



Our birding experts share their knowledge and the use of birding scopes to get closeup looks.



At Forestville State Park, trip leader John Hockema helped us learn to identify birds by their calls.



Native prairie expert Joel Dunnette and volunteers worked last fall reseeding & restoring the Northern Hills Prairie.

Everything we do is done by volunteers. They handle administrative duties, lead field trips, conduct citizen science projects, advocate for environmental causes, and more. In 2017 they provided more than **1,100 hours** of their time and expertise – valued at more than \$11,000! **We can't thank them enough!**

Join in! Volunteering with us is fun and rewarding. You can help us bring our mission of environmental awareness, appreciation, and advocacy to the community. Visit ZumbroValleyAudubon.org to learn more.

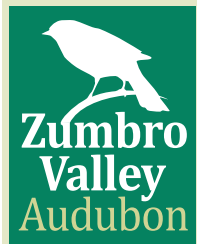


Clifford Hansen manned the "Bird Wheel" at the International Owl Fest.



Baltimore Oriole

Backyard birdwatching is more than just fun. Share your sightings and contribute to Citizen Science projects.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

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Get the latest program information via our free eNewsletter – send your email address to editor@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org.



Catching bugs at the Bug Hunt at Chester Woods.

The goal of life is living in agreement with nature.

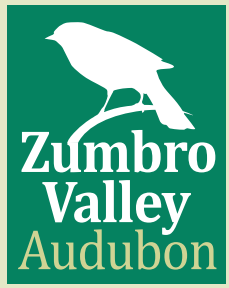
Zeno

Connecting kids with nature is important!

We provide fun, hands-on activities like our Bug Hunt, Damsels & Dragonflies, and Monarch Tagging events. Kids and adults come away with a renewed sense of wonder after attending and we hope to expand these family-friendly opportunities in the future.



Terry Grier helping out at our popular Monarch tagging event at the Northern Hills Prairie last August.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

We are an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. **Your gift is 100% deductible.**

Dear Members,

In 2017 we connected people with nature via programs, classes, field trips, and hands-on, family-friendly activities. We were gratified to see record numbers of adults and children attending these events and are extremely hopeful for the future.

Your financial support is what makes it all possible. Donations continue to be our largest source of funds. Without you, many of the educational and outreach activities we provide would be scaled back or even canceled.

Thank you for your continued support!

Joel Dunnette
President / Zumbro Valley Audubon



An American Copper butterfly on Wild Bergamot, photographed during our 2017 Butterfly Count.

Annual Report / January 1 - December 31, 2017



Programs, Field Trips & Citizen Science.

In 2017 our guest speakers informed and entertained us with presentations about cougars, Woodcocks, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, Loons, the mating rituals of birds, Chickadees, monarchs and more.

Our free, guided field trips, and monthly walks at Quarry Hill Nature Center have become increasingly popular and are a great way learn more about our local ecology. In 2017 we added additional walks and trips to our calendar, including a tour of Rochester's reservoirs, which we hope to make an annual event. See our web site for upcoming events.

We continue to invite interested people to help us further our knowledge through fun Citizen Science events including our annual Christmas Bird Count, Butterfly Count, Chimney Swift Sits and Monarch Tagging events.

Outreach:

Our volunteers had a busy year!

- International Festival of Owls
- Arbor Day & Earthfest
- Both the Oxbow & Quarry Hill Spring Festivals
- Sargents Garden Party
- Native Prairie classes
- Damsels & Dragonflies & our Annual Bug Hunt
- Multiple monarch tagging events
- **NEW in 2017** - we began a project to provide educational trail signs to local parks. Five signs will be installed in 2018 with more to come.



Trail signs designed by volunteer Sandy Hokanson.

2017 Financial Overview

Income

Annual Fund Drive	\$ 3,793
Audubon Dues	\$ 945
Sargents Nursery	\$ 950
IBM Match	\$ 575
Give to the Max Day	\$ 495
Donations at Meetings/Misc	\$ 445
Total	\$ 7,203

Expenditures

Programs, speaker fees & room rental	\$ 2,300
Grants, sponsorships, trail signs & misc.	\$ 2,139
Annual report, envelopes, bylaws update mailing, postage & insurance	\$ 1,407
Website & Online software	\$ 611
Total	\$ 6,457

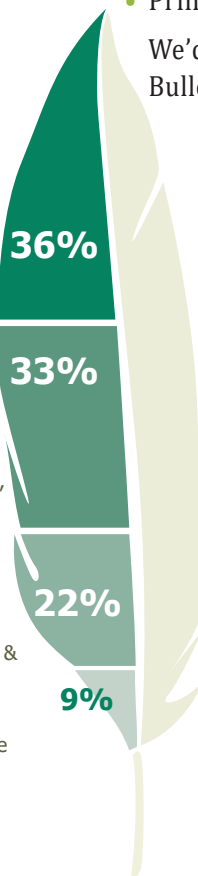
Your money has wings!

36% was used for programs, speaker fees, educational & outreach supplies.

33% was used for grants to like-minded organizations such as Quarry Hill, Whitewater SP, Earthfest, etc., and toward the production of new trail signs.

22% paid for mailings, printed supplies, postage & insurance.

9% paid for web hosting and online software fees.



Publicity:

- We spread the word using:
- Facebook, email & our free eNewsletter
 - Our web site at ZumbroValleyAudubon.org
 - Printed fliers & posters

We'd like to give special thanks to the Rochester Post Bulletin for mentioning our events in their publications.

Looking forward:

Thanks to your generous donations last year we are now providing grants and funding more projects than ever before, including:

- Educational trail signs
- Pollinator garden / Native Prairie educational materials
- Expanded monarch tagging events

If you have a project you'd like us to consider funding, please contact any board member – see ZumbroValleyAudubon.org for current contact information.

Please consider a donation

using the enclosed envelope or by visiting giveMN.org (click donate, and type in Zumbro Valley Audubon). Your gifts allow us to continue providing free programs and connecting people with nature. **Thank you!**

