



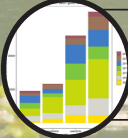
Fiscal Year 2025 Report

1 August 2024 - 31 July 2025

Mission



To contribute to the conservation of birds and all wildlife through scientific research, education, and conservation policy advocacy.



Science

To gather information about wildlife communities and habitat use that will assist state, federal, and private natural resource managers in their efforts to implement conservation programs.



Education

To provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn about species and their habitats.



Advocacy

To advocate for sound, science-based conservation policies that benefit birds, other wildlife and environmental quality.

Photo credits

Front cover: Among the Giants by Hal Moran

This page: *Peaceful Reflection* by David S. Carron

Throughout: Bird photos and their descriptions are from MRBO's annual photo contest.

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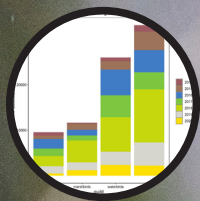
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Science

Its Just a Robin by Terrell Stamps

It's just a robin – a cool, kind of neat leucistic robin, I'll admit. Specifically, an American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*. One of the most widespread, common birds in North America, photographed by me outside my front door on a cool November day. What do Robins have to do with conservation? Robin populations are increasing in general; why worry about them? Aren't critically endangered species of more concern? This is where you would be wrong, this is where the common ("Oh, it's just a...") robin has many lessons to teach us about conservation. Some robins migrate many thousands of miles every year while others remain within an area of just a few miles their entire lives. Why? Robin numbers are increasing because they are apparently adaptable to the goings-on of humans, though there are pockets of declining

numbers across North America. Why? Perhaps the adaptability of robins can be used as an early warning sign of problems to come – if robins can't handle it, what does that say about the conservation of more specialized, vulnerable birds? Robins could be a signal species for potential issues that conservation efforts need to address. Local birds declining – pesticides, herbicides, cats? Migratory birds declining – what does that say about the flight paths, the overwintering sites? Robins have a lot to say about conservation (not just my opinion, see Audubon Magazine, Fall 2020). There is an old saying – "As goes Rome, so goes the world". Perhaps a more apt phrase for bird conservation should be "As goes the Robin, so goes all of Aves". Though, of course, it's not some rare, declining species in need of immediate conservation effort. It's just a robin.

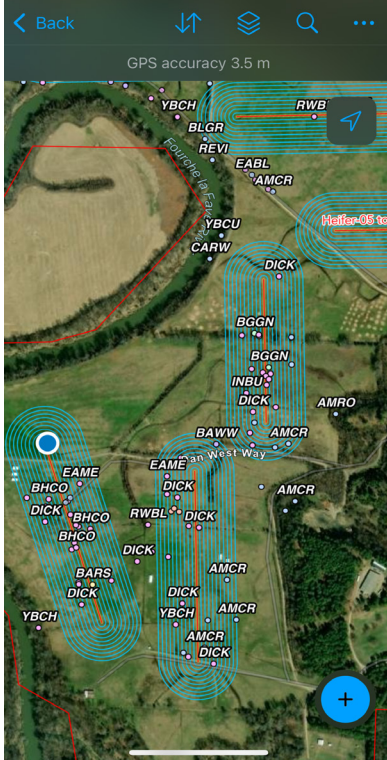


Grassland Bird Survey Project

- 89 sites surveyed, including 38 private and 51 public properties
- 1,015 line-transects (227 miles) covered on >54,000 acres in Missouri and Arkansas
- 33,395 birds detected

American Kestrel Project

- 26 kestrel nestboxes monitored on 20 private properties
- 7 of 8 active nests successful, producing a total of 26 young



Clockwise from top left:

The full-time seasonal 2025 Grassland Bird Survey crew

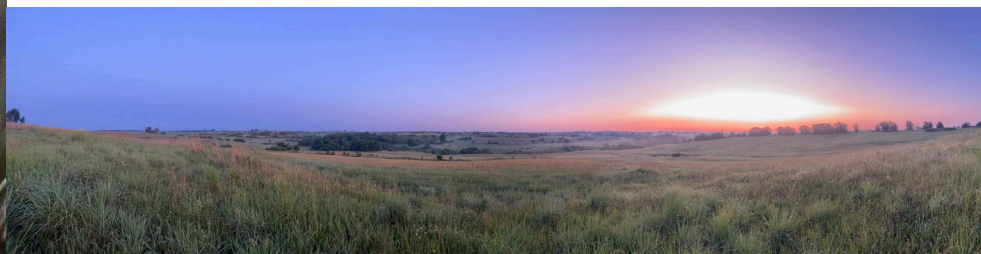
A screenshot of MRBO's data collection system from a smartphone

American Kestrel nestlings about to be banded

Marlee Malmberg checking a kestrel nest

Henslow's Sparrow by Matt Longabaugh

Sunrise at Bilby Ranch Lake Conservation Area

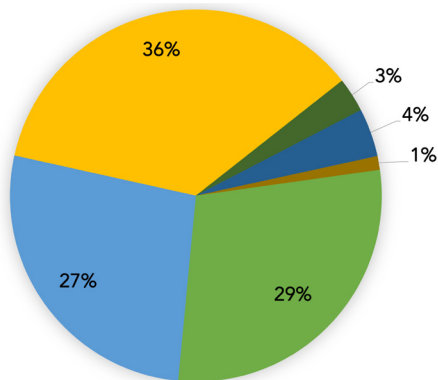




Education

Neighborhood LZ by Tony Cook

Imagine you are 5 years old and your bird experience is limited to your backyard and local park. Driving to a special "bird park", your parents explain how people worked to provide a home for birds with clean water; open airways; and fertile fields. Once there; you are surrounded by clouds of birds of all shapes; colors; and sizes; their calls and songs are all you can hear; your face is kissed by the wind of their wings. Consciously: you are in awe; subconsciously: the seeds of environmental awareness are planted...and take root...



■ Youth Education
 ■ Adult Education
 ■ Community Engagement
 ■ Family Education
 ■ Peer-to-Peer Advocacy
 ■ Peer-to-Peer Science

- 170 education events delivered in 49 locations
- 412 hours of education program delivery
- 22 live webinars hosted; 1800 additional watch-hours on YouTube
- 6,476 adults reached
- 3,114 youth reached, including 308 students in immersive, multi-day programs
- Attendees and partners consistently reported satisfaction with program content



Above: Three weeks of the Young Explorers Camp in Arrow Rock - weeks one and two for ages 8 - 11, week three for ages 11 - 14

Middle: Kansas City Urban Rangers float trip for high school students

Left: Kansas City birding and nature walks for families



Advocacy



Freezing Morning Fog and Red-shouldered Hawk by Debby Fantz

Our southern Cooper County neighborhood experienced freezing fog in January 2024; a rare weather event for this area. Needle-like ice crystal formations covered trees and other vegetation creating a beautiful winter scene for us and this Red-shouldered Hawk. The sight of these impressive fog crystals caused me to think about whether this unusual event was associated with climate change or would harm our local wildlife; and what other weather changes could occur at our home within my lifetime. Human activities are increasingly impacting Earth's climate at an alarming rate and I am bewildered by those who deny those facts. We can all help by supporting local; state; and national representatives who promote climate change initiatives to decrease negative impacts on and increase protection of our environment. Human activities also have changed and eliminated habitats; severely impacting animals; plants; and other organisms. People should engage in conservation practices in their own backyards to help their local birds and other wildlife by making improvements that will increase foods; water; and shelter/cover that they need to survive.

Thank you, FY25 Donors and Grantors!

Our great appreciation goes out to all of the following individuals and organizations who provided financial support during the period of 31 July 2024 to 1 August 2025.

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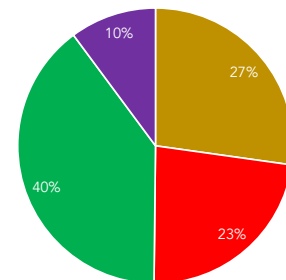
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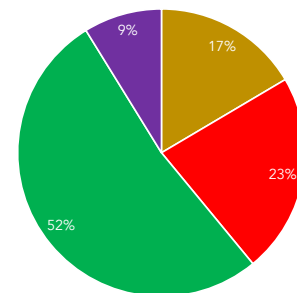
Mark Zurbrick

Fiscal Year 2025 Financials



■ Unrestricted ■ Science
■ Education ■ Advocacy

Revenue & Holdings



■ General Operations ■ Science
■ Education ■ Advocacy

Expenditures



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Building My Nest Palace

by Stacie Laff

The relentless work of birds for survival of their species never ceases to amaze me. Many of them travel so far making it through the barriers of our light pollution and mazes of treacherous windows to get to their ever shrinking breeding ground. When my eyes met with this female oriole building her nest, my heart filled with joy, excitement and the deepest respect. Their dedication to their young inspires me to do what I can to give them a safer place.

