



2023 Annual Report

Maine Audubon works to conserve Maine's wildlife
and wildlife habitat by engaging people of all ages
in education, conservation, and action.

Photo: Sherrie Tucker



Milestones & Celebrations

In 2023, we celebrated a few very special anniversaries, which provided us with a great opportunity to reflect on how far we've come, and what we aspire to in the future. July marked the 40th year of our Annual Loon Count and in August, the Fields Pond Audubon Center turned 25. Maine Audubon's long and rich history gives us a unique perspective on what it takes to protect wildlife and habitat.

We know one thing for sure: we can't do it without you. Our community of supporters and volunteers continues to grow. With our eight public centers and sanctuaries across the state, seven chapters, and 30,000 members, volunteers, and supporters, we connect with more than 250,000 people annually.

A few highlights from 2023:

Our annual **Native Plants Festival and Sale**, held during a June downpour, was an overwhelming success as record numbers of plant-lovers came and purchased more than 3,000 herbaceous perennials, shrubs, and trees. We were also excited to get more native plants in the landscape through community based projects. Two of our favorites in 2023: At Acadia National Park, we worked with Schoodic Institute and sold 500 plants for Acadia's Great Meadow, as we begin to practice more large-scale conservation horticulture projects in Maine. We worked with the City of South Portland on habitat restoration at Hinckley Park and Willard Beach, as well as on the 100 Resilient Yards project to help homeowners turn their yards into wildlife habitat.

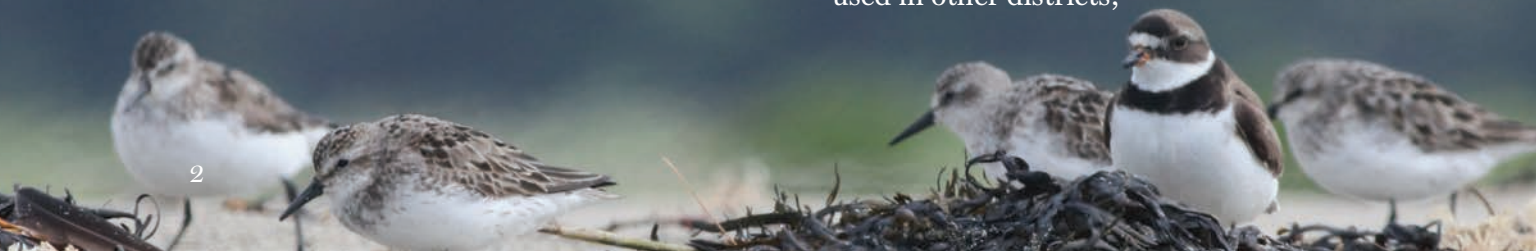


With the expansion of our Properties department, we've been creating new opportunities for volunteers to get involved in **stewardship work at our sanctuaries**. Volun-

teer days at Fields Pond (Holden), Gilsland Farm (Falmouth), Hamilton (West Bath), Josephine Newman (Georgetown), and Mast Landing (Freeport) got people energized pulling up invasive plants, doing trail maintenance, cleaning bird boxes, and more.

Maine Audubon educators work with partners in schools and communities to provide young people with hands-on learning experiences around wildlife and habitat. This year saw us:

- Expanding our district-wide work with Portland Public Schools to more grade levels and working across the entire 5th grade in Bangor Public Schools, as well as creating new curricula that can be used in other districts;



- Engaging more youth in enhanced teen stewardship programs in Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor;
- Collaborating with partners such as Wabanaki Youth in Science, Maine Community Integration, and Maine Association for New Americans to include diverse communities, develop new programs and integrate Indigenous Knowledge and environmental justice.



Photo: Andree Kehn/Sun Journal

Our community science programs continue to expand and reach new audiences both in terms of geography and age. Our **Stream Explorers** project, to look for, identify, and count macro-invertebrates in streams to help gauge water quality, is taking off. It was a hit this year both with kindergarteners at Children’s House Montessori in Rockport, campers at the YMCA of Auburn-Lewiston’s Outdoor Learning and Education Center (OLEC), and Bangor High School students.

Our **Forestry for Maine Birds** program has reached more than 1600 foresters, landowners, loggers, land trusts, and others with tips for how to manage woodlands “with birds in mind.” The concept of improving breeding bird habitat, using active and passive management, is spawning offshoots that include Bird-Friendly Maple (a program that encourages maple producers to manage their sugarbush with birds in mind) and Forests for Maine Fish (a program to help loggers, foresters, forest landowners, and shoreland homeowners to enhance habitat for fish and riparian wildlife).

Picture a bathtub full of lead! Our **Fish Lead Free** initiative, designed to remove lead through tackle exchanges and buy-backs, collected 74.5 pounds of lead (an estimated total of 2700 pieces) at ice fishing derbies, sporting shows, and more, in 2023. The more lead we get out of circulation, the less lead that could pose a threat to loons.

In 2023, **our naturalists** led dozens of birding programs and native plant walks at our centers and sanctuaries as well as at other locations, including birding festivals in Acadia, spring migration outings in Portland, and even a trip to Guatemala. They also hosted dozens of online programs covering birding basics, birding by ear, and native plant studies. Our birders and naturalists educate the public by answering questions in person, online, and in the media, fielding everything from “why am I seeing so few birds this fall?” to “what can I plant to attract more wildlife?” Our bi-monthly “Ask Maine Audubon” column in the Maine Sunday Telegram will start its fifth year in 2024—that’s more than 100 columns!



Spotlights



BIRD CONSERVATION

In July, we celebrated the 40th year of the Annual Loon Count, with 1503 volunteers covering 374 lakes, the most lakes counted since we began in 1983. We honored regional coordinators with two special events—the coordinators do so much to make the count happen!

The Loon Restoration program completed its third year with 330 participants working alongside Maine Lakes, Lakes Environmental Association, and Penobscot Nation to place and monitor 57 loon nesting rafts. This project aims to give Maine loons better chances for breeding success and reduce threats to their survival through loon nesting rafts, loon protection and outreach, and fish lead free programs.

WHAT'S NEXT? In 2024, we'll be expanding our Shorebird Ambassador program to help shorebirds by limiting disturbance while they are feeding or roosting during migration, and join a collaborative effort to help raise awareness about newly listed endangered Saltmarsh Sparrows.

NORTHERN PROGRAMS

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Fields Pond Audubon Center in August by launching a new position to manage and expand Maine Audubon education, conservation, and advocacy programs throughout the northern part of the state. Our newly-minted Director of Northern Programs and Operations, David Lamon, will lead and support work at Fields Pond and Borestone Mountain as well as other projects across Maine's northern counties.

WHAT'S NEXT? Enhancements to the Fields Pond Audubon Center's buildings and grounds will accommodate expanded staff, increase educational opportunities, and enhance visitor experiences.





ADVOCACY WINS

Important legislative wins for 2023 include:

- A new law phasing out the sale and use of small-sized painted lead tackle, a major cause of loon mortality. Maine Audubon submitted testimony and got more than 1000 people to sign our petition in favor of the bill.
- Pioneering a bird-safe architecture law. Maine Audubon led the way in helping Maine become just one of four states to address bird-glass collisions.
- Strengthening the Maine Endangered Species Act (MESA). Eight species of birds, bats, and insects were added to the MESA list, and a separate new law expands the circumstances where consultation with state biologists is required before a building permit is issued.

WHAT'S NEXT? The advocacy team will be working to ensure the responsible siting of renewable energy, including solar and offshore wind, and working in the Maine Legislature to protect coastal shorelines, prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, and more.

HABITAT RESTORATION

Thanks to our longstanding partners at Project SHARE in Downeast Maine, with whom Maine Audubon launched the StreamSmart program, we are now involved in several multi-year revegetation and reforestation projects in the Dennys River and Narraguagus River watersheds. Restoration of Atlantic Salmon habitat can involve heavy engineering and equipment to restore natural flows and features. In these places, Maine Audubon finds prime opportunities to restore riparian habitat with native plants, and engage new partners and communities.

WHAT'S NEXT? We are working with teachers at Washington Academy to revitalize their conservation horticulture program to engage students in river restoration projects. This partnership will allow us to expand our teen stewardship and other community-based education programs to Washington County and the Passamaquoddy Nation at Sipayik.

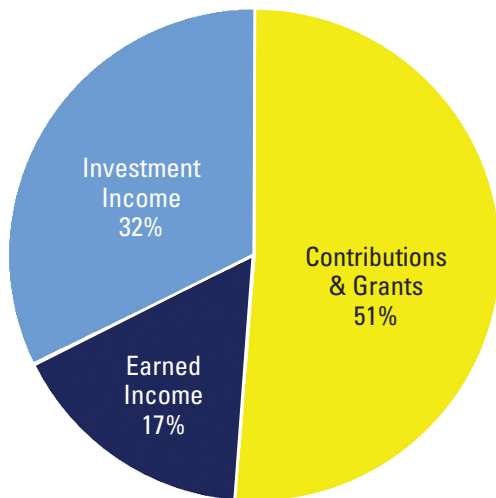


Income and Expenses

Maine Audubon's financial position remained strong this fiscal year, with increases in earned and raised income. Our fundraising and administration expenses increased over the prior fiscal year because of investments in strategic organizational initiatives planned for the next three to five years. Thanks to a larger program reach, both our operating budget and our net assets are larger than last fiscal year.

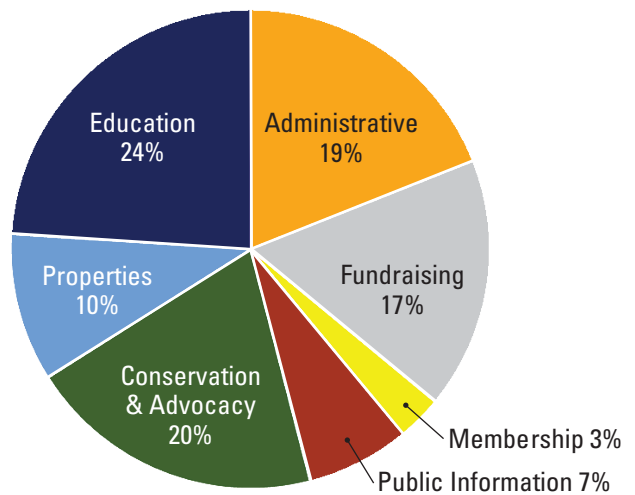
Fiscal Year 2022-23
May 1, 2022- April 30, 2023

INCOME



Total: \$4,529,372.77

EXPENSES



Total: \$4,631,670.42

MAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY BALANCE SHEET

As of April 30, 2023

ASSETS

Cash	\$1,439,505.62
Accounts Receivable	\$147.79
Pledges Receivable	\$1,140,240.00
Grants Receivable	\$458,255.29
Inventory	\$127,626.22
Prepays & Other Current Assets	\$7,080.59
Land, building, & equipment, net	\$1,716,853.69
Investments	\$16,580,245.76
Total Assets	\$21,469,954.96

LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE

Liabilities

Total Current Liabilities	\$364,488.99
Total NonCurrent Liabilities	\$58,074.49
Total Liabilities	\$422,563.48
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$12,948,158.46
Temp Restricted Net Assets	\$6,522,795.06
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$1,576,437.96
Total Fund Balance	\$21,047,391.48
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$21,469,954.96

Leadership

Staff Directors

Andrew Beahm, Executive Director
Erin Evans, Finance
Noah Gleason-Hart, Properties
Francesca Gundrum, Advocacy
Melissa Kim, Communications
David Lamon, Northern Programs
and Operations
Kate Lewis, Development
Sally Stockwell, Conservation
Eric Topper, Education

Officers, Board of Trustees

John R. Dolloff, Chair
Michael Catania, Vice Chair
Alyssa Hemingway, Treasurer
Sean Trahan, Secretary

Centers & Sanctuaries

Borestone Mountain Audubon Sanctuary
Elliotsville

East Point Audubon Sanctuary
Biddeford Pool

Fields Pond Audubon Center
Holden

Gilsland Farm Audubon Center
Falmouth

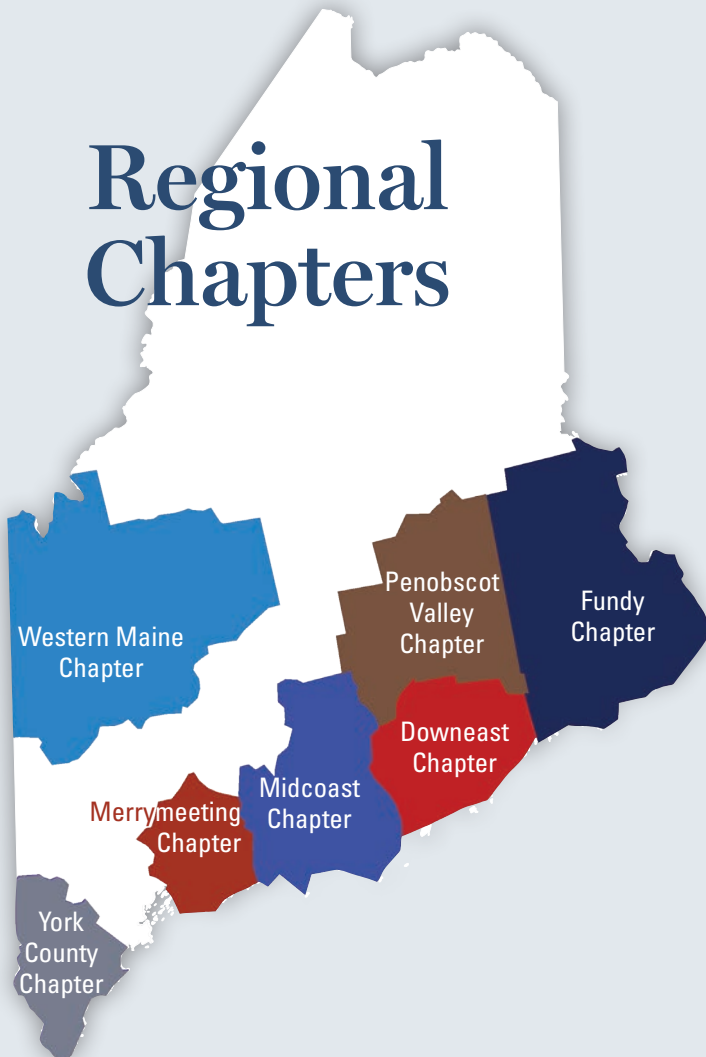
Hamilton Audubon Sanctuary
West Bath

Josephine Newman Audubon Sanctuary
Georgetown

Mast Landing Audubon Sanctuary
Freeport

Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center
Scarborough

Regional Chapters



MAINE 
AUDUBON

Your wildlife community
— Established 1843 —

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