

Who We Are

From Karl Brummert, Executive Director

Learning from the past, living in the present, and planning for the future is where my mind, as an executive director, spends time every day (including evenings and weekends). While attempting to focus on managing daily operations in our world today, one is always wondering what is around the next corner: a recession, another pandemic, some other drastic change? We do our best to make sure the organization is positioned well financially and with the best human resources in place for that next challenge. Thankfully, we have been in a great situation for the last fourteen years.

As we were required to do in March 2020, we continue to adapt. We spent 2021-2022 getting back to being fully operational, with changes along the way to create more efficiency and reach larger audiences. Almost all of our programs are in person again, including our Naturalist Trainings and the Audubon Master Birder program. We still use the virtual option when it makes sense. Some examples include the classroom sessions of our popular Beginning Birdwatching Class, our conservation webinars, the Lois Webster Fund presentations, and even our online auction. Plus, it reduces our carbon footprint.

Last year was not a year of drastic changes, but rather tweaking what we do best and making changes to be even better. Staff and volunteers work hard every year to develop new programs and events, while always being creative with updating our successful programs. We are developing our next strategic plan, and we are looking forward to exciting new possibilities as we expand our reach.

I can never express enough how much I appreciate you, our supporters. You give us your time, you provide financial support, and you offer your expertise. YOU make our organization strong and resilient, which in turn makes our community a better place. It is exciting to see all of us working together to inspire others, both children and adults, to take action toward a better future for birds, other wildlife, habitats, and people.

Karl Brummert

Inspiring actions that protect birds,
other wildlife, and their habitats through
education, conservation, and research.



Community Outreach



Our outreach programs continue to grow - We engaged with people all across our community to educate on birds and other Colorado wildlife, while inspiring people to get back to nature.

Last year, 29 Audubon Community Naturalists completed our year-long and condensed 9-day classes, including a new 9-week summer course. We offered 15 “Native Plants for Birds” outreach programs, both in person and virtually, in Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Arapahoe, and Jefferson counties. We inspired local garden clubs, neighborhoods, and HOA’s to take action by building habitat that supports our local birds, insects, and other wildlife. We also continued a wide range of outreach programs in the metro area, including classes with the Osher Life-long Learning Institute (OLLI), offered through University of Denver.

Next Generation of Conservationists

Over the summer, we hosted a wildlife rehabilitation and conservation camp for children ages 7-14. We covered a variety of topics, including careers with and for wildlife. We visited Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation, Denver Aquarium, Rocky Mountain Arsenal, and Butterfly Pavilion.

We enjoyed the opportunity to educate future animal stewards and conservationists.



1,741
Offsite program
attendees



488
Onsite program
attendees

135
Programs



School Programs



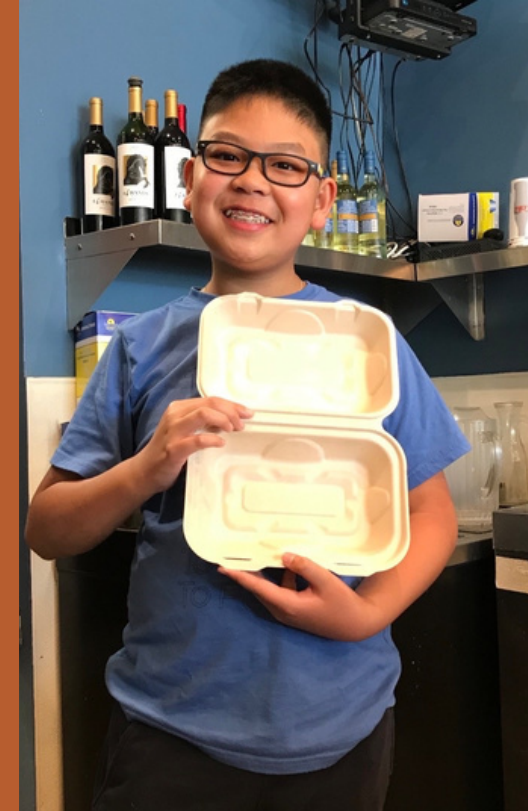
Finally getting back to the classroom - The Denver Audubon educators continued to reach communities across the Denver area to teach about on birds, ecosystems, and so much more!

Students in our school programs often get involved in exciting projects. The 10th graders from **Collegiate Academy of Colorado** created an educational garbage garden. The goal of the project is to educate visitors at Chatfield State Park about the life span of our food and beverage packaging. Items in the garden include Styrofoam, plastic grocery bags, and glass bottles, with labels indicating their decomposition rates (most items do not actually decompose). Izi Taisarsky, a senior, used her pyrography skills to create the signage in the garden by burning words and artwork onto wood panels. Many of our school programs involve multiple visits to the classroom or our nature center, and students are encouraged to **take action beyond the lessons**.

Making a Difference

Making a Difference. One student from our Wonders of Water program was inspired to make a change in his community and have a positive impact on the environment. At his family's restaurant, Son Mai convinced his father to switch their carryout containers to compostable rather than Styrofoam. Such a great reminder that small changes can make a big difference!

Visit their restaurant, Viet Pho, in Lone Tree.

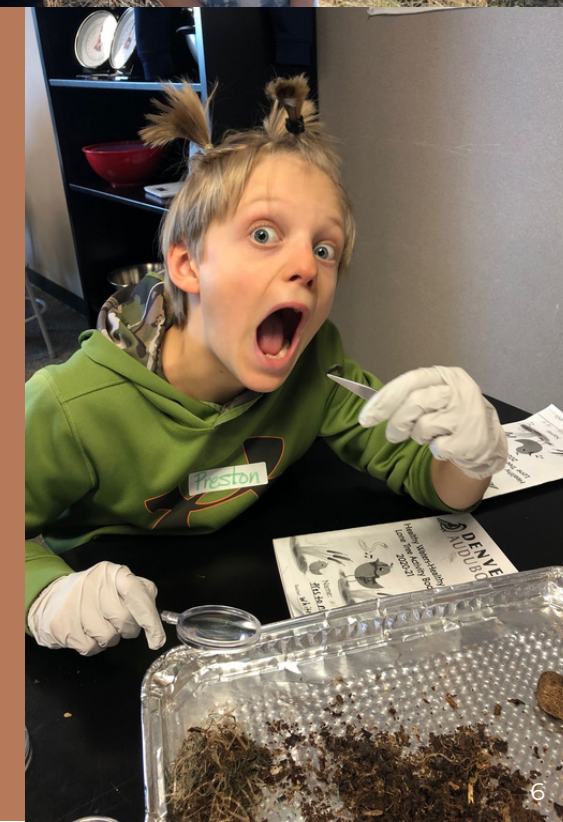


155
Programs

3,600
Student Contacts



1,589
Student
attendees



Nature Center Programs



Expanding our team - We hired a naturalist to help expand our programs at our Nature Center.
From summer camps to scout programs, we are excited to continue to grow.

Our Nature Center Naturalist worked with Eagle Scout **Christian Kennedy** to update the Nature Center's trail signs with nine new **QR codes** that link to information on our website, including an interactive map and highlights of the wildlife around the nature center. We also partnered with **Breckenridge Brewery, Reynolds Landing, and Carson Nature Center** for an Earth Day celebration. Together, we added **75 new native plants** to our gardens, removed **ten 30-gallon bags** of invasive weeds, and picked up three bags of trash. Breckenridge Brewery generously donated new gardening supplies. We continued to offer **Habitats for Homeschoolers, Birding Insights** and a variety of other programs based at the nature center.

Educating on Social Media

Megan started Naturalist Takeover Tuesdays on Facebook and Instagram after noticing a lack of understanding of the wildlife and nature of Colorado. Social media is an easily accessible option to educate a large audience. She was able to combine her passion for photography and education to create Naturalist Takeover Tuesdays. "I love seeing that people have learned something new or have shared experiences with the photos I post!"



291
Attendees

23
Programs



27
Naturalist Takeover
Tuesdays



Community Science

Engaging our community - We continued to host community science events that empowered individuals to take charge of the future they want to see for the environment.

Community Science is essential to our mission at Denver Audubon. It allows community members to make a direct contribution to research, increase their personal scientific understanding, and immerse themselves deeply in learning about the living world around them. This year we hosted a variety of community science events to engage our local community. We participated in the **City Nature Challenge**, where Denver Audubon Master Naturalists and participants collected observations through the iNaturalist app, creating a **snapshot of the wildlife** around the Audubon Nature Center. We also hosted an event with **Colorado Partners for Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Herpetological Survey**. Over **60 participants** of all ages came out to the Audubon Nature Center in search of snakes, toads, turtles, and frogs. We also continued to host bird walks for **Global Big Day** and the **Great Backyard Bird Count**.

Christmas Bird Count

On January 1, 2022 Denver Audubon sponsored the 33rd Denver Urban Christmas Bird Count. We had 115 observers, including 17 people counting at their bird feeder. Collectively, we tallied **39,983 birds** in total and **83 species**. Some species seen included Townsend Solitaires, Canada Geese, American Goldfinches, Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers. **Plan on joining us for this season's count, on New Year's Day, 2023.**



Volunteer Groups

Giving back to nature - Volunteer groups helped to maintain our Nature Center and surrounding trails.

It's no small job maintaining our Nature Center. Luckily we don't have to do it alone. We work with local organizations within our community to host volunteer days of service. While these days of service often consist of the same activities - removing invasive weeds, watering the gardens, picking up trash, laying down mulch, installing the occasional new sign or repainting classrooms - they are essential in keeping our Nature Center looking its best. We'd like to thank **Xcel Energy, Lockheed Martin, and Arapahoe Community College** for their volunteer days of service at the Denver Audubon Nature Center. We could not do it all without you.

Day of Service

Are you or an organization you work with interested in volunteering? We are always looking to host more organizations for a volunteer day of service. No matter the time of year, there is always something to be done around the Nature Center. It's a great way to get outside and giveback to your local community. For more information, please email Kate Hogan at kate@denveraudubon.org



Committees



Audubon Master Birders

In July 2021, our ninth Audubon Master Birder (AMB) class began. This intense year-long program includes classroom study, field trips, participation in birding activities, and culminates in students presenting conservation projects and research papers showcasing their diverse interests. The students are immersed in field ornithology, learning about the ecology of birds and how to identify everything from shorebirds to sparrows. They also explore a variety of habitats, such as mountains, prairie, pinyon-juniper, riparian, and alpine tundra. In August 2022, ten newly certified Audubon Master Birders graduated, all eager to volunteer with Denver Audubon and share their knowledge about and passion for birds.

Back Row: (l to r) Dale Campau, Barbra Sobhani, Crystal Reser, Gigi Zarzuela, Angela Trnka Middle Row: (l to r) Linda Lee, Linda Hodges, Debra Bogar, Jack Strobel
Bottom Row: Steve Ryder



Children's Hospital

Each week, Denver Audubon volunteers spend a morning at Children's Hospital South Campus sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for birds with kids and parents waiting for their appointments. For four years, we have been inspiring the next generation of bird lovers, conservationists, and decision makers. The families see common feeder birds such as robins and house finches, but even a magpie can be a revelation to a child. Some kids remember our volunteers from previous visits and are excited to see the birds again. We are grateful to our partner in this program, Wild Birds Unlimited, who provides the feeders and makes sure they are filled for the birds.

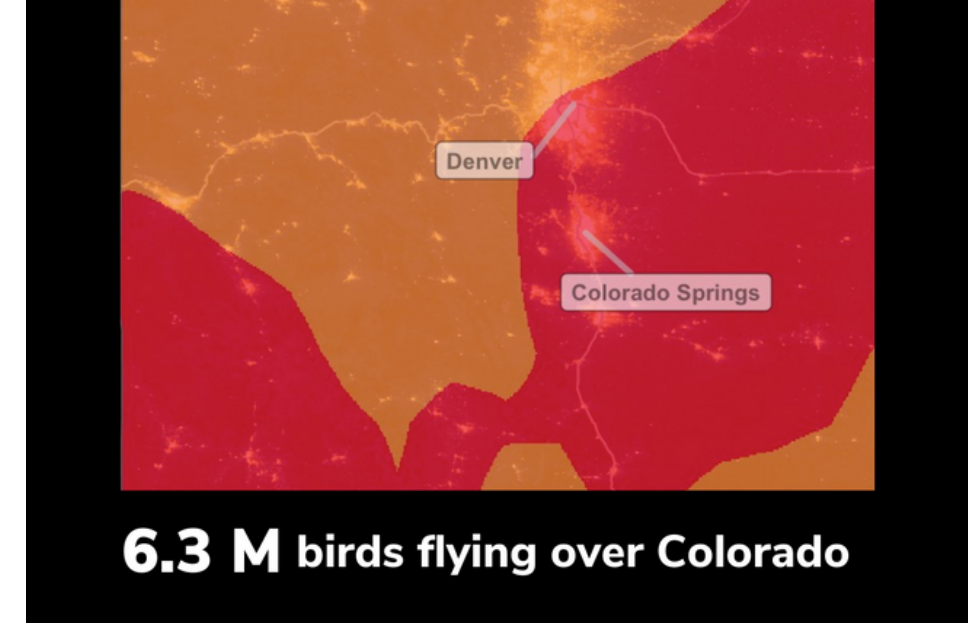


Colorado Blubird Project

Despite a difficult nesting season due to inclement weather, the Colorado Bluebird Project continued to work hard this year to ensure a future for bluebirds in Colorado. These are the nesting statistics for last year:

1,114 Nest Attempts
5,564 Eggs
4,412 Nestlings
3,762 Fledglings

The Colorado Bluebird Project also restored the Winkler Ranch nest box trail, which once was the largest and earliest nest box trail monitored and reported to Cornell's NestWatch. Volunteers continued to educate, presenting to the Daughters of the American Revolution-Denver chapter and the public at Ridgeway State Park. Team members answered over 370 emails and saw their Facebook following jump by nearly 100.



Conservation

Our conservation committee was hard at work this past year. Within our local community, they advocated for turning the former Park Hill Golf Course into open space for Denver residents. They advised the group opposing an expansion of water storage at Bear Creek Lake Park, a decision that would flood valuable riparian habitat. On a state level, committee members helped collect data on bird collisions with buildings as part of the Lights Out Denver program, as well as persuading Denver City Council to proclaim the month of May 2022 "Lights Out for Migratory Birds". Additionally, they hosted a presentation to 80 attendees on bird migration with Dr. Kyle Horton of CSU's Aeroecology Lab. They also partnered with other Audubon chapters to critique sales of oil and gas leases on public lands in Colorado, as well as oppose the destructive Willow Oil and Gas Project in the Teshepuk Lake area of Northwestern Alaska.

Committees



EDIA

Birding should be for everyone. At Denver Audubon, we recognize the barriers that limit or exclude participation. The Equity, Diversion, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) committee continues to address those barriers, making positive change in the organization and our community. We began offering Beginning Birdwatching programs with Latino Outdoors and Black to Nature. Our Birding Without Barriers field trips expanded to include a partnership with the Sand Creek Regional Greenway. Bob Roark and Angie Kennedy were interviewed by 5280 magazine as part of an article representing diverse voices in the birding community. As a committee, they produced an EDIA statement now on Denver Audubon's website. We look forward to continuing our mission in making birding accessible to everyone.



Field Trip

Our field trip leaders led over 80 bird outings, including the monthly Walk the Wetlands, which explores the riparian ecosystem at the Nature Center, and monthly excursions to Roxborough State Park. Other trips included mindful birding walks, nature journaling, and outings to Prospect Park, Reynold's Landing, Quincy Farm, Barr Lake, Cherry Creek State Park, and the South Platte River. Leaders provided education on local and migratory bird species. These trips are a great opportunity to get our Denver community members outside and interested in birds.

We also had 27 students complete our Beginner Birding Class. Students learned the basics of birding, including bird identification, behavior, and habitats, as well as choices for binoculars, scopes and field guides. This class is a great place for anyone who wants to take their birding hobby to the next level.

Lois Webster Fund



The Lois Webster Fund (LWF) had a few committee member departures this year. Margot Wynkoop, who was a founding member, has been invaluable in her service in the years ever since. Also, departing is Tudi Arneill after six years of dedicated service. Our sincerest thanks to both of them. They will be missed dearly. We wish to welcome three new committee members to the board: Natalie Vande Vuss, Denver Audubon Master Birder, Christy Carello, professor of biology and ornithology at Metro State University, and Reesa Conrey, Avian Researcher with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

We received \$11,416 in donations to continue to support invaluable non-game wildlife research, education, and conservation. A record amount of \$14,942 funded the 2022 projects.

2022 Grantees

Tropic Interactions on Mountain Plover Broods



Casey Weissburg
Colorado State University

This is Casey's second award from the LWF for this project. She will be examining and refining her work on how predation and other factors influence Mountain Plover chick survival in her South Park and Chico Basin Ranch study areas.

Making Denver a Bird-Friendly City



Vicki Vargas-Madrid
City and County of Denver
Department of Parks and Recreation
This award supports the Lights Out Denver program intern, who recruits volunteers and coordinates surveys of downtown Denver sidewalks to gather data on bird injuries and deaths during spring and fall migration.

The Northern Redbelly Dace Recovery and Restoration Project



Mikki Macomb-Kobza
Ocean First Institute
This project aims to rear the fish in the classroom; release these fish, monitor and improve their habitat; test the use of eDNA; and tag and track fish found in St. Vrain creek to test the effectiveness of recent fish passage installations.

HOOTenanny

We hosted our 10th annual HOOTenanny Owl and Music Festival. This event educates the Denver community about Colorado's owl species. Music was performed by Nearly There and live owl demos were presented by Nature's Educators. This is our largest family event with over 300 attendees, and every year our attendance grows. Thank you to our vendors at Kona Ice, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Douglas County Libraries, the Nature Link, Cheryl Annet, High Line Canal Conservancy, and the US Forest Service for helping make this an event a success.

We look forward to celebrating the Secret Life of Owls for many years to come!



Live owl demos by Nature's Educators



Megan with HOOTenanny kiddos



Booth by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

Birdathon

Our 'peeps' once again supported us through Birdathon in May 2022. Twelve teams raised \$25,731 from 252 donors. As usual, 4 Vets in Search of a Bird hit it out of the park on their 24-hour Birdathon, raising the most money and seeing the most species.

Congrats to team 4 Vets in Search of a Bird! We can't wait to bird with you all again in May 2023.



Denver Audubon Birdathon Team

Teams

4 Vets in Search of a Bird	Mind the Gape
Aviantic	Scrub J'Oakers
Bird Brainiacs	Talk Birdy to Me
Birdathon on a Bike	Toucan Play at This Game
BirdDogs	Tuesday Birders
COVID Corvids	Wrenagades



Our youngest Birder

Events

Spring Benefit

Back together at last! After a period of virtual events, we were finally able to get together in person for our 2022 Spring Benefit. We hosted the benefit at Baldoria on the Water with over 150 guests. Special guest speakers included Scott and David Menough, known as the Bird Talk Guys, and emcee Ed Green, a meteorologist at 9News. They kept us laughing all night long. Together, we raised over \$52,000. It was wonderful to celebrate our great organization and support our spring programs.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2022 Spring Benefit. Our new committee is hard at work planning our next benefit, renamed the Soaring Soirée. Mark your calendars for June 15, 2023 at Baldoria on the Water in Lakewood.



Baldoria on the Water



Allison Hammer manning the wine pull

Bird Banding

Bird banding is one of our most popular programs every year. Hundreds of school children, families, and adults watch as a wildlife biologist from Bird Conservancy of the Rockies captures and tags songbirds to study migration and bird biology. School children tell our staff, "This is the best field trip ever!" and public visitors at the banding station are thrilled at the opportunity to see birds up close. We love to watch a child's or an adult's face light up with excitement when they hold a bird being released. Spring 2022 was yet another successful year, with every day filled with scheduled visitors.

Join us Spring of 2023 for an up-close look at the beautiful birds we have around our Nature Center.



Merideth McBurney and Santi Tabares holding Cedar Waxwings



Yellow Warbler before release



Merideth McBurney assisting student in releasing a Yellow Warbler

Volunteers

- Dina Baker

Dale Benson

Debra Bogar

Kathy Bollhoefer

Ann Bonnell

Matthew Boyer

Ellie Brown

Tom Bush

Matt Byrne

Dale Campau

Tom Chaney

Debra Coffman

Leslie Coleman

Shelley Conger

Frank Coons

Kevin Corwin

Carol DeStefanis

Angie Dibala

Ryan Dibala

Laurie Duke

Keith Ehrman

Dave Erickson

Mariane Erickson

Martha Eubanks

Barbara Fahey

Kieran Fish

Lynne Forrester

Curt Frankenfeld

Ann Frazier
- Ruth Gabreski

Patti Galli

Mary Geder

Laurie Gibb

Betty Glass

Mackenzie Goldthwait

Celia Greenman

Angela Grun

Julia Gwinn

Barbara Hall

Don Hall

Pat Heller

Keith Hidalgo

Suzy Hiskey

Linda Hodges

Diana Hornick

Pilar Hoyos

Diane Hutton

Maureen Igoe

Tina Jones

Mary Keithler

Hugh Kingery

Urling Kingery

Sue Knight

Elvira Kozhevnikova

Cynthia Kristensen

Melissa Leasia

Sarah Leavesley

Linda Lee
- Linda Lenway

Tina Leslie

Yelana Love

Phil Lyon

Patricia Marnette

Barbara Masoner

Nancy Matovich

George Mayfield

Jeanne McCune

Philip McNichols

Lucy Michel

Megan Miller

Bridget Milnes

Don Niemczyk

Carl Norbeck

Jillian Novak

Mary Fran O'Connor

Michele Ostrander

Diane RaPue

Arlene Raskin

Graham Ray

Polly Reetz

Crystal Reser

Denise Reznicek

Bob Roark

Carolyn Roark

Michelle Robbins

Steve Ryder
- Heather Sanchez

Robert Sanchez

Claire Sanford

Susan Sass

Ken Schauer

Pam Schmidt

Bill Schreitz

Michael Serruto

Lori Sharp

Jamie Simo

Megan Sims

Barbra Sobhani

Bob Stocker

Nancy Stocker

Mary Straka

Lydia Stranglen

Jackson Strobel

Brian Tavernia

Angela Trnka

Natalie Vande Vuss

Bea Weaver

Stephanie White

Kent Wohl

John Wright

Karen Yankus

Scott Yarberry

Gisellys Zarzuela

Pam Zimmer

In Memoriam

Each year we gain new supporters, and unfortunately lose some as well. Our longtime supporter, volunteer and friend, Lisa Chase, passed away this year. She will be remembered as a lover of wildlife and an integral part of the Denver Audubon community. All of us at Denver Audubon will miss her.



On October 11, 2021, we lost Lisa Chase, one of our most valued volunteers. Lisa came to us as a retired teacher who still loved teaching. She was always actively involved in Denver Audubon, attending programs, participating in bird counts, and purchasing birdseed for her yard. She was truly a beloved member of our community. Lisa assisted with school programs, library programs, and many of our public programs and events. If we needed someone at the last minute, she was there with her hand up with a smile on her face, ready to jump in and helped out. For one of our staff members, she even hosted a baby shower with a wonderful lunch on her deck in Roxborough. Lisa shared her passion for nature with her children and grandchildren, signing them up for events at the Nature Center. We hope they will continue her legacy and become caring stewards for birds, other wildlife, and habitats. Lisa will be missed by everyone who knew her.

2021-2022 Revenue

Donors like YOU

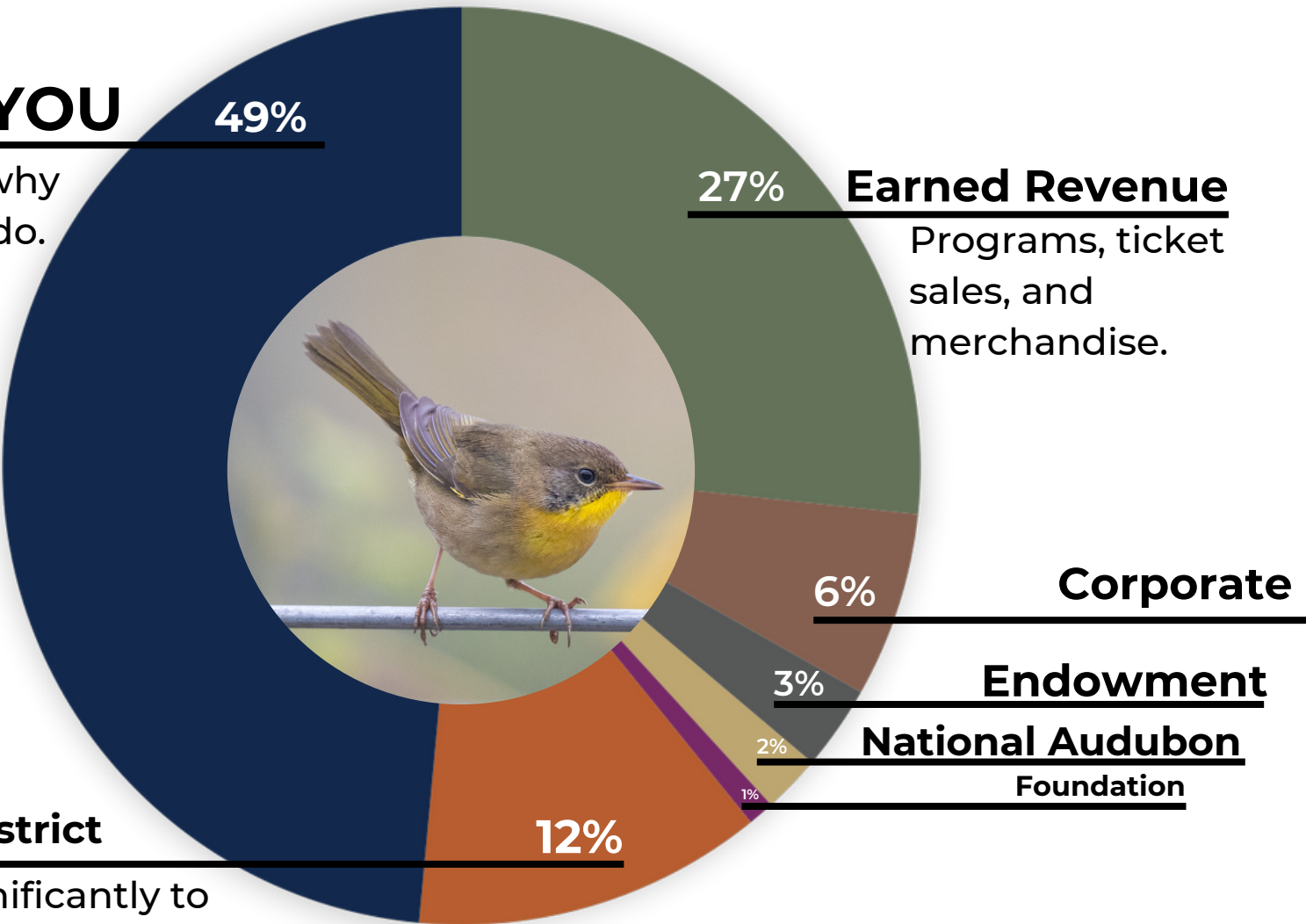
49%

Your donations are why we can do what we do.



The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

SCFD contributes significantly to our program budget.



Earned Revenue

Programs, ticket sales, and merchandise.

Corporate

Endowment

National Audubon Foundation

Thank you to our corporate sponsors for your continued support.
Without you, so much of what we do would not be possible.

Management Partners

The Urban Bird

Payroll Vault

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Lauren Mullineaux
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Corrine Freese
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Gertrude Grant
Walter Graul
Christopher Gray
Celia Greenman
Andrew Griffiths
Angela Grun
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Sonja Hahn
Susan Halstedt
Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman
Linda Hamlin
Helen Hand
Felicity Hannay
Marol Hansen
Lyle Haugen
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Pam Hernandez
Lola Hershberger
Suzy Hiskey
Paula Hoffman

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Charles Hundertmark
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Theresa Johnson
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Evan Metcalf
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Bridget Sanders
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Martin Sloan
Theresa Smith
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Each donation, from \$2 to \$20,000 makes a difference to support Denver Audubon. From keeping the Nature Center's lights on to supporting Conservation projects for the future, supporters like YOU are the reason we keep going.

Staff and Board

Staff

Karl Brummert, Executive Director
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Emily Hertz, School Programs Manager
Megan Schulz, Audubon Center Naturalist
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