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
**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
- 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.
- 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
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 Owlorgeous: 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

325 “I love the San Pedro River because …” postcards completed by the public
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
Matt Christensen
Ben Cooper
Bethany Derango
Elise Dillingham
Nicole Gonzales
Cassandra Hall
Andrea Hazelton
Melanie Jones
Jessica McGarey
Alecio O’Day
David Pinigis
Ethan Sandoval

Tucson Audubon Society

**Tucson Audubon Society Income & Expenses Summary**

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2016*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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**Net**

**Expenses**

1. Development 31%
2. Conservation 11%
3. Administration 11%
4. Outreach 9%
5. Education 11%
6. Nature Shop 19%
7. Restoration 19%
8. Membership 4%
9. Paton Center 4%

**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 Conversation 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 Laufer 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
- Tucson Audubon
- Tucson Audubon Society Board of Directors
- Tucson Audubon Society Staff, December 2016

*Tucson Audubon Annual Report 2016*