



The Kentucky Ornithological Society Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund

Grant Report

Project Dates: April through December, 2021

Project Activities Summary

Project Activities Summary	Project Outcomes Summary
Art in Nature Camp	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts-based environmental education camp for 6 consecutive Saturdays each season (ages 5-16); this grant project covers the spring, summer & fall sessions. <i>Spring & summer sessions completed.</i> ● Example camp activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic bird identification ○ Removing invasive plants (garlic mustