2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING AND CONSERVING BIRDS
THROUGH COMMUNITY BUILDING



BLACK SWAMP BIRD OBSERVATORY

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER:

What, A. Year,

As we emerged from a year of unprecedented challenges, one thing was abundantly clear to everyone at Black Swamp Bird Observatory: People need birds. During COVID lockdowns, people were desperate for something positive, and for many, birds were the answer. For those already connected with the joys of birding, our love of birds grew deeper and more profound, as they provided a source of joy in times of fear and uncertainty. Individuals who had never thought about birds and nature visited local parks and natural areas in numbers never seen before. Interest in backyard bird feeding soared, and demand for bird seed and suet as well as birding-related products skyrocketed. While the circumstances were awful, seeing so many people find joy in birds and birding was truly wonderful.

The BSBO team saw this newfound interest in birds as an opportunity to engage an eager audience, doing our part to help new birders understand that they have a role to play in bird conservation, and creating a virtual community to bring us together when we were all feeling isolated. We accomplished that goal through our Birds at Home Virtual Learning Series, delivering educational and inspiring presentations to people in the comfort of their homes through Zoom. We also pulled off a major transition—hosting The Biggest Week In American Birding virtually! This was no simple task, as you might imagine, and we were all stunned by the positive response. People from around the world who had been dreaming of coming to the festival, but were unable for one reason or another, were thrilled to be able to participate. Dozens of volunteers stepped up to be virtual program hosts. Presenters did a marvelous job of navigating the technology required to host a virtual event of this magnitude.

With new safety protocols to protect staff and volunteers, our research team returned to our study sites, continuing the valuable research studies that form the Observatory's foundation. The research team also created an entire series of Bird Migration Profiles. Based on our data, these profiles offer detailed graphs displaying the peak movements of species as they pass through the region, providing an easy visualization of migration. It's a massive body of work that's available on the BSBO website.

And finally, we were reminded that birds need us, too. This past spring, when federally endangered Piping Plovers returned to nest in Ohio for the first time in 83 years, it was BSBO that state and federal wildlife agencies tapped to coordinate the volunteer monitoring effort. This project was a monumental task, start to finish. Within a few days, the BSBO team created a website and Facebook page, and, with the help of the Chicago Piping Plovers team, created a volunteer training program.

Throughout the project, the public engagement was off the charts, due in part to just how ridiculously adorable these birds are, but also because helping people fall in love with birds is something BSBO does best. We did all we could to make this historic feathered family famous, generating goodwill for the birds in a situation that could have been much MUCH different. Sacrificing a huge expanse of a very popular public beach for a few tiny birds could have had a much different public outcome, but our team worked hard to turn this into something fun and positive. Our absolutely amazing volunteers spent equal time monitoring the nest and sharing the story with the public. We created Plover Monitoring t-shirts to help identify us as a team. We used friendly, fun language about the project, naming our monitoring headquarters—an old, unused snack bar at Maumee Bay State Park— "Ploverville." Once they'd hatched, we started calling the chicks "the four we all adore." We used the Nellie & Nish Facebook page to help people follow along on this feathered saga, sharing daily updates and fabulous photos. We alerted the news media and helped their reporters fall in love with Ohio's Famous Feathered Family, too, resulting in numerous television stories, including a few live remotes from Ploverville! More than 100 volunteers spent over 6,000 hours keeping watch and documenting every move the birds made from dawn to dusk for months. Along the way, we faced many triumphs, and even a few tragedies, coming together as a community to protect these little birds and document their story.

I am incredibly fortunate to work with such a talented and dedicated team. But none of our accomplishments would be possible without our amazing volunteers and the generosity of our members and donors. If you are one, or all of these, I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kaufman Executive Director

Cover Image: Piping Plover chick courtesy of Joshua Vardous

Annual Report Design by Tyler Ficker

PLOVERVILLE

MONITORING OHIO'S FAMOUS FEATHERED FAMILY



Black Swamp Bird Observatory was tapped by state and federal wildlife agencies to coordinate the volunteer team to monitor the nest of Nellie and Nish, the first Piping Plovers to nest in Ohio in 83 years! We extend heartfelt thanks to the amazing Ploverville volunteers, Maumee Bay State Park, Maumee Bay Lodge, and everyone involved in this monumental project.



Hours of Observation

6000+

Number of Volunteers 100+





Chicks Surviving to Migrate

2







"The Four we all Adore" Above and Below Images by Ron Schramm



Our monitoring program continued long past the required timeframe, providing valuable data to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, expanding knowledge that impacted the entire Great Lakes Piping Plovers program. For more information and updates, visit bsbo.org/bsbo-education-and-outreach-blog.

Field work of the Research Department resumed with a partial and targeted spring migration banding program. Summer breeding bird surveys were at full capacity with two field sites. Fall migration was completed with full station operation. We would like to thank our dedicated group of volunteers and seasonal techs that put all their effort into ensuring a successful banding operation. We couldn't do it without your support! We would also like to thank Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge for their support and Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station and Energy Harbor for preserving and granting access to this incredible habitat. Learn more at *bsbo.org/passerine-research*.

SPRING

(MIDWEST MIGRATION NETWORK)

2,142*

BIRDS BANDED

TOP 5 SPECIES

MAGNOLIA WARBLER (227)
GRAY CATBIRD (197)
YELLOW WARBLER (173)
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (112)
AMERICAN REDSTART (107)

* PARTIAL AND TARGETED SEASON

FALL

(MIDWEST MIGRATION NETWORK)

5,938

BIRDS BANDED

TOP 5 SPECIES

BLACKPOLL WARBLER (982)
SWAINSON'S THRUSH (801)
GRAY CATBIRD (432)
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (404)
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW (341)

SUMMER MAPS

(MONITORING AVIAN PRODUCTIVITY AND SURVIVORSHIP)

426

BIRDS BANDED

TOP 5 SPECIES

GRAY CATBIRD (110) YELLOW WARBLER (64) AMERICAN ROBIN (34) FIELD SPARROW (26) INDIGO BUNTING (23)

29

BIRDS TAGGED WITH RADIO TRANSMITTERS

RESEARCH STAFF REMAINED ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN MULTIPLE INITIATIVES RANGING FROM LOCAL TO HEMISPHERIC

HERE

- Conducted all migration banding under the Midwest Migration Protocol developed by BSBO
- Initiated a Prothonotary Warbler movement study at the Navarre Marsh Banding Station
- Presented and assisted during The Biggest Week In American Birding festival



FAR

- Remained active in the North American Banding Council on development and improvement of skills in banding
- Cooperated with representatives of multiple non-governmental organizations on a bird collision survival evaluation initiated by Carnegie Museum of Natural History
- Participated in the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative designed to lead continental shorebird management into the future
- Continued a leadership role with the Inland Bird Banding Association



NEAR

- Engaged with Metroparks Toledo to resume monitoring of the Howard Marsh restoration program and development of a grazing program on bird communities
- Collaborated with The Ohio State
 University on a Lake Crossing Study
 designed to identify rates and activities of
 migrant land birds crossing Lake Erie
- Lead the data collection efforts for the Piping Plover nesting program at Maumee Bay State Park
- Was instrumental in the continued development of the Midwest Migration Monitoring Network, leading the Ground Survey Initiative and participating in the Wind/Wildlife Initiative



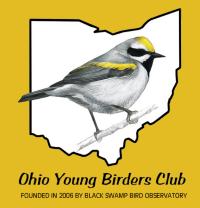
nite-throated Sparrow

EDUCATION

OHIO YOUNG BIRDERS CLUB

Black Swamp Bird Observatory's Ohio Young Birders Club (OYBC) was fortunate to receive a grant of \$35,000 from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF). Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, much of the operations of the club were stalled. However, the aid of the OEEF grant helped to sustain the club greatly.

