

125 Years of Finding Spark

2023 Annual Report



Our Team



**BRAD
BUMGARDNER**

Executive Director



**WHITNEY
YOERGER**

Communications & Outreach Manager



**LIBBY
KEYES**

MGBS Operations Manager



**ALEX
WARCHOL**

Sanctuary Land Steward

Indiana Audubon’s mission is to engage communities in the enjoyment of birds in their habitat, through conservation, education, and research.

125 Years Building a Community of Conservation



125th Anniversary Logos designed by Scott Arvin

2023 Board of Directors



**KIM
EHN**
President



**SHARI
MCCOLLOUGH**
Vice President



**MARY
FOX**
Secretary



**AMANDA
SITTERDING**
Treasurer



**RICHARD
GARRETT**



**JOANNE
GUTTMAN**



**MATT
IGLESKI**



**KRISTEN
SWEINHART**
Past President



**COOKIE
FERGUSON**



**MONA
CLAYTON**



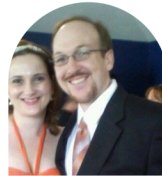
**JENNY
HABECKER**



**LINA
RIFA'I**



**JEREMY
ROSS**



**SCOTT
ENOCHS**

Your Support Sparks Our Mission



Our members and donors are the spark that brings meaning to our mission. You are a part of everything we do at Indiana Audubon. As we celebrated being Indiana's oldest conservation organization in 2023, we also shared looking for warblers at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, supporting field surveys for migrants and marsh birds, and sponsoring bird-friendly projects across Indiana.

The light of your donation has enabled us to sustain programs like the Indiana Birding Trail, a recognition of birding destinations, and The Cardinal Newsletter and Indiana Audubon Quarterly, publications that bring birding information and knowledge into members' homes. Monthly bird hikes have introduced new members to Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary.

The flame of your contribution has an impact on avian research. Indiana Audubon sponsored Motus Towers to record tagged bird flybys, and we provided a birder for the first Lake Michigan Fall Waterbird Survey. The Motus Tower at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary detected a rare Red Knot migrating south in July.

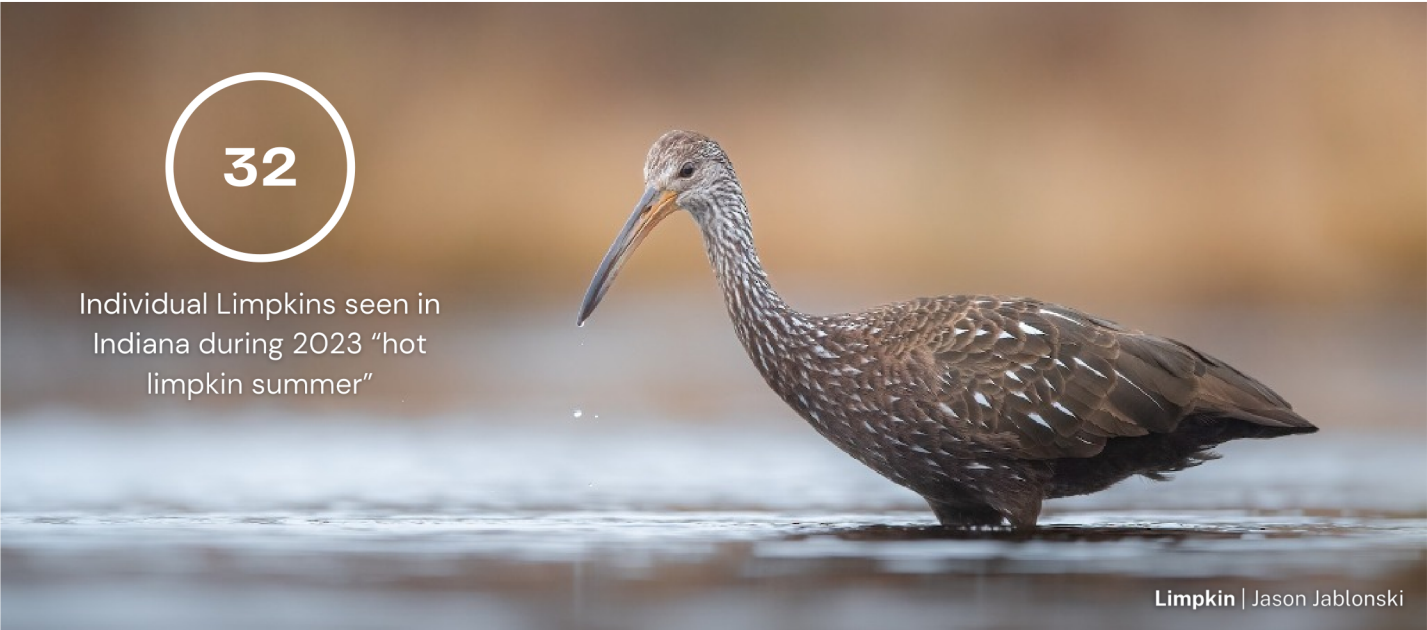
The sparkle of your generosity has engaged individuals in the importance of environmental stewardship. We sent optics and field guides for Youth Birding in Santa Marta, Columbia as part of our international field trips. Volunteers removed invasive species at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary to improve the habitat for birds.

Your belief in our mission inspires us and we are filled with gratitude for your continued support. Thank you for standing with us as we work to help others to enjoy the birds at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, in Indiana, and the world.

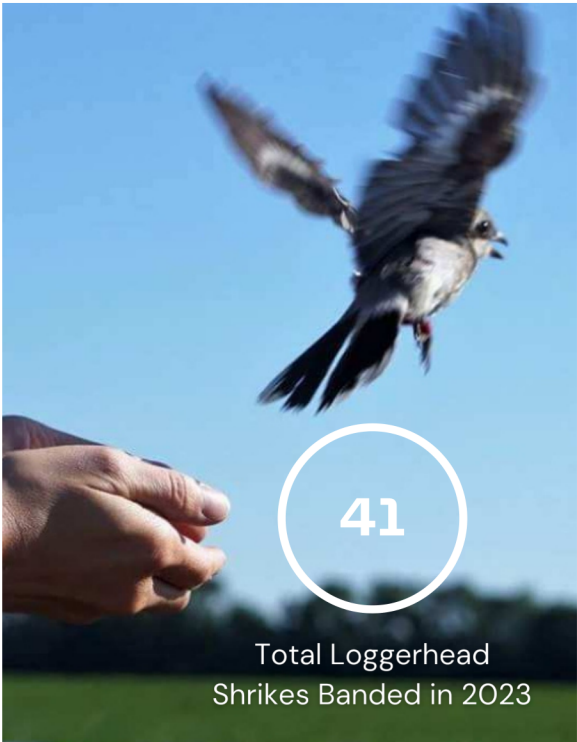
Brad Bumgardner
Executive Director

Kim Ehn
Board President

Celebrating 125 Years of Education, Conservation, and Research



Indiana Audubon is the fourth oldest Audubon society in the United States, celebrating 125 years of unwavering commitment to bird conservation in 2023. Since our inception, we have been at the forefront of protecting Indiana's avian treasures and habitats. Through innovative initiatives, collaborative partnerships, and dedicated advocacy, 2023 was a year of both reflection and planning for the next 125 years.



2023 By the Numbers

558

Total Bird Species Seen
on IAS Field Trips

1310

Total Volunteer
Hours

1635

Total Membership In-
State, Out-of-State,
and International

3203

Number of People
Joining Bird Hikes and
Workshops

1150

Indiana Dunes Birding
Festival Attendance

1

Governor
Proclamations to
Support Migratory
Birds

Connecting Science with Land Managers

Continued trend monitoring for our secretive marsh bird species has been enhanced by eDNA collection and autonomous recording in the field, providing a clearer understanding of individual bird movement across the breeding landscape. This research helps land managers better understand how to keep these species thriving in Indiana.



Watch a King Rail from last year that was hot to trot!



Engaging the Public with Conservation

Over the past 15 years, the Indiana Audubon Project OwlNet has invited the public into the mysterious world of owl migration and the dedicated volunteers who meticulously study and monitor these creatures. In the year 2023 we surpassed our 700th owl. Our efforts have since welcomed over 9,000 individuals to witness firsthand the marvels of these magnificent birds and the crucial conservation work saving these and other species.

72

Total Northern
Saw-whet Owls
Banded in 2023

39

Northern Saw-whet
Owls Adopted



Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary



The Sanctuary in Spring | Libby Keyes

The Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary is Indiana Audubon's flagship site, located just outside of Connersville, Indiana, in Fayette County. Established in the 1940s with a property donation from Alice Gray in remembrance of her daughter Mary, the Sanctuary has expanded to over 700 acres. In 2023, the Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary will commemorate its 80th anniversary with public events, workdays, and grant-supported projects.



Accessible Birding Blind Installation | Libby Keyes



2023 Hummingbird Migration Celebration | Whitney Yoerger



Prescribed Burn in September | Libby Keyes



Master Naturalist Class



Interpretive Trails Signage



Biodiversity Project



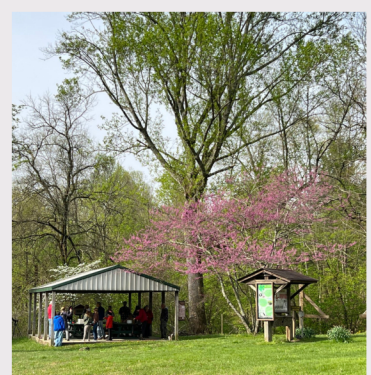
Hummingbird Migration Celebration



125th Legacy Grant for Brooks Hall Upgrades



Accessible Birding Blind



Monthly Birding & Hiking

Continuing the Mumford and Keller Legacy

With your help, we awarded over \$10,000 in environmental grants through the Mumford and Keller Grant/Scholarship Program in 2023. Every year, we are thrilled to see our partners and fellow environmental organizations taking action to improve Indiana for both birds and the people who enjoy them.

2023 grant recipients included:

- Alas Para el Futuro Colombia Young Birders
- Dunes-Calumet Audubon Society
- Falls of Ohio Foundation
- Friends of Clifty Falls State Park
- Humane Indiana Wildlife
- Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife
- Purdue Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
- Richmond Parks and Recreation

Charles Keller and Russell Mumford are the namesakes of the Mumford and Keller Grant/Scholarship Program. Both were active in the birding community and wrote landmark birding books for the state of Indiana. Their names carry on through the grants and scholarship program.

8

2023 Grant
Recipients

\$12,464

Total Funds
Awarded in 2023



Honoring the Heroes in Our Community



Every year, the **Earl Brooks Conservation Award** recognizes individuals for their contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Indiana. Recipients do not need to be members of Indiana Audubon (IAS).

Nicole Harmon, a dedicated wildlife educator and center director at Humane Indiana Wildlife, received the Brooks Conservation Award for her dedication to wildlife conservation. Harmon is a conservation leader who rehabilitates injured birds, educates people about birds in Northwest Indiana, and advocates for protecting Indiana's native bird species. Her outstanding work has not only saved many avian lives but has also encouraged many people to join the fight for bird conservation.

The **James H. Mason Service Award** is presented to members who have dedicated themselves through service to the society. It serves as an inspiration and focus for others, to work with such individuals.

Dr. Joanne Guttman, a retired family physician and longstanding IAS member, received the Mason Service Award for her exceptional dedication to the organization. Her active involvement at Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary (MGBS) includes serving on the MGBS committee, combating invasive species, volunteering at various IAS events, and organizing the Sanctuary's historical archives so that visitors can learn about its rich history.



Thank You For Making a Difference

Listed here are significant partnerships and gifts, including both monetary and in-kind donations valued at \$100 or more, made during our fiscal year 2023.

\$20,000+

Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation
Efroymson Family Fund

\$5,000-\$19,000

Mari Patton-Parsons
Jim & Penny Starin

\$2,500-\$4,999

Chesterton Feed & Garden
Jacquie Cobb
William G. Cummings III
Flora Richardson Foundation

\$1,500-\$2,499

Mona Clayton
Dunes Calumet Audubon Society
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Diane Phillips
Matthew Rees
Joanne Guttman
Jeffrey Wilson

\$1,000-\$1,499

John Blackburn
Chicago Bird Alliance
Robert Cooper Audubon Society
James Fuehrmeyer
Barbara Jablonski
John Kite Estate
James & Jane Schowe
South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society

\$500-\$999

Audubon Great Lakes
Eileen F. Casey
Evansville Audubon Society
Cookie Ferguson
Tom Froman
Becky Lomax-Sumner
William Sharkey
Sterling Transportation, Inc.
Spencer & Angela Tarter
Daniel & Barbara Weber
Renee Wright
Jenny Young

Over **220 species** were recorded during the inaugural fall waterbird season Lake Michigan's southern tip.

\$250-\$499

Allison Burke
Anthony Wolski
Brad Bumgardner
Cameron Miser
Capital City Ford
Cargill
Cheryl Ammon
Dan Taylor
Denise Marie Sobieski
Diana Harrington
First State Bank of Porter
Joanna Sparks
John & Wendy Cassady
John Hanson
Karin Anderson
Kristen Sweinhart
Larry Theller
Laura Keyes
Lindsay Grossman
Mark Hoyer
Marilyn Yager
Peggy Yoerger
Wesley Homoya
Alex Takasugi

\$100-\$249

Kathy Abretske
American Giving Foundation
Alison Baum
Paul & Norma Beard
Mike & Nancy Becker
Cameron Bowery
Marsha Bradford
Jim Brown
James Carroll
Margaret Carson
Lee Casebere
Susan Ridgely Cohen
Brian Crane
Linda Cronkleton
David & Sally Crouch
Don Crum
Roxie Easter
Kimberly Ehn
Stephen Elliott

Cindy Emond
John Fanta
William Garrett
Richard Garrett
Julie Gidwitz
Gail Griffin
Beth & Mike Grunow
Sheila Haas
Michelle Hagan
Grant Hawkins
Patrick Heeney
Tamima Itani
Leslie Jacobs
Rosemarie Jeffery
Ericka Johnson
Paul & Susan Labovitz
Phillip Lange
Sara McKinley
Susan McRoberts
Kimberly Miser
Rebecca Morris
Anne Pancella
Patricia Perry
Edwin & Cynthia Powers
Katie Ray
Courtney Rearick
David Richards
Martha Ridoux
Eric and Tina Rosier
Chuck Roth, Jr.
Jean Rudd
Dorinda Sattler
Sara Schrader
Ronald & Jonita Shields
Lisa Sinke
Rhonda Slaven
Charles & Sharon Sorenson
Willard & Catherine Snyder
Karla Staley
Donna Stanley
Jean & Walter Starrick
Stephanie Strait
Kristen Sweinhart
Mary Szpur
Sandi Tiebert
Melissa Tomamichel
Angie Vanderver

Richard Wallace
Rosalind Webb
Terry Wilkin
Betsy & George Wilson
Janeen Wise
Jeannette Wolff
Fred Wooley

Apologies for any missed names. If yours isn't there, rest assured we're truly grateful for your generous support.



72 Saw-whet
owls were
banded as part
of Project
OwlNet in 2023

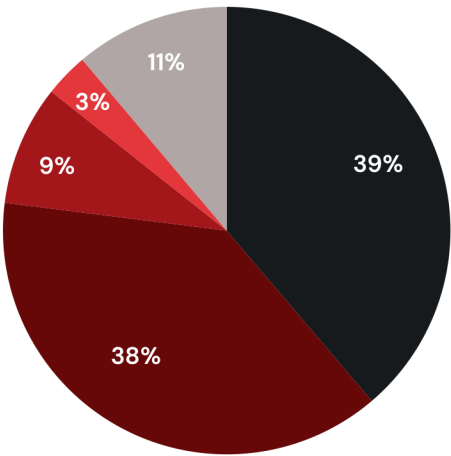
Project OwlNet Banding Demonstration | Nicholas Jones

2023 Financial Summary

Indiana Audubon is an independent statewide nonprofit organization. It operates autonomously without financial support from the National Audubon Society, relying instead on memberships and donations. Indiana Audubon’s fiscal year concludes on December 31.

OPERATING REVENUE

Membership & Contributions	\$171,651	■
Programs & Trips	\$169,171	■
Retail & Rentals	\$38,452	■
Investment Income	\$14,038	■
Grants	\$49,025	■



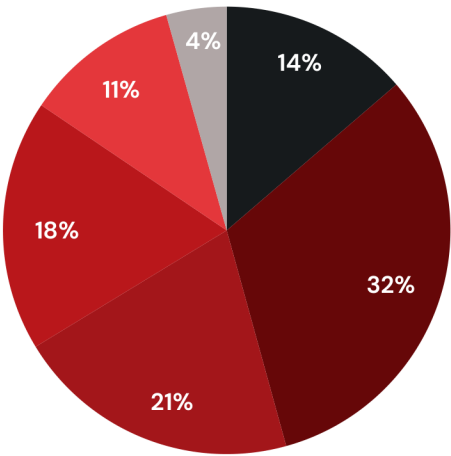
NON-OPERATING REVENUE

Investment Income	\$123,746
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Total **\$566,484**

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administrative	\$76,005	■
Education & Outreach	\$177,656	■
Conservation	\$114,198	■
Research	\$100,749	■
Facilities & Maintenance	\$62,102	■
Fundraising	\$24,176	■



Total **\$554,890**

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Total Assets	\$2,831,613*
Liabilities	\$93,056
Net Assets	\$2,738,557

*Assets include the MGBS Endowment Fund, IAS Development Fund, MGBS Strategic Fund, and IAS Strategic Fund. All were managed by Halter Ferguson Financial Inc. and had a year-end market value of **\$2,435,447**.



Join Our Flock

Join us in protecting Indiana's rich biodiversity and building a strong conservation community. Support our efforts to connect people with birds and their habitats through educational, conservation, and research initiatives, programs, and enriching experiences. Together, we can make an important impact for birds.

Become a Member:

indianaaudubon.org/membership



Donate to Our Cause:

indianaaudubon.org/donate





3499 S. Bird Sanctuary Rd.
Connersville, Indiana 47331