



# Aiken Audubon Pikes Peak Region

Ken Shults  
Audubon Photography Awards

Aiken Friends,

Last year we implemented our first-ever voluntary membership for Aiken and it was an outstanding success. Our total donations increased over 75% and we were able to increase our grants issued by almost 90%. Thank you! Our decision to offer a membership was in direct response to many of you asking us, “How do I join Aiken?” and our desire to give back more to the community for bird conservation and education. This year we are asking for your help again so we can continue to directly support bird conservation in the Pikes Peak Region and continue to offer great programs and field trips.

This year we are implementing a new community mini-grants program to support local conservation and education efforts. These grants, up to \$500, are designed to quickly get funding into the hands of like-minded organizations and individuals who need supplemental funding for their projects that also help fulfill Aiken’s mission. Each year we receive several requests, and this new mini-grants program will allow Aiken to broaden our support of our local birding community!

Aiken will also be taking on a larger role at Chico Basin Ranch in 2024 under a layered lease with the State Land Board of Colorado to provide and maintain access for birders. We’ll need your help to make this effort a success whether through a financial donation or through your time as a volunteer. We are actively building our volunteer community so if you are unable to donate, we could certainly use some extra help (no birding expertise necessary).

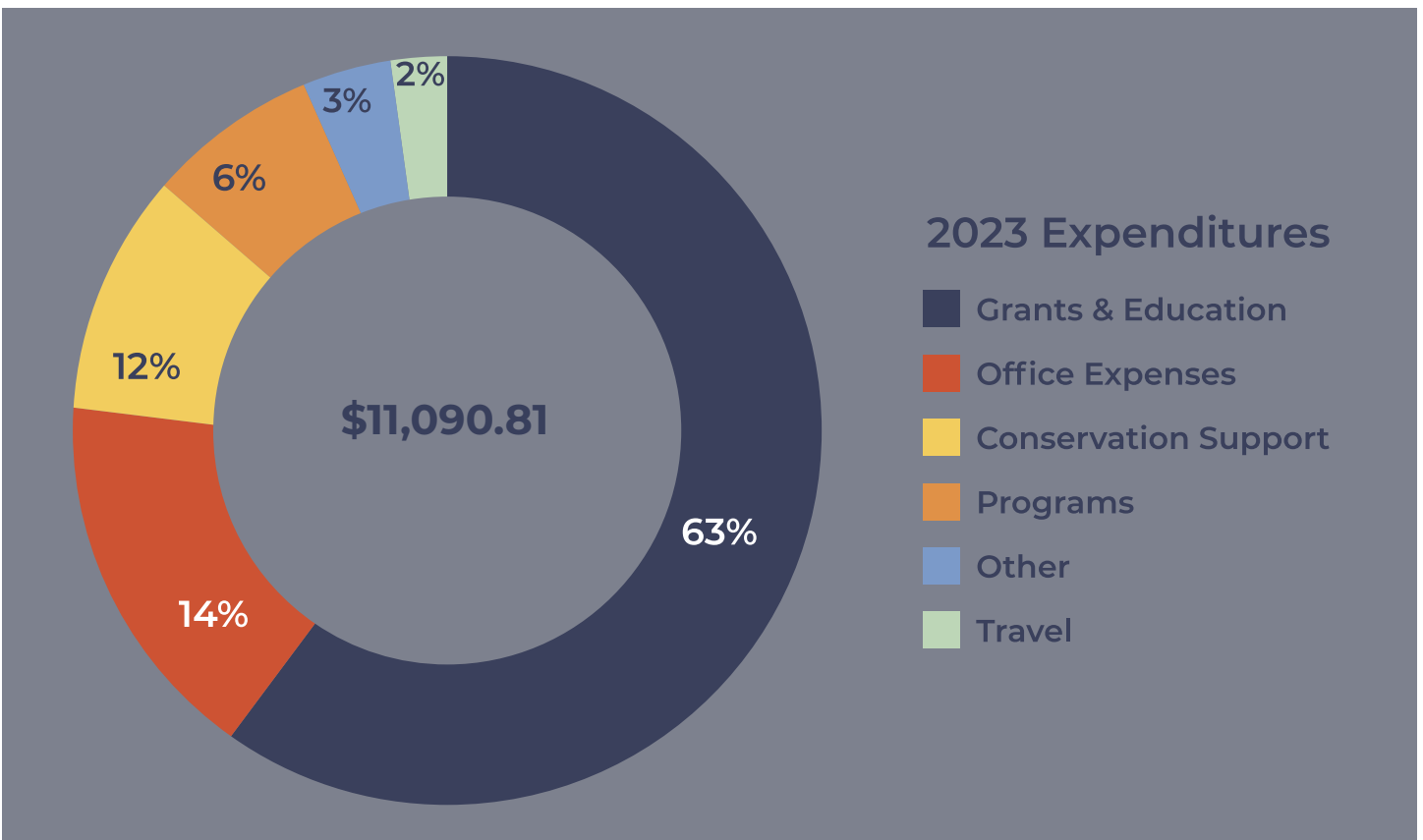
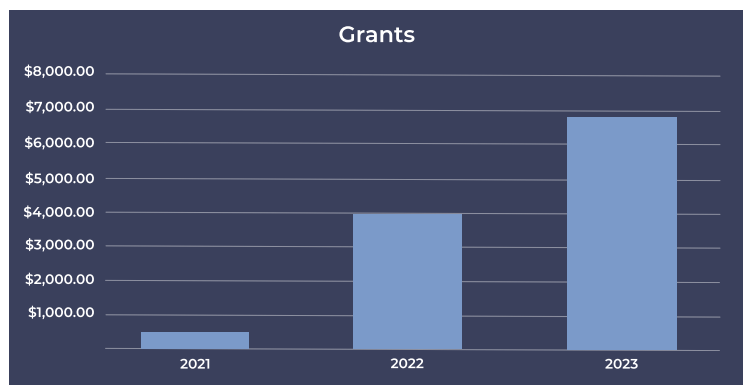
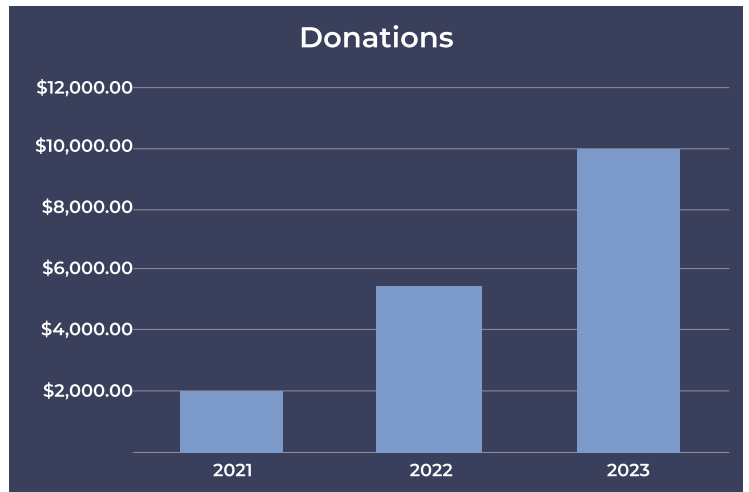
Thank you again for making Aiken so successful in 2023 and we appreciate your support!

For the Birds,

Clark D. Jones, PhD  
President



# Annual Report 2023



# 2023 Aiken Highlights

1

Grant Support: UCCS: Fostering Environmental Consciousness through Bird and Habitat Surveys

6

Howbert Elementary bird theme day (over 150 participants)

2

Grant Support: American Kestrel nest box program

7

Educational program and walks with homeschool group at Rock Ledge Ranch (35 participants)

3

Supported Catamount Discovery and Girls+ summer camps

8

Led Introductory Birder Classes at Bear Creek Nature Center

4

Completed Aiken History Project documenting local history of Aiken and establishment of Aiken Audubon

9

Established Birding by Book, Aiken's bi-monthly book club

5

Fountain Creek Family Fun Day (over 500 participants)

10

Christmas Bird Count: 152 participants; 258 party hours; 96 species; 17,110 birds recorded



# 2023 Aiken Audubon Board Members



**Clark Jones, President**  
president@aikenaudubon.com

**Anna Joy Lehmicke, Vice President**  
vicepres@aikenaudubon.com

**Jim Hickey, Treasurer**  
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**Tyler Stuart, Secretary &  
Christmas Bird Count Chair**  
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**Tally Kerr, Program Chair**  
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**Melanie Helton, Field Trip Chair**  
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**Linda Hodges, Conservation Chair**  
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**Devin Dowd,  
Hospitality & Education Chair**  
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**Michael Rogers, Membership Chair**  
membership@aikenaudubon.com

**Paul Nagy, Volunteer Chair**  
volunteer@aikenaudubon.com

**Jennifer Harrison, Digital Media Chair**  
ig@aikenaudubon.com

A non-profit 501c3 that has been actively involved in the birding community for over 50 years

We distributed over \$8500 in grants last year.

Run entirely by a team of volunteers.

We distribute our newsletter to over 1,100 National Audubon members in the Pikes Peak region each month, but less than 15% are members of Aiken Audubon.

34 hikes in fiscal year 2023 with over 400 participants.

Dedicated to promoting the enjoyment, study, and conservation of the birds of the Pikes Peak region.

*Funded by you! – Any amount helps*

Open to the public – all of our events are free!

Actively involved in local, state, and national conservation issues

Number of paid staff positions: 0

Number of volunteer hours annually: >1200

Volunteers reached over 1000 members of the public last year at local community events at schools, parks, and nature centers.

# Thank You!