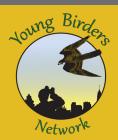
The following is a list of some of the accomplishments made possible with the support of the OEEF grant:



- Establishing the Young Birders Club Toolkit to assist other clubs in their development
- Redesigning and updating the OYBC website
- Maintaining GOLDEN-WINGS, an OYBC student publication
- Establishing the Global Young Birders Network (YBN), highlighted below

Visit ohioyoungbirders.org to learn more about the OYBC.

GLOBAL YOUNG BIRDERS NETWORK



- First year for the project
- First YBN Global Big Day
 - 150 participants
 - 13 countries represented
 - 1,377 species recorded

Visit youngbirdersnetwork.org for more information!

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Provided bird migration and ecology programs for every fifth grade student in Ottawa County (426 students)

OUTREACH

BIRDS AT HOME 2021 Creating a Virtual Community to Celebrate our Love of Birds

3,818 Total Attendees **27** Birds at Home Programs



Thank you to our Sponsors!

Frederick S. Upton Foundation



Registrants From 47 States and 14 Countries



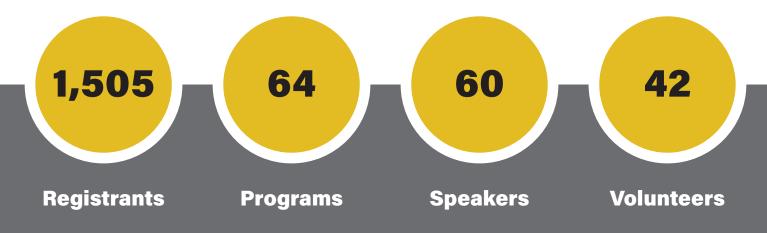
2021 Lake Erie Pelagics

November 20: 22 participants, 4 volunteers December 4: 29 participants, 4 volunteers



Brought to you by Black Swamp Bird Observatory

THE LARGEST VIRTUAL BIRDING FESTIVAL



The 2021 Biggest Week In American Birding was held virtually, which gave participants the ability to be involved despite distance.

Participants From: 48 States and 6 Countries

Thank You to our 2021 Biggest Week Sponsors!













2021 BARTLETT BIG SIT

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO TOM AND PAULA BARTLETT FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BIG SIT FUNDRAISER!

For 26 years, Tom and Paula Bartlett have conducted this important fundraiser for BSBO's education programs. With pledges and donations from our generous friends and supporters, the 2021 BARTLETT BIG SIT raised more than \$15,000!

Through your support for Tom's BIG SIT, and the funding generated by Observatory memberships, we are able to offer our school programs at no cost to schools. We are committed to reaching as many students as we possibly can, helping them to discover the joyfulness of birds and the importance of bird conservation. Without you, none of this would be possible. Despite having to cancel our school programs last year, your support makes bringing them back possible!

A word about Tom Bartlett:

Tom has conducted his BSBO Big Sit for Education, going above and beyond the nonprofit call of duty. That includes a 3:00 a.m. wake-up call, setup at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area by 4:30 a.m., and 5:00 a.m start to the 12-hour birding marathon.

During those 26 years, Tom sat there a total of 312 hours, tallied a total list of 189 species, and raised more than \$125,000! The best part of all is that his efforts and dedication helped the BSBO education team reach THOUSANDS of students, changing their lives (and the world!) through the gift of the awareness and appreciation for birds and the natural world. Tom's Big Sit effort has been supported all these years by his lovely wife, Paula, and we can never thank these two amazing people enough!



THANK YOU TO OUR **2021 DONORS!**

IN ADDITION TO THE DONATIONS LISTED BELOW, WE THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS BSB0 THROUGH THEIR MEMBERSHIPS

SCOTT GERHARTER

CATHLEEN GIBBONS

\$50,000 AND HIGHER

ANONYMOUS **ANONYMOUS**

\$10,000 - \$49,999

BARTLETT BIG SIT* COLUMBUS MCKINNON CORP RICHARD & DIANA FLEMING MARK KLIMEK JULENE M. MARKET **IRWIN & MELINDA SIMON** THE FREDERICK S. UPTON FOUNDATION

