

TUCSON AUDUBON 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Inspiring people to enjoy and protect birds

WHAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED IN 2022



EXAMPLES OF THE WIDE-RANGING AND EVER-EXPANDING WORK THAT IS REFLECTED IN TUCSON AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT.

- An all-new, bird-centric school curriculum in English and Spanish will be available soon to foster our next generation of bird lovers.
- Advocacy and civic engagement spanned local, state, and national issues.
- Community science projects on Elegant Trogon, Desert Purple Martin, Gilded Flicker, and Chestnut-collared Longspur helped determine what these special birds most need to thrive.
- By removing acre upon acre of buffelgrass, stinknet, salt cedar, and other invasive plants that threaten saguaro habitat and degrade riparian areas, our highly skilled teams working on public lands enabled native ecosystems to better flourish.
- Saguaro seedlings—14,000 of them—nurtured enthusiastic partnerships for protecting this iconic desert condominium and learning how to replenish fire-damaged landscapes.
- Dozens of volunteer leaders and staff introduced best-loved bird hotspots and favorite secluded locations to hundreds of field trip participants.
- A new website with a wealth of resources connected people with birds and community.
- Opportunities for funding habitat enhancement, community engagement, climate justice, and more were expertly pursued by our grant specialist.
- Habitat at Home promoted connectivity by creating new habitat patches in private patios and yards.
- Scores of nestboxes for Lucy's Warblers, owls, flycatchers, and kestrels introduced many to the art and science of habitat enhancement.

Your invaluable support makes this work possible.

With thanks from the entire Tucson Audubon Society community.

Linda McNulty
Board President



Desert Purple Martin, Ned Harris



RESEARCH AND BIRD SURVEYS

- Initial Lucy's Warbler and Desert Purple Martin research included **first-ever in-house mist netting, banding, and tagging** of birds
- Eight Desert Martins tagged with trackers to determine **first-ever information on their migration patterns**
- **Banded 12 Lucy's Warbler nestlings** to determine natal area fidelity
- Cross-boundary (US/MX) bird conservation and research partnership launched for breeding Desert Martins
- **Pollinator Ecology manuscript published** with Prudic Lab at UA
- Elegant Trogon survey results: **121 trogons**, 101 surveyors covering 94 routes, five Sky Island ranges
- Elf Owl survey results: **187 owls**, 67 surveyors covering 34 routes
- Launched an **international nestbox design contest** to replicate saguaro cavities for Desert Martins and other saguaro-nesters to use
- **Paton Center Motus station goes live**; Tucson Audubon actively engaged in Arizona Motus Network
- Coordinating with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies to improve joint survey efforts for Chestnut-collared Longspurs



CONSERVATION CAPACITY

- Hired a **Mitigation Program Manager and Restoration Project Manager** to accelerate long-term, large-scale projects
- The **Invasive Plants department doubled in size** to 17 people
- Began hiring a specific **Urban Habitats crew** with two members
- All field staff received **Wilderness First Aid and chainsaw training**
- Purchased one new truck, a large spray rig, a tractor, and a wood chipper to facilitate effective work at a large scale
- Upgraded to electric chainsaws that are quieter, run off solar-recharged batteries, and have a reduced risk of spills while working in sensitive areas

All field staff are now trained in safe chainsaw handling, Jay Snowdon

URBAN CONSERVATION

- Secured multi-year GSI Maintenance contract with City of Tucson's Storm-to-Shade program and helped them develop appropriate city-wide standards.
- Secured grant and private funding of \$110,000 to launch the **Habitat on Wheels mobile habitat and community engagement unit** in 2023.
- **63 new Habitat at Home registrants**, sold 423 plants during seasonal sales, completed five home habitat evaluations, two Habitat at Home consultations, and four habitat installs.
- **Three new water-harvesting pollinator gardens installed in Green Valley** as part of the Gardens on the Greens project.
- Distributed **535 bird nestboxes** into the region, benefiting Lucy's Warblers, barn and screech-owls, flycatchers, and kestrels
- **Bird Safe Buildings**: Consulted with Sonoran Audubon, Desert Rivers Audubon, and Maricopa Audubon in their effort to monitor Phoenix high-rise buildings for window strikes
- Partnered with Nature's Notebook to create the **Lucy Tree Project**, aimed at involving community scientists in submitting observations of Lucy's Warbler nesting and mesquite tree phenology
- Nestbox program featured on *Arizona Illustrated* on PBSTV
- The "**Corazon Sin Fuego**" riparian hazardous fuels project has nearly wrapped up: ten of 13 firebreaks completed; 40 of 50 acres of invasives treated twice; 20 of 27 acres of tamarisk trees felled
- Started National Forest Foundation contract work to reduce fire risk in the Catalina Foothills, **21.5 acres of intense infestation treated**
- Controlling and mapping invasive plants in five partner HOAs

WILDLAND CONSERVATION

- Launched **Save our Sonoran Saguaros**, garnering national-level media coverage; **11,000 saguaros being grown** by partners for future planting
- The **Federal Invasive Plant Strike Team** worked at seven National Parks and Monuments and ten Wildlife Refuges
- **Five shade ramadas built in the Paton Center Cuckoo Corridor** to provide shaded respite while birding along the interpretive trail
- **Secured multi-year grant of \$179,000 from State Forestry** to treat invasive trees and plants along the Sonoita Creek from Hwy 82 bridge to downstream end of the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve
- Completed year two of a five-year treatment regime for USFS to treat invasive plants near their Mansfield Canyon mine reclamation site
- **Treated 34 acres of invasive grass yellow bluestem** on National Audubon's Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
- Working with Borderlands Restoration Network, treated invasive plants threatening the Wild Chili Botanical Area in the Atascosa Mountains, the primary reserve for chiltepinos in the US

BIRDS + COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

- Led **260 field trips** (74% increase), served almost **1,200 unique individuals**, trained **16 new trip leaders** (70% increase), recorded **1,342 volunteer leader hours** (224% increase), and **logged 294 bird species** on more than **600 eBird checklists**
- Impacted **1,430 young people** and **1,096 adults** through the youth education program's 24 classroom lessons, eight field trips and events, two presentations, and eight tabling events
- **766 registrants, 113 volunteers, 40 exhibitors, and 22 sponsors** enjoyed the **12th annual Southeast Arizona Birding Festival** through 127 field trips, 26 presentations, and eight celebration events while finding 241 bird species
- Welcomed 4,248 participants at 50 virtual and 423 participants at 12 in-person events
- **50 teams of 158 people** participated in **Birdathon**, raising \$104,925 to support Tucson Audubon's work
- Partnered with Bawker Bawker for popular Birds 'n' Bingo events

VOLUNTEER WORK

- **365 volunteers contributed 9,328 hours.** According to the Independent Sector, that is the equivalent of \$279,374.

PATON CENTER

- **20 dedicated volunteers contributed 2,183 hours** of daily operations and visitor services
- **199 bird species** seen (eBird)

ADVOCACY

- Doubled the size of our Conservation Advocacy Department by hiring isaiah kortright as Tucson Audubon's first **Community Organizing Coordinator!**
- Sent out **27 action alerts**, mobilizing our community to advocate for birds, conservation, the environment, fighting climate change, and voting, at the local, state, and national level
- **Partnered with Environmental Voter Project and 50 volunteers** for nonpartisan, voter-turnout efforts in the lead-up to the 2022 elections: two "Birding and Phone-banking" events and four of the world's first "Birding and Canvassing" events.

NATURE SHOP

- ***Finding Birds in Southeast Arizona***: 631 copies sold and \$14,290 in sales
- **In-person shop visitors: 2766**
- Offsite Shop Presence: **five new pop-up events, \$1,428 in sales**
- Online shop: **17,110 visitors generated 801 orders and \$44,432 in sales**
- Overall sales: **10,036 items sold and \$337,295 in sales**

MEMBERSHIP, DONORS, DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

- Membership held steady, representing roughly **3090 individuals**
- Received contributions from **1514 donors**
- Educated and informed members and the public through a brand new website, four magazine issues, and 50 weekly eblasts (list increase of 17%)
- Increased our **social media following to 27,600**, an increase of 12%

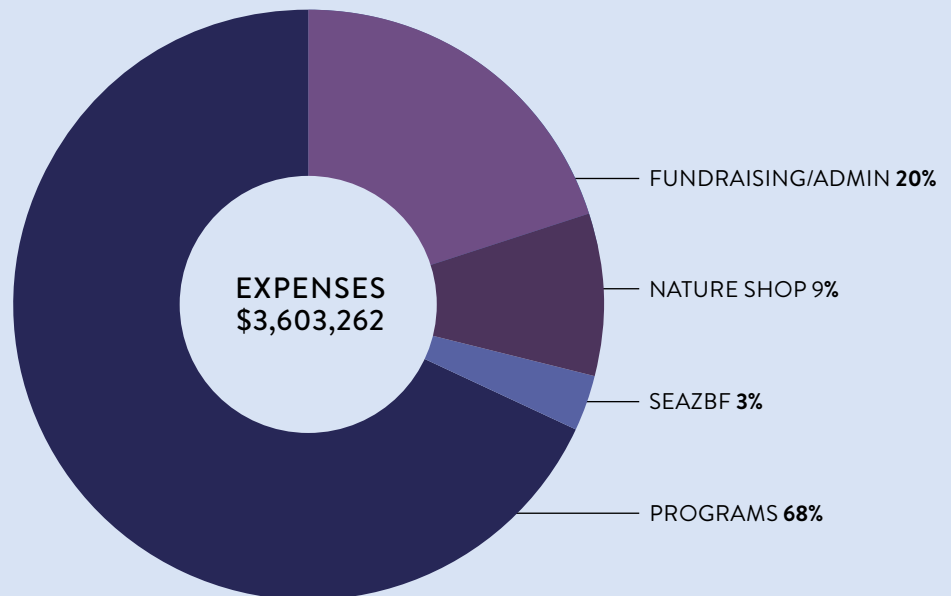
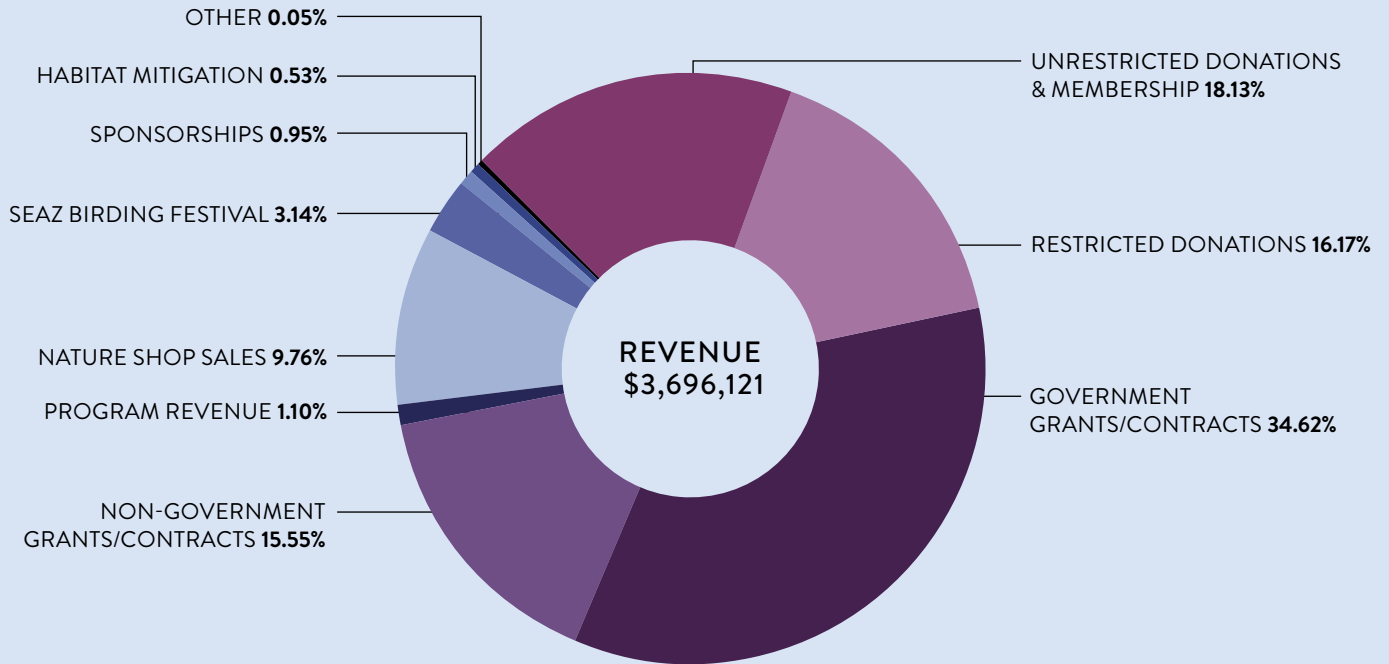


One of five new shade ramadas in the Cuckoo Corridor, Dan Lehman



Many youth and adults were impacted by educational tabling events, Taylor Rubin

2022 FINANCIALS



American Kestrel, Peggy Steffens