

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

We are an all-volunteer nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Dear Members,

First let me say how grateful we are for the funds and support you have given us. We take great care to use these gifts to achieve as much as we can, yet much remains to be done.

Groups like ours focus on protecting wild areas but each year urban development pushes further out and more habitat is lost. This trend needs to be reversed which is why we continue to promote the practice of converting existing landscapes into areas that can support wildlife.

This year we'd like to challenge everyone to replace some of their non-native lawns with locally native plants. We know many people who've already started this process with great success. Visit our website "**Native Plants / Prairie Info**" page for guidance.

Please help us promote this practice. It can make a big difference in protecting our endangered species, including the Monarch butterfly which was recently placed under federal protection.

Thank you!

Michael Degerstrom / **President, Zumbro Valley Audubon**



Jacob's Ladder is a native plant that blooms each spring and feeds hummingbirds and bees. Scan the QR code (left) to access more information about native plants.



Special Projects

While we work to preserve and protect habitat close to home, we also need to protect the winter homes of our migratory species. **In 2024 we made a large investment** to fund and erect a MOTUS tower in Guatemala. These towers track the movements of birds outfitted with radio backpacks, giving scientists better clues about which areas are in trouble and need our help.

Six ZVAS board members and volunteers traveled to a bird banding station in Guatemala where we have developed a relationship and provide funding. Our team delivered equipment, helped assemble the antennas and assisted with the installation of a Motus radio receiver.

Read the entire story on our website under the "**Projects / Education / Links**" tab or scan this QR code:



Top: Bird banding in Guatemala.
Above: Seeding native plants at a new local park called "Prairie Crossings".
Below: Big Birding Day at Chester Woods.

Free programs, bird walks, citizen science & more

Getting people out in nature is the first step toward protecting it.

In 2024 we hosted and/or participated in:

- 31** Guided bird walks and field trips
- 8** Special programs where expert speakers entertained and educated us on a wide variety of subjects
- 8** Citizen science events
- 20+** Outreach events

You can join the fun! Check our website calendar for upcoming walks, field trips, programs and other free events which are open to all.

2024 Financial Overview

Total donations & income:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Annual Fund Drive (Feb.) | \$ 3,244 |
| Audubon dues/incentives | \$ 1,180 |
| Give to the Max Day (Nov.) | \$ 1,420 |
| Other Donations | \$ 2,250 |

Total \$ 8,094

Total expenses:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Annual Report (printing/postage) | \$ 637 |
| Programs | \$ 1,100 |
| Grants | \$ 8,043 |
| Education | \$ 1,399 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 615 |

Total \$ 11,794

12/31/24 Bank balance \$ 8,577



Your donations are everything!

Please use the enclosed envelope or visit giveMN.org (click "Donate" and type in Zumbro Valley Audubon). Your gifts allow us to continue doing the things we do and they are 100% tax deductible. **Thank you!**

Your donations allow us to provide the majority of these events **free of charge** and you don't have to be a member to participate. We welcome everyone!

Hope for the future.

Our group is small, but our volunteers are mighty and with your help we'll continue working to connect people with nature.



ZumbroValleyAudubon.org

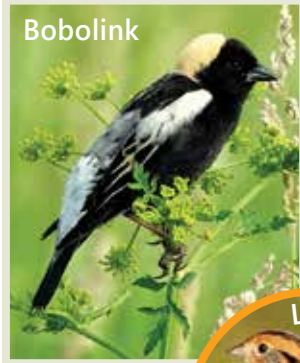
Does your employer offer matching grants? **Our Tax ID number is 41-1386357**

Saving nature for all of us

Grassland birds like **Bobolinks**, **Meadowlarks** and **LeConte's Sparrows** are in danger. Many of the **warblers** we love to chase each spring are declining. They're all having trouble finding space to nest and difficulty finding enough insects to raise their chicks. They need us to do better.

Please help us spread the word about planting natives, preventing urban sprawl and limiting the use of deadly pesticides.

Thank you!



Bobolink



Eastern Meadowlark



Northern Parula



LeConte's Sparrow

Meadowlark photo by Sandy Hokanson, all others on this page by Jerry Pruett

Want to be a ZVAS volunteer?

Your generous donations enable us to do so much, but we always need more hands on deck.

We need folks who love the outdoors and can help lead walks, schedule speakers, collect seed, take photos, manage social media, staff outreach tables and more.

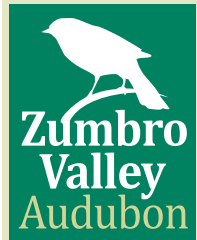
No experience required! Contact us today.

Email: contactZVAS@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org



"In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks."

John Muir



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Get the latest program information via our free eNewsletter.

Send your email address to editor@ZumbroValleyAudubon.org.



Because of your support someone went on their first bird walk, learned how to seed a prairie, tagged a monarch, and discovered insects aren't so scary after all. You help us connect people with nature. Here are a few examples of how we spent your donated funds in 2024:

- Motus Radio Tracking Station **\$5,643**
- Cerulean Warbler Research Project **\$500**
- Owl Fest Sponsorship **\$500**
- MoSI Banding Station in Guatemala **\$500**
- Bird Seed for Quarry Hill **\$300**
- Bird Seed for Whitewater State Park **\$300**
- EarthFest Sponsorship **\$250**
- Printing various bird handouts **\$412**
- Cascade Lake Interpretive Bird Signs **\$214**
- Native Plants for Birds & Butterflies books **\$255**

Thank you!

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Top: Our group at the Motus Radio Tracking Station
Below: One of two new Cascade Lake Park signs

Top: Getting a closeup look at a dragonfly
Below: Monarch tagging