, UA Director for Water Sustainability Program
 John Kennedy - Treasurer, Retired
 Matthew Bailey - Tucson Electric Power
 Ardeth Barnhart - UA Renewable Energy Network
 Lydia Bruening
 Ed Curley - Retired
 Kimberlyn Drew - Realtor, Long Realty
 David Dunford - Retired
 Jesus Garcia - Education Specialist with Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 Tricia Gerrodette
 Laurans Halsey - Self-employed
 Kathy Jacobs - Director of Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions with the Institute of the Environment
 Cynthia Pruett
 Nancy Young Wright - former AZ legislator

STAFF

Keith Ashley, Director of Resource Development & Strategic Operations - 4 years
 Andy Bennett, Restoration Project Manager, K-12 Youth Engagement Coordinator - 6 years
 Karen Fogas, Executive Director - 2 years
 Matt Griffiths, Digital Media Coordinator - 11 years
 Kari Hackney, Restoration Intern - 6 months
 Jan Holder, Engagement Director - 1 year
 Debbie Honan, Retail Coordinator - 1 year
 Jonathan Horst, Director of Conservation & Research - 5 years
 Helen Kim, Membership & Communications Director - 1 year
 Mark Krietemeyer, Finance Director - 1 year
 Rodd Lancaster, Field Crew Supervisor - 15 years
 Daniel Lehman, Restoration Crew - 9 years
 Kim Lopez, Accountant - 6 months
 Jonathan Lutz, Paton Center for Hummingbirds Coordinator - 1 year
 Jennie MacFarland, Bird Conservation Biologist - 7 years
 Kimberly Matsushino, Retail & Operations Assistant - 2 years
 Olya Phillips, Bird Survey Assistant - 2 years
 Diana Rosenblum, Membership Coordinator - 3 years
 Luke Safford, Volunteer and Field Trips Coordinator - 1 year

FEDERAL LANDS FOCUSED STAFF

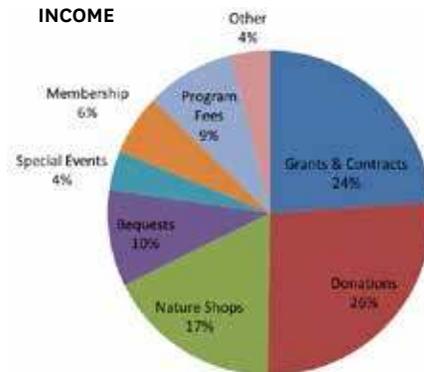
Moez Ali	Nicole Gonzales	Alecio O'Day
Matt Christensen	Cassandra Hall	David Pinigis
Ben Cooper	Andrea Hazelton	Ethan Sandoval
Bethany Derango	Melanie Jones	
Elise Dillingham	Jessica McGarey	

Tucson Audubon Society Income & Expenses Summary

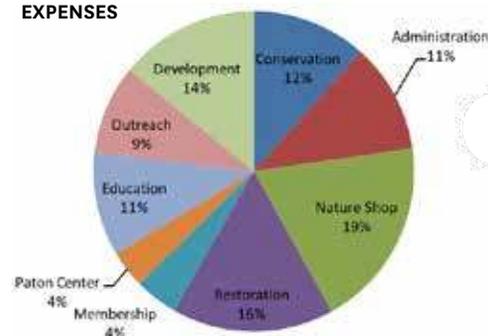
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

Income	\$1,484,676
Expenses	(1,458,725)
Investment Activity	(10,474)
NET	\$15,477

INCOME



EXPENSES



Tucson Audubon Society Board of Directors



Tucson Audubon Society Staff, December 2016

Partners in Conservation

American Birding Association
 American Bird Conservancy
 Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative
 Arizona Field Ornithologists
 Arizona Game and Fish Department
 Arizona Land and Water Trust
 Arizona League of Conservation Voters
 Arizona Mining Reform Coalition
 Arizona Native Plant Society
 Arizona State Forestry
 Arizona Wilderness Coalition
 Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
 ArtPlace America
 Audubon Arizona
 Audubon Urban Chapter Network
 Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School
 Biosphere 2
 Borderlands Restoration
 Bureau of Land Management
 Cascabel Conservation Association

Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
 Community Water Coalition
 Conserve to Enhance
 Cornell Lab of Ornithology
 Coronado National Forest
 City of Tucson Parks and Recreation
 Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative
 Desert Rivers Audubon
 Desert Survivors
 Farmers Investment Company
 Friends of the San Pedro River
 Green Valley Recreation, Inc.
 Ironwood Tree Experience
 Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance
 Manzo Elementary School
 National Audubon
 National Park Service
 Nature and Culture International
 Nighthawk Natives
 Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

Patagonia Creative Arts Association
 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 Flood Control District
 Richard Grand Foundation
 Santa Cruz County
 Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
 Sky Island Alliance
 Sonoran Audubon Society
 Sonoran Institute
 Sonoran Joint Venture
 The Nature Conservancy
 Town of Marana
 Trust for Public Land
 Tucson Water

Tumamoc: People and Habitats
 University of Arizona Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
 University of Arizona School of Geography & Development
 University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and the Environment
 University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service
 Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
 Watershed Management Group
 Western National Parks Association
 Western Rivers Action Network
 Wildlands Restoration
 WOW Arizona