

BirdNote[®]

Annual Report 2012



Our Mission

BirdNote creates and tells remarkable stories about birds and nature. Using words, sounds, and images, BirdNote informs and inspires a nationwide audience.



BirdNote®

2012 Annual Report

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FRONT COVER: Short-eared Owl © Gerrit Vyn

Gerrit Vyn, in addition to being a wildlife, nature, and conservation photographer, is a sound recordist with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and board member of BirdNote.

Letter from the President

2012: BirdNote's Big Year



Dear Friends,

Your investment in BirdNote helped us achieve several expansion milestones in 2012. Thank you! With your support, BirdNote staff and contractors, board members, and volunteers worked diligently to:

- **Produce 136 new stories**, including *Sounds and Stewards of the North American Landscape*, a series that transports listeners to diverse habitats—and introduces them to remarkable bird conservationists. We also revised and updated 95 stories.
- **Launch a new, interactive website** featuring the entire BirdNote archive, our “Field Notes” blog, nestcams, photos, videos, links to outdoor activities, and much more. Special thanks to The Lufkin Family Foundation for supporting this project! The new BirdNote.org has attracted as many as 20,000 visitors a month—an increase of 250%.
- **Expand our reach to more than 130 stations in nearly 225 markets**—including KPFT in Houston, Texas and WTEB Public Radio East in New Bern, North Carolina. In addition, BirdNote is now embedded in *Living on Earth*, Public Radio International’s weekly environmental news magazine, and *The Animal House*, a weekly discussion on WAMU (located in Washington, DC) that explores animal science, pet behavior, and wildlife conservation.
- **Develop partnerships with six national organizations**, including Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Environment for the Americas, National Environmental Education Foundation, and Partners in Flight. These organizations offer opportunities for BirdNote fans to explore the natural world.
- **Create and distribute a BirdNote “widget.”** This technology tool allows websites everywhere to connect visitors with our daily shows. Numerous partners, bloggers, and non-profit organizations currently feature the BirdNote widget on their websites, and distribution increases daily!

I hope you feel a deep sense of satisfaction: **Your gifts make it possible to reach more than one million people every day—on the air and online—with amazing stories about birds and nature.** And we continue to grow and innovate. In 2013, we will explore the possibility of producing feature stories and developing a BirdNote app for smartphones. With the help of our partners, we will expand our reach and inspire more people to enjoy the birds in their back yards and beyond. It’s an exciting time for the organization, and I am honored to lead the BirdNote team for another year.

What do you value most about BirdNote? Let us know at info@birdnote.org.

Thank you again for your generosity and commitment to BirdNote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam Lavery'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Liam Lavery
President, BirdNote Board of Directors

“Your gifts make it possible to reach more than one million people every day—on the air and online—with amazing stories about birds and nature.”



Eastern Meadowlark © Gerrit Vyn

BirdNote® Snapshot

www.birdnote.org

AUDIENCE SIZE

Estimated daily listenership of 1.2 million.

CARRIAGE TO DATE

133 stations in 223 markets (please see map on page 8).

SPECIES FEATURED

The BirdNote archives cover more than 400 species of birds.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Audubon, American Bird Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Environment for the Americas, National Environmental Education Foundation, and Partners in Flight.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS HIGHLIGHTED

BirdNote featured more than 75 organizations and programs that are making a positive difference for birds and their habitats, including Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Big Cypress National Preserve, the Owl Research Institute, and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

PRIMARY SOURCE OF BIRD SOUNDS

BirdNote is licensed to use bird sounds from the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the world's largest and oldest scientific archive of biodiversity audio and video recordings.



Sounds and Stewards of the North American Landscape

By Chris Peterson, Executive Producer

Generous support from Wendy and Henry Paulson, through their Bobolink Foundation, allowed BirdNote to create 84 shows to immerse our listeners in North America's natural landscapes filled with the songs of birds. Along the way, listeners enhanced their understanding of bird migration and met individuals committed to conserving bird habitat.



Believing, as author Barry Lopez does, that people long for intimate association with a natural place, we set about to transport listeners into rich natural habitats—places that are important for birds. Our inspiration was *Home Ground—Language for an American Landscape* edited by Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney.

BirdNote writers took to this opportunity like ducks to water.

Lead writer Bob Sundstrom enabled listeners to hear and visualize a bayou at dawn, where Yellow-crowned Night-Herons find food and safety in the luxuriant wetlands of the Southeastern Coastal Plain. He wrote about Hawaii's *kipukas*—small patches of native forest surrounded by recent lava flows, which shelter endangered upland birds. He made it possible for listeners to wander in arroyos and barrens and beaver meadows, which have become magnets for birds and wildlife. And he asked us to envision sweeping tallgrass prairies, former habitats of almost unimaginable abundance.



BirdNote writers and scientists: Ellen Blackstone, Bob Sundstrom, Chris Peterson, Idie Ulsh, Dennis Paulson, Gordon Orians, and Todd Peterson.

Science advisor and writer Dennis Paulson wrote about Florida, describing Limpkins foraging for apple snails in Big Cypress Swamp. He took listeners to lagoons along the Gulf of Mexico where the Reddish Egret startles its prey, and into the Apalachicola National Forest, home of the long-leaf pine and the Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Editor and writer Todd Peterson interviewed conservationists such as Dr. Henry Sears, who is restoring native grasslands for endangered birds on Maryland's Eastern Shore. He introduced listeners to Denver Holt, who for more than 30 years has been studying owls in Montana and Alaska. And we met Canadian photographer Adrian Dorst, who has spent a lifetime as a naturalist because "Mrs. Kaufman, a fourth-grade teacher and bird-lover, made all the difference."



Sunrise in the Louisiana bayou, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, and Great Egrets © Gerrit Vyn.

Ellen Blackstone, writer, web manager, and Iowa girl, paid tribute to the perseverance of Rachel Carson on the 50th anniversary of the publishing of *Silent Spring*.

In the fall, I traveled to Chicago to experience and report on some extraordinary volunteer spirit. At Spring Creek Forest Preserve, stewards work to restore prairies and wetlands. Chicago Bird Collision Monitors, led by Annette Prince, venture downtown to rescue birds that have collided with skyscrapers during migration. I also witnessed the skill of volunteers at Willowbrook Wildlife Center who care for injured birds—and work tirelessly to return them to the wild. (To read the full story, visit BirdNote.org and search for “When Birds and Buildings Collide.”) Their stories are inspiring.

Whether suggesting topics or reviewing scripts for scientific validity, Dr. Gordon Orians and Idie Ulsh help shape the fine quality of BirdNote shows. Adam Sedgley helps select the bird sounds from The Macaulay Library at Cornell’s Lab of Ornithology. John Kessler and Nancy Rumbel created and performed the theme music. Narrators Michael Stein and Mary McCann lay down the tracks, and producer John Kessler pulls it all together before the shows are uploaded to satellite for distribution to stations across the country.

I’m glad you’re part of the BirdNote family.

Together we’re doing enjoyable, important work: building an energetic and informed constituency for birds and the natural environment that sustains us all.

Chris Peterson

Chris Peterson
Executive Producer



Chris Peterson interviews Annette Prince of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors.



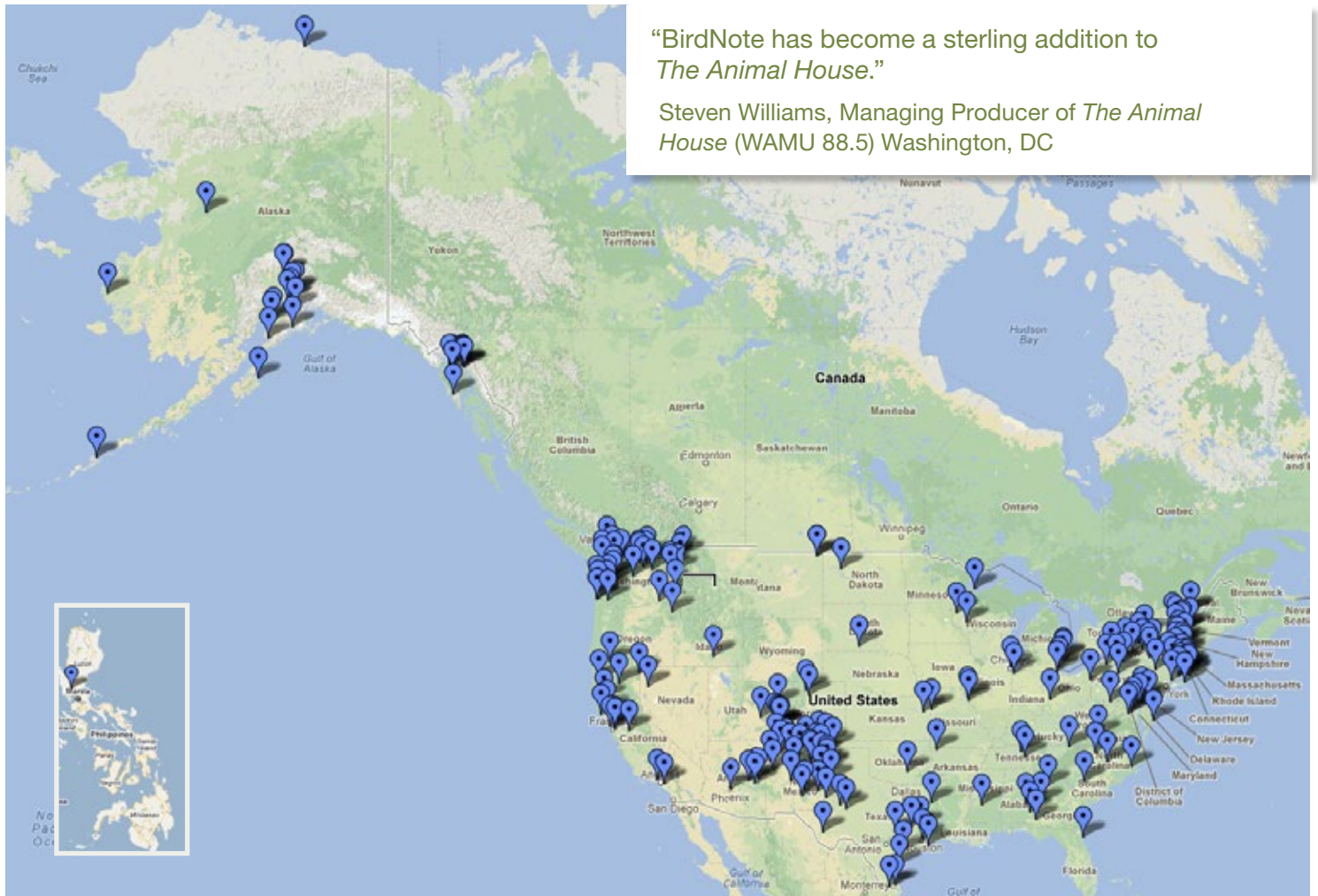
Annette Prince prepares to transport this injured Brown Creeper from downtown Chicago to Willowbrook Wildlife Center.



Adrian Dorst photographing birds on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Radio Stations Broadcasting BirdNote:

21% Increase in 2012



Pacific Flyway

Alaska Anchorage (AIRRES) Anchorage (KSKA 91.1) Chevak (KCUK 88.1) Homer (KMJG 88.9) Juneau (KTOO 100.3) Kasilof (KWJG fa) Kodiak (KMXT 100.1) Sitka (KCAW 104.7) Talkeetna (KTNA 88.9)	California Cedarville (KDUP 88.1) Cedarville (KVYA 88.9) Covelo (KYBU 96.9) Fullerton (KBPK 90.1) Gualala (KGUA 88.3) Hoopa (KIDE 91.3) Lakeport (KPFZ 88.1) Modesto (KGIG 106.1) Montgomery Crk. (KKRN 88.5) Oakland (KECG 88.1) Pt. Reyes Station (KWMM 90.5) Tarzana (L.A. RRS)	Colorado Parachute (KSBP 103.9) Telluride (KOTO 91.7)	Oregon Ashland (KSKQ 89.5) Astoria (KMUN 91.9)
Arizona Radio Phoenix Whiteriver (KNNB 88.1)	Idaho Bonners Ferry (KIBX 92.1) Moscow (KRFP 92.5) Rupert (KUMC 101.7) Sandpoint (KRFY 88.5)	Utah Moab (KZMU 89.7)	Washington College Place (KLRF 88.5) Concrete (KSVU 90.1) Leavenworth (KOHO 101.1) Port Angeles (KVIX 89.3) Spokane (KPBX 91.1) Spokane (KYRS 89.9) Seattle/Tacoma (KPLU 88.5)* Winthrop (KTRT 97.5)
British Columbia Burnaby (CJSF 90.1)	Montana Libby (KVRZ 88.9)	New Mexico Gallup (KGLP 91.7) Pinehill (KTDB 89.7)	

* KPLU aired the first BirdNote show in February 2005.

Central Flyway

Colorado

Boulder (AIN Colorado)
Estes Park (KREV-LP 104.7)

Montana

Plentywood (KATQ 100.1)

New Mexico

Albuquerque (KUNM 89.9)
Arroyo Seco (KRRT 90.9)
Española (KRAR 91.9)
La Luz (KALH 95.1)
Las Vegas (KRRE 91.9)
Maljamar (KMTH 98.7)
Portales (KENW 89.5)
Socorro (KBOM 88.7)
Rosebud (KOYA 88.1)

North Dakota

New Town (KMHA 91.3)

Texas

Austin Information Radio
College Station (KEOS 89.1)
Corpus Christi (KEDT)
Hallsville (KQAT 104.9)
Harlingen (KMBH 88.1)
Hidalgo (KHID 88.9)
Houston (KPFT 90.1)
Marfa (KOCV 91.3)
Marfa (KRTS 93.5)
Marfa (KXWT 91.3)
Victoria (KVRT 90.7)

Mississippi Flyway

Arkansas

Rogers (KHEL 97.3)

Illinois

Chicago (CRIS Radio)
Quincy (WQJC 107.9)

Indiana

Merrillville (WLPR 89.1)

Kansas

Lawrence (Kansas Audio
Reader Network)

Michigan

Detroit (WRCJ 90.9)
Monroe (WYDM 97.5)
Warren (WPHS 89.1)

Mississippi

Jackson (WLEZ LP 100.1)

Missouri

Hannibal (KHBL 96.9)
Kansas City (KKFI 90.1)

Ohio

Dayton (WDPS 89.5)
Toledo (WXUT 88.3)
Youngstown (RRS)

Oklahoma

Ada (KCNP 89.5)

Tennessee

Kingsport (WCSK 90.3)
Murfreesboro (WMOT)
Nashville (WFCL 91.1)

Wisconsin

Amery (WPCA 95.7)
Eau Claire (WIEC 102.7)
Washburn (WRZC 92.3)

Atlantic Flyway

Alabama

Dothan (WRWA 88.7)
Troy (WTSU 89.9)

Connecticut

Canaan (WHDD 91.9)
Meriden (WPKT 90.5)
New London (WCNI 91.1)
Norwich (WNPR 89.1)
Stamford (WEDW 88.5)
Willimantic (WECS 90.1)

Washington, D.C.

(WAMU 88.5)

Delaware

Wilmington (Dance Radio Net.)

Florida

Saint Augustine (WFCF 88.5)

Georgia

Atlanta (WMLB 1690)
Columbus (WTJB 91.7)

Maryland

Bel Air (WHFC 91.1)
Columbia (Dragon Radio)
Frostburg (WFWM 91.9)
Ocean City (WRAU 88.3)

Massachusetts

Dalton
(Berkshire Talking Chronicle)
Mount Hermon (WNMH 91.5)
Springfield (Valley RSS)

New York

Alfred (WETD 90.7)
Buffalo (WBFO 88.7)
Buffalo (WNED 94.5)
Buffalo (WOLN 91.3)
Buffalo (WUBJ 88.1)

Geneva (WITH 90.1)
Hudson (WGXC 90.7)
Jamestown (WRFA 107.9)
Jeffersonville (WJFF 90.5)
Oswego (WRVO 89.9)
Plattsburgh (Northeast RRS)
Rochester (WXXI 91.5)
Southampton (WRLI 91.3)
Syracuse (WRVD 90.3)
Utica (WRVN 91.9)
Watertown (WRVJ 91.7)

North Carolina

New Bern (WTEB 89.3)
Sanford (WDSG 107.9)
Winston-Salem (TIRS)

Pennsylvania

Emporium (WLEM 1250)
Quarryville (WLRI 93)

Quebec

Sherbrooke (CJMQ 88.9)

South Carolina

Lexington (WSSB 90.3)

Vermont

Bennington (WBTN 94.3)
Colchester (WVPS 107.9)
Northfield (WNUB 88.3)
Rutland (WRVT 88.7)
St. Johnsbury (WVPA 88.5)
Windsor (WVPR 89.5)

Virginia

Fairfax (WEBR)
Roanoke (WVTF)

Philippines

Angeles City (DWAU 104.1)

Northern Shoveler © Gerrit Vyn



Listeners Tell Their Stories

A Boat Named “BirdNote”

“BirdNote” in Resurrection Bay, Prince William Sound © Andy Hawk

“With each episode, we learn something new about birds and bird behavior, and we are reminded of our wonderful boat.”

By Jennifer Jolliffe, BirdNote Listener

Several years ago while listening to BirdNote, my boyfriend started a morning ritual of shouting out “BirdNote!” when the familiar theme song begins. His enthusiasm and the spirit of competition were contagious. This race to call “BirdNote” spread to include his coworker and, eventually, me. Thus, it seemed fitting that when we recently bought a used but sturdy, ocean-worthy boat, we would rechristen her “BirdNote”!

Even before our boat was named, BirdNote had been a favorite of ours. When the show features a species that has made an appearance in our lives, we are reminded of both the ordinary events that mark the passage of one season into the next and also the extraordinary ones, which leave a lasting, lifetime impression. In the spring, spotting the returning geese and Sandhill Cranes means we can put away our skis and dust off the bikes. Summer finds us out on “BirdNote,” fishing in Prince William Sound or Resurrection Bay, where flocks of kittiwakes number in the thousands and Tufted Puffins will swim by, almost within reach.

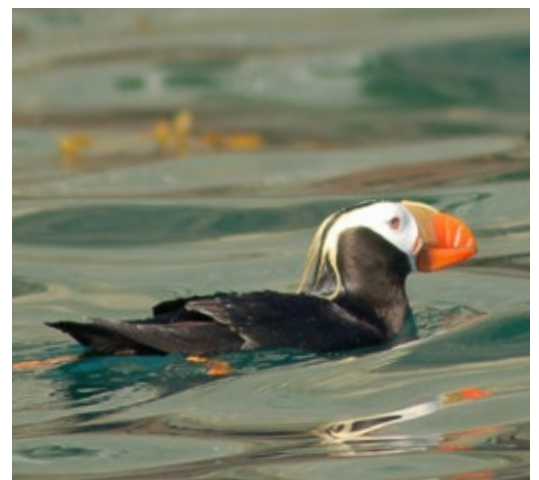
Fall is marked by migrating Trumpeter Swans and hikes in the mountains, where the ptarmigan are turning from brown to white. And then it’s back around to winter, with the ever-present ravens and magpies keeping us company as we shovel, ski, and skate or thrill at the sight of a flock of waxwings swooping from one tree to the next.

Listening to BirdNote every morning gives us more joy than you’d expect in a typical two-minute time span. With each episode, we learn something new about birds and bird behavior, and we are reminded of our wonderful boat. Perhaps most importantly, BirdNote helps us to keep alive memories of past adventures and to anticipate those to come.

Jennifer and her boyfriend, Andy Hawk, live in Anchorage, Alaska.



Bohemian Waxwing and Tufted Puffin © Andy Hawk



Tuning In to Nature at Home and Abroad

By Colene McKee, BirdNote Listener and Volunteer

Everything I love doing and learning about involves nature. At home, I love to garden and watch visitors at our birdfeeders. I also love to hike, kayak, and go birding, and I often take my grandson for a walk in the park or to the zoo.

When we travel, we always include time to see wildlife. My husband and I recently took our son and his wife to Botswana, Africa, for a camping safari. We saw so many animals up close, from elephants to birds, many that were new to us. It was wonderful to see so much of that wild place intact. To be a visitor in Africa is to be dropped into a completely new environment, where you may sometimes feel like prey. It gives you a feeling of appreciation and awe that is far outside our usual human experience.

I returned from Africa with a desire to continue learning and to preserve places here. I appreciate our national parks and wildlife refuges even more, and I see my little backyard with new eyes and renewed interest. I've found that the more places I visit, the more I'm interested in learning about ecosystems and the creatures that call them home.

That's why I'm so turned on to BirdNote. In two enjoyable minutes, you might travel somewhere exotic or gain a nugget of knowledge about something in your own backyard. And it's fun!

Urban Birding in Washington, DC

By Judy Bunnell, BirdNote Listener

I am a loyal listener of WAMU and have recently become enchanted with BirdNote! I live in urban Washington, DC, and sometimes I feel that the pace of the city and its focus on people and events draw me away from nature just when I need nature the most. I do not think I am the only one in DC who feels this way.

Since I moved to DC in 2005, I have tried to find ways to ground myself in nature. I live near the C & O Canal and walk my dog along its banks as often as possible. We have surprised turtles, snakes, and even a fox on our walks. These wonderful surprises help stop my mind's chattering about what I need to do and what I should be doing. A moment of standing perfectly still and watching nature intently puts everything else in perspective.

I have also been lucky enough to see the silent and stately herons as I proceed on these walks. They freeze in the dusk or dawn, poised to take off but not flinching until I am very close. It becomes a game: How close can I approach before they quietly glide away?

When I cannot go for a walk, I can sit out back in my tiny but pleasant urban yard. Even when it is cold and dreary, the birds visit my yard and take me back to nature. I can sit outside in the crisp air or look through my window and watch cardinals, sparrows, Blue Jays, and finches fussing at my birdfeeder and birdbath. I am not a sophisticated "birder," but I recognize the birds that visit daily and can get lost in their little vignettes.

Listening to BirdNote reminds me to find those moments in nature that help ground me. The pace and tone of BirdNote take me away from the jarring intensity of local, national, and international news and provide a moment for reflection.



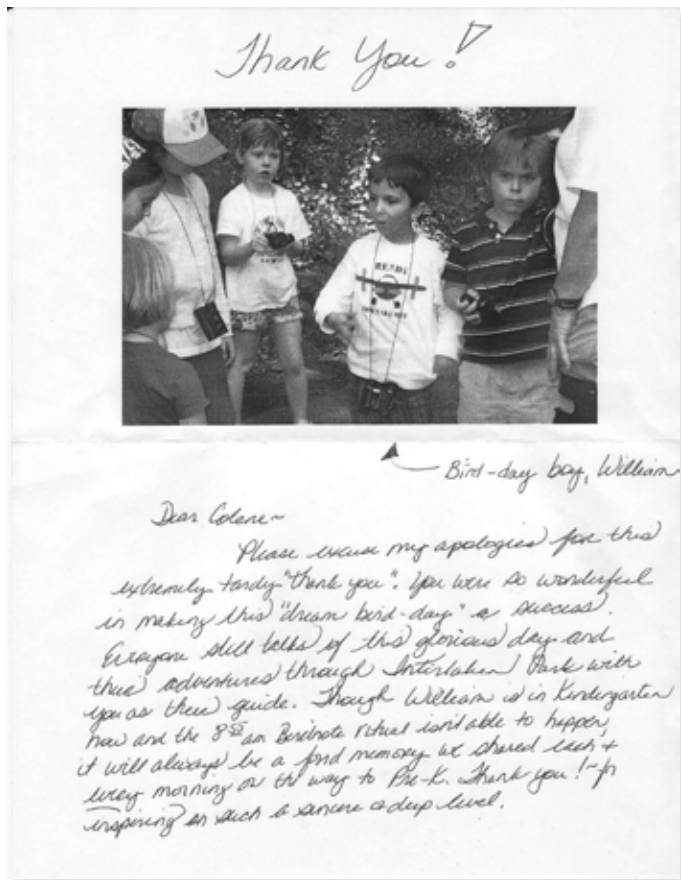
"In two enjoyable minutes, you might travel somewhere exotic or gain a nugget of knowledge about something in your own backyard."



"Listening to BirdNote reminds me to find those moments in nature that help ground me."

BirdNote Strikes a Chord with Kids

How BirdNote is inspiring kids to enjoy nature—and promoting birding among youth



Transforming a Birthday Into a Bird-day

Every day while driving to his pre-school in Seattle, young nature enthusiast William and his mom enjoyed a ritual of listening to BirdNote. His interest in birds led to an innovative plan for his fifth birthday: a Bird-day celebration! His mom contacted a local birding expert who first introduced the children to birds and their sounds, then led them on a short walk through an urban park. The group identified chickadees, wrens, finches, flickers, robins, and crows—by sight and sound. “Everyone still talks about this glorious day and their adventures through the park,” says William’s mom. “Though William is in kindergarten now and the 8:58 AM BirdNote ritual is no longer able to happen, it will always be a fond memory we shared every morning on the way to preschool. Thank you for inspiring us on such a deep and sincere level!”

BirdNote is happy we are inspiring more kids to get outside and enjoy nature! If you'd like to plan a bird-day celebration, contact your local Audubon, zoo, or school. Inquire if there's a volunteer who leads nature outings for young people.



“BirdNote will always be a fond memory we shared every morning on the way to preschool. Thank you for inspiring us on such a deep and sincere level!”

Volunteer naturalist Colene McKee asked the bird-day boy and his friends to raise their hands if they'd like to see birds when they visit their local parks. The kids responded enthusiastically!



© Star Dewar



© Duy Nguyen

BirdNote Spreads the Word About CBC4Kids

As adults across the United States and Canada prepared for the annual Christmas Bird Count, or CBC, Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie of Sonoma, California, felt something was missing. Where were the kids? Recognizing the educational value of the century-old event, Tom and Darren started CBC4Kids. “When kids and their parents share the excitement of being outdoors, it changes the ‘heartbeat’ of a family,” says Tom. Now, communities and organizations can start—or join—a CBC4Kids in their hometown. Listen to the story at BirdNote.org.

“When kids and their parents share the excitement of being outdoors, it changes the ‘heartbeat’ of a family.”

Passionate Concern for Birds: One Teen’s Story



When he was seven years old, Nathan Goldberg made a promise to “see a Wood Duck in the wild.”

When 16-year-old Nathan Goldberg visited Washington State for a youth birding camp, he was already a fan of BirdNote. But he had no idea he would be interviewed for a show.

During the summer of 2012, Nathan joined young birders from across the country for a Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) summer camp to Whidbey Island and the Cascade Mountains – his third VENT trip. “I like the experience of being with kids my age,” says Nathan. “It’s like high school, except you can be yourself, and be with kids who have the same quirky, passionate concern for birds.”

Chris Peterson, BirdNote’s executive producer, was on location when the campers explored the birds of Whidbey’s old-growth forest. “With Nathan, as with several of the teens, I could see passion and promise,” says Chris. “I love that combination!”

BirdNote interviewed several VENT campers about their interest in birds and conservation. You can hear Nathan’s story, “All Fired Up About Birds,” at BirdNote.org.



Black-throated Green Warbler, Red-eyed Vireo, and Black-legged Kittiwake © Nathan Goldberg



Bobolink © Gerrit Wyn

What Listeners Are Saying About BirdNote

"I am writing to compliment you on the wonderful snippets of information that you bring to the public about our beloved birds. I am a BirdNote devotee!"

As a conservationist, I spend lots of time communicating the issues of habitat protection, citizen science, and the like. The artful way that you craft the stories of birds and places is wonderful. BirdNote vignettes paint such wonderful soundscapes of birds and habitats and happenings that one need only to close his or her eyes and listen to travel to arctic seas or rolling prairies.

BirdNote is classic radio brought into the 21st century with a conservation twist! Brilliant!"

J. Drew Lanham,
*professional ornithologist and
Professor of Wildlife Ecology at
Clemson University, Seneca,
South Carolina*
wildandincolor.blogspot.com

"I am a huge fan of BirdNote. I listen as often as possible (online) and almost every show has taught me something new."

—*Jason, a BirdNote.org fan in Utah*

"BirdNote brings humor, wonder and gratitude into my day. I show your videos in my classroom and talk to folks I know about your website. You give an amazing gift through your work."

—*Laurie, an online listener in Pennsylvania*

"Thank you for starting my day on a positive note. My three cats and I listen to your show before getting out of bed, catching you at 6 AM. I'm not sure who enjoys the bird sounds more—me or my cats. They have tried to get into the radio during some of your broadcasts!"

—*Chris, a listener of WRVO in New York*

"I start my morning with breakfast and BirdNote. My little sister and I run into the kitchen and stand around the radio and listen to the new bird sounds. I really, really love BirdNote. My mom helps me get online so we can look at the pictures of the birds. Thank you for playing BirdNote every day!"

—*Claire, a young listener in Burlington, Washington*

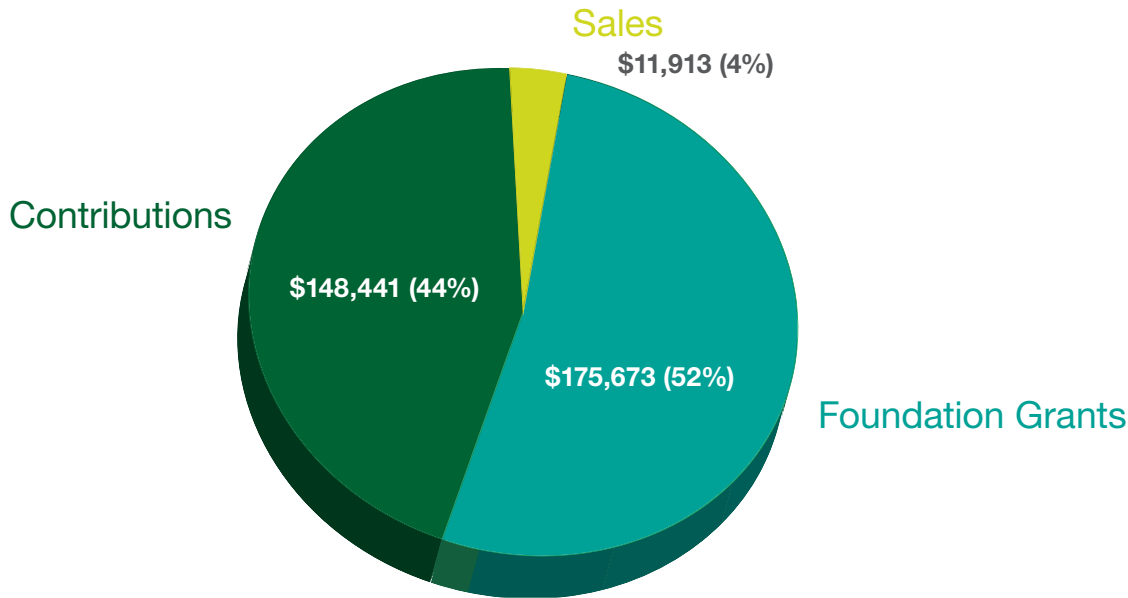
"I was able to save a Black-capped Chickadee from a cold evening thanks to your BirdNote episode, 'Helping Birds Survive Window Strikes.' Keep up the great work!"

—*A listener in New England*

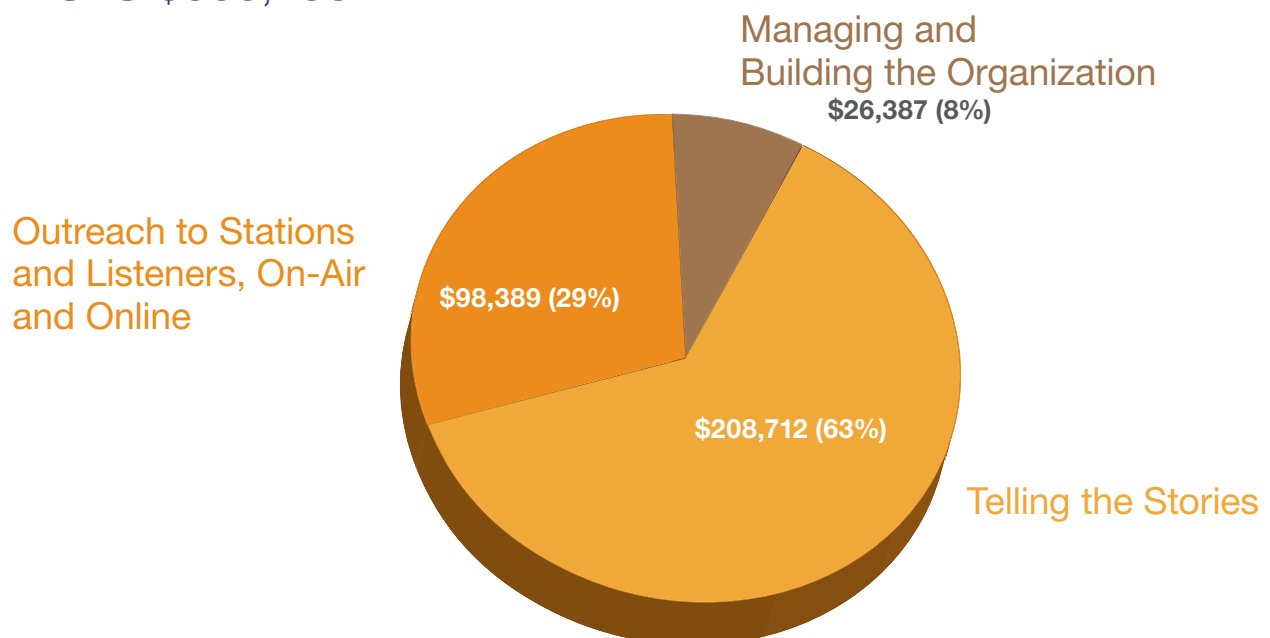
Financial Report 2012

The production and distribution of BirdNote shows is funded entirely by gifts, grants, and sales of the BirdNote calendar. That means your generosity makes it possible to reach a growing national audience—on the air and online. Your support in 2012 helped BirdNote transport even more listeners out of the daily grind and into the natural world. Thank you! We appreciate your investment in our work to connect people with birds and nature. Together, we're expanding the choir for conservation.

REVENUE \$336,027



EXPENSES \$333,488





Honorees (left to right) Chuck Pettis, Corbin Klaft, and Mark Borden.

BirdNote Celebrates Bird Conservation Stewards

BirdNote has highlighted many conservation activists of Washington’s Whidbey Island. A spring event drew an enthusiastic crowd to hear the BirdNote stories of 19 honorees, including:

- Chuck Pettis, who created Earth Sanctuary, giving it a 500-year habitat restoration plan
- Mark Borden, who creates homes for swallows in the horse fence on his farm
- Cheryl Lowe, of the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, who helped restore a remnant native prairie
- And Corbin Klaft, age 10, who’s making his back yard a sanctuary for birds.

It was a great opportunity for the Whidbey community to express gratitude to the untiring stewards of birds and nature who live in its midst. Listen to their stories at BirdNote.org by searching for “Whidbey.” BirdNote is grateful to the many volunteers who ensured the success of the Whidbey event, including event coordinator Wendy Close and emcee Nancy Rumbel.

Do you know someone who deserves consideration for a BirdNote story? Contact us at info@birdnote.org.



John Kessler demonstrates how to produce a BirdNote show (left), and honorees of the evening (right) © ML Harris.

For the Birds: Honoring the Legacy Of Ardell Kuchenbecker

A devoted fan, friend, and donor who helped BirdNote take flight

Ardell Kuchenbecker, of Seattle, Washington, passed away in early January 2013. Without Ardell, BirdNote might never have taken flight. She generously invested in BirdNote during our formative years—and ultimately helped us reach more than one million daily listeners with inspirational stories.

BirdNote celebrates Ardell's love of birds and her spirit of generosity.

We called her “Chickadee,” for like a chickadee, she was inquisitive, lively, and resilient. Her legacy inspires all of us to do what we can for birds and nature.



Ardell Kuchenbecker, 1921–2013

“A very rare bird, indeed.”

—Jan Lewinsohn,
Seattle, Washington

*“I loved Ardell. We had
many wonderful times
together. She was a special
lady and a joy to know!”*

—Betty Vazquez,
Mineola, New York

*Honor someone you
appreciate with a gift to
BirdNote. Visit BirdNote.org
to give in honor or memory
of a loved one, for any
occasion. Your honoree
(or designee) will receive a
beautiful card acknowledging
your generosity. Your gifts
make a difference for birds
and their habitats!*



Black-capped Chickadee © Gerrit Vyn

Connecting Listeners with Birds and Nature...

BirdNote extends special appreciation to:

We appreciate our corps of photographers, who help us share the beauty and essence of birds:

Paul Bannick

Tom Grey

Mike Hamilton

Greg Lavaty

Tom Munson

Tom Sanders

Daniella Theoret

Gregg Thompson

Gerrit Vyn

and nearly 500 others!



© Chris Peterson

Wendy Paulson of The Bobolink Foundation.

The Bobolink Foundation for underwriting our series, *Sounds and Stewards of the North American Landscape*.



© Len Jenshel and Diane Cooke

Cynthia and Dan Lufkin of The Lufkin Family Foundation.

The Lufkin Family Foundation and the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation for underwriting our *State of America's Birds* series and upgrading our website.



Our dedicated volunteers, who help with events, record keeping, and special projects, represented by (left to right): Lynne Jensen, Sue Palmason, Janet Goff, Sallie Bodie (managing director), and Wendy Close.

Thank You, Donors!

Your gifts make it possible for BirdNote to inspire listeners with fascinating stories about birds, the environment, and more. The following list represents the *cumulative* giving of generous donors who have contributed \$100 or more from 2004—before the first broadcast of BirdNote—through December 2012.

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Our Vision

As people hear the stories of BirdNote, they will experience a deeper, richer relationship with nature. Their lives will be enriched. The choir for conservation will increase, and the will to protect the environment will strengthen.



White-breasted Nuthatch © Gerrit Vyn



The BirdNote board members who carry the vision into 2013 (left to right): Gerrit Vyn, Tom Luhman, Alan Hartmann (treasurer), Andrea McFadden, Liam Lavery (president), Jennifer Leach, Thomas Darden, and Dan Drais (secretary).



Eared Grebe © Gerrit Vyn

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