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PAUL LUNN PAULA LUPINA **DUANE & DAVID LUPKE** JERRIE LUTMAN **ED LUX** LAURA MADDEN ANN MADDOX SUSAN MALKOWSKI JANICE MALLORY JERRY MANDEL CHRISTINE MANZEY LARRY MARLIN **CHARLES MARTIN** DAVID MARTIN KENNETH MARTIN **GAIL MASON** BERNIE MASTER JEREMY MAXWELL THOMAS MAY TRISH MCCARTNEY **DONNA MCCARTY BRIAN MCCASKEY** JOHN & PEGGY MCDEVIT MATT MCDONNELL KERI MARIE MCDONNELL **GAYLE MCHENRY-TELLER CHRIS & ROBIN MCINTIRE** RANAYE MCLAUGHLIN KAREN MCNAUGHTON ALAN & MARY MELNYK KATHRYN IVERSON & MIKE MENZEL **ASHLEY MERRITT** JOHN & MARY JANE MERSCHDORF MARY MICHAELIS **DENNIS & TERRI MICHALSKI** RICHARD MICKA VALERIE MICOL JANET MILES

KATHERINE MILLER KIM MILLER MICHAEL MILLER IVAN MILLER ANNETTE MILLISOR JEAN MINNICK MIKE & MARGARET MINNS DOMINIC MIRARCHI

JIM & DENISE MOLLENKOPF KAREN MOORE JACK MOORE ALEX MORAN ROSEMARY MORRIS SCOTT MORRISON ROBERT S. MORTON THOMAS MOSER ROBERT MOYER DIANE MUELLER

JACK MANNING & KATHLEEN MUIR

HAL P. MUNGER

MICHAEL & SANDRA MURPHY KIM & DAVID MYLES **BOGER & BRITT NIBERT** JEAN NICHOLS KATHY NICHOLSON DON NIECE MARY NISSEN

WILLIAM & DIANNE NOICE MICHAEL NOLAN III NOI I PATRICK O'BRIEN MAUREEN O'CONNELL STACY O'HAIR PAMELA O'NEILL WILLIAM OBERDICK **BILL OBERJOHN** T. JAMES OETTEL KEN OLDHAM JOHN OLEYAR **CHARLES & JAYE OTTE DOUG OVERACKER** DONNA OWEN **DUGALD OWEN**

ANNE PANCELLA

DORINA PARMENTER

APRIL PARRELLA PARSONS FAMILY FOUNDATION SAM & KERRY PATHY RANDY & DEBORAH PATRICK CHANCE PATZNICK JAMES & SUZANNE PAUFF

KATHLEEN PAULIN JERRY PEACH

BOBBY & CURTIS PEARSON GLEN PENQUITE MARY PERKINS SUSAN PERRIN

KATHLEEN PETRARCA DIANE PFAFF PAM PHILLIPS M.I. PHILLIPS FRANK PHILLIPS JAMIE PIERMAN KATHY PINCHOT

PLEDGELING FOUNDATION

ALAN POIF

MARCIA & JOSEPH POLEVOI DAN & LISBY POLLOCK NORMAN & BEVERLY POTTLE

DALE PRESTON DAVID PRICE SUZANNE PURK DON QUAINTANCE CAROLYN RAGAN JEAN RAMEY LISA RASCHIATORE SUSAN RASMUSSEN SARAH M. REED KAREN REED JANE REEVES MARY ANN RENZ THOMAS RHODES DON & JOANN RHODES

MATTHEW RICE MARYANN RICHARDSON **INDIA RIGGS** JANETTE RIGHI JOANNE RIGHI JANE RIKER CAROL RIVCHUN JANE ROBB ROBERTA ROBERTS

KEN & KATHY ROBERTS **ALLEN & JOANNE ROBINSON** ROCKLEDGE INN COTTAGES ROBERT ROHRBAUGH BECKY ROHRE

JUDY KOLO ROSE ANN & HOWARD ROSENBERG MARK ROSENSTEIN

PATRICIA ROSSI KENNETH ROTH JOYCE ROTH

RANDY & SANDRA ROWE BRENT ROWLAND **CONSTANCE RUBIN** CYNTHIA RUDICK BILL & MARGE RUPP TOM & MARY RUST MARGERY RUTBELL ARLENE RYAN MARILYN RYAN JILL SACKMAN EDWARD SAMUEL **DENNIS & JOANNE SAUL** LISA SCHALLER **DEB & JEFF SCHELLING REGINA SCHIELTZ** STEPHEN SCHILLER ZACHARY SCHLANGER JONA SCHMITT JUDY SCHNAPP **CARLTON SCHOOLEY** SUSAN SCHRADER RON & PAT SCHRAMM

MARY LOU SCHREFFLER DIANE SCHRIMPE **DEBORAH SCHUSTER** FRED AND PRISCILLA SCHWIER SUZANNE SEMMES STEVE & MARY ANN SERGIO

SUSAN A. SETTERLIN MIKE & MARILYN SHADE WILLIAM SHAFFER LISA SHARON MARTHA SHAW TOM SHEEHAN KATHY SHELTON SARA SHERICK JULES SHERMAN JODY SHIREMAN STEVE & ALICIA SHUFF AMY & MARK SIEVERT JIM & BECKY SILLERY LISA SILVERMAN VICTORIA SINDLINGER DON SKILLMAN CAROL SKOGLUND LINDA SKRZYNIECKI

WILLIAM & BETH SLUZEWSKI **ROB & SHARON SMART** HEIDI SMIGELSKI CINDY SMIST JULIA & DAN SMITH **DEBORAH SMITH** FAITH & AL SMITH WENDY SMITH

SHARON & JAMES SNIDER LAURIE SNYDER DAVE SNYDER **GORDON SNYDER**

AARON SMOLLEY

ELIEEN SOEDER RAYMOND QUERY & JENNY SOHN

SHARON SORENSON MICHAEL SPRENG LINDA SQUIRES DIANA STACHO CINDY STAHL-YUHAS KARI STARON JOHN STARR

STATE EMPLOYEES' COMMUNITY

CAMPAIGN **RUTH STEARNS GEOFFREY STEELE BRUCE STEHLING** WILLIAM STIVER DAVID STRICKLER JOSEPH STRONG JOE & BONNIE SUDOMIR JOANNA SUTER

SUSIE SWARTZMILLER MICHAEL SWEENEY MARY SWIFT TOM TABATOWSKI CARLA TABER HOPE TAFT JEAN TATALIAS DEBORAH TAYLOR NIK TEICHMANN **DAVID & GAYLE TELLER** TIMON TESAR BENEVITY COMMUNITY

IMPACT FUND **CAROL THIERRY** ROBERT THOBABEN JR. CHARLES THOMPSON **RONALD THORN** SHAUNA TINDALL TISBEST PHILANTHROPY

NANCY TOGHILL LAURA TOTH **AUBREY TRABBIC**

ELLIOT TRAMER & CHRISTINE MANZEY MARK & SHARON TRANOVICH TRI-MORAINE AUDUBON SOCIETY **DIANNE & MARK TRIBO**

JOHN TRIMMER **ROBERT & GAIL TURNER** RICHARD TUTTLE LARRY & SARAH TWITCHELL

TERRANCE & ELAINE VACHA LORI VAN HANDEL MARY VANCE

SPENCER VANDERHOOF MICHAEL VANDERHORST TAMMI VENTURA DONALD & NANCY VERHAEGHE KENNETH VINCIQUERRA LORRAINE VINOGRAD JERRY & PAT VITALE LAURIE VOSS KENDRA WADKINS MARCIA WALKER WALTER WALLENSTEIN DAVID WALLINGFORD JOHN WALTON JAMES WANAMAKER DORIS WANAMAKER LAURA & JIM WANTZ RICHARD & JANE WARD SUSAN WASMUND ROBERT WATSON LEON WEHMEYER GRETCHEN WEIHER WILLIAM & MARY WEIHER ALAN WEINBERG **RUTH ANN WEISENAUER GEORGIA WELLES** DAVID & HOPE WELLES ALAN WELLS KARL WERNER JOHN WESOLOWSKI ANN WETHERHEAD PAMELA WETHERILL

DENNIS & NANCY WHALEN LISA WHALEN CHERYL & JERRY WHIPPLE

LAURIE WHITE JEAN WHITE CHERYL WHITE PETER & POLLY WHITE

JUSTINA WEYMAN

JANE WICKER

CAROL RUEGER & DAVID WIESENBERG

BARBARA WILCH

PETER & MARTHA WILCOCKSON STEPHEN WILD

MICHAEL WILKINS JOHN & JUDY WILKINSON TRACI WILLIAMS DIANA WILLIAMS **CHRIS & TERI WILLS** DARRELL WILSON LARRY WILSON JAMES WILSON THOMAS WINCZEK KATHY WINGERT SANDY WINLAND

JANE WOLFE

ARTHUR & CHARLOTTE WOLFE

MARTHA WOLFE CHERYL WOLFE-CRAGIN MARLENE WOO-LUN LINDSEY WRAY MARGARET WROBLEWSKI **ROB & SANDY WYATT** NORMA & LLOYD WYGANT

SUSAN WYNN **GARY & JAQUELINE YAMBERT** DR. ISADORE & BARBARA YOUSHAK

TODD YUHAS KAREN ZACH LYNN ZIMMERMAN BOB & GAIL ZIMMERMAN **GARY ZIRULNIK**

BRIAN ZWIEBEL SUSAN ZWIERKO

WE'RE GONNA FLY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

Be creative in your giving and make it joyful! In 1986, Warren Buffett told Forbes that he was giving his children "enough money so they would feel they could do anything, but not so much that they could do nothing."







Help BSBO while you shop at Amazon or Kroger or consider a Facebook Fundraiser!

Go to bsbo.org/help-bsbo-while-you-shop to learn more

AS YOU THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO HAVE THE LARGEST IMPACT, CONSIDER THESE OPTIONS IN ADDITION TO CASH, CREDIT CARDS, AND CHECKS:



Life Insurance

- Make BSBO the owner of a current policy
- Make BSBO the beneficiary of a current policy
- Purchase a new policy and make BSB0 the owner



Will

- Beneficiary
 - Percentage
 - Dollar amount



Retirement Accounts

- Qualified charitable distribution
 - From tax-deferred retirement account, such as a traditional IRA
- Make BSB0 the beneficiary



Donor-Advised Fund

- Immediate tax deductions with grants given over time
- Make BSB0 the beneficiary

2 Trust

- Charitable remainder trust
- Charitable lead trust
- Stocks and Mutual Funds
 - Particularly good if they have appreciated
- Real Estate, Art, Jewelry
 - These gifts are counted at fair-market value as determined by a qualified third-party appraiser subject to IRS rules and regulations

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Other

- Make BSBO the beneficiary of your bank account
- Workplace giving/matching funds from employer
- Frequent Flyer monthly giving
- Payable on death and transfer on death beneficiary

Each of these donation strategies and giving vehicles offers different benefits, but in the end, what really matters is helping an organization that matters to YOU. The tax benefits you will receive are just icing on the cake.

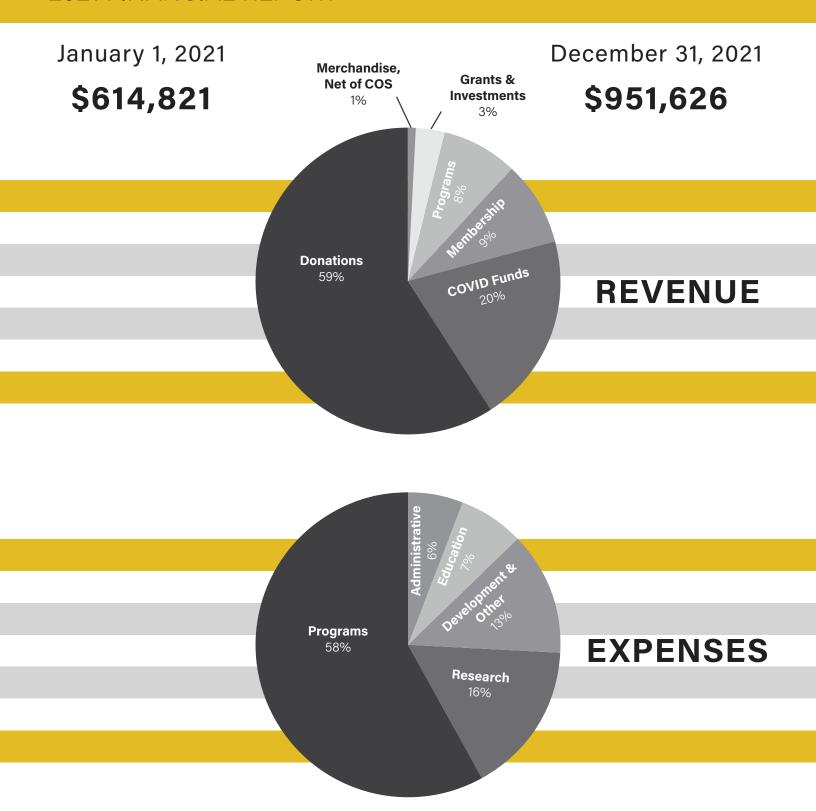
Compare options, talk with a financial planner or tax advisor, then determine the best way to give based on your particular situation. Where and how do you want to create your legacy?

If you have already made a provision in your estate plans for BSBO, please let us know so we can include you in our Legacy Society. If you are considering modifying your paperwork to include BSBO, please reach out to us if you need help; we're here to make it easy for you. Contact our Development Director, Kimberly Danes, with any questions at all. Visit <code>bsbo.org/donate</code> to learn more!

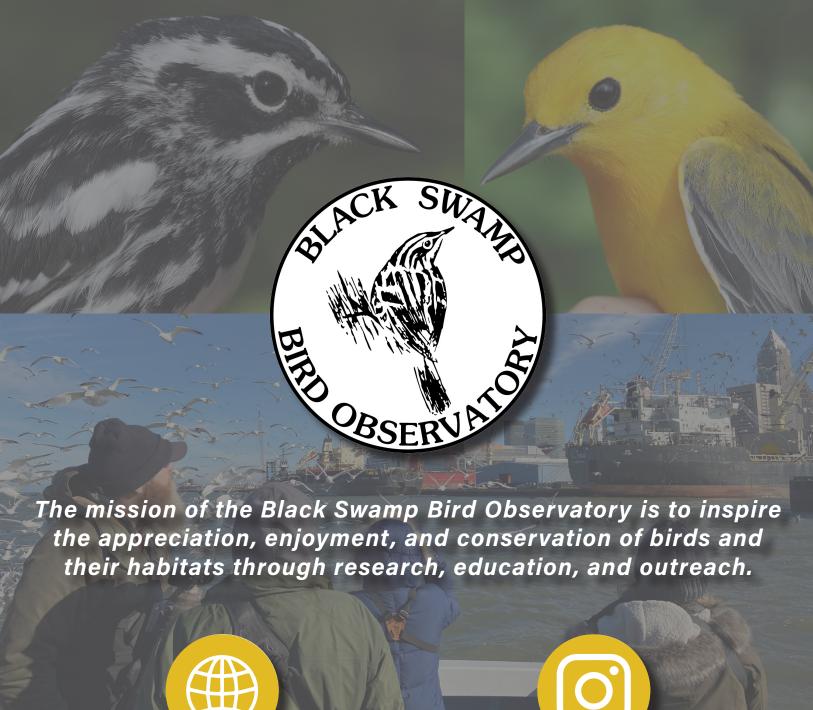


YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

2021 FINANCIAL REPORT



2021 financials reflect operations during an almost entirely virtual year and do not represent revenue and expenses in a typical year.





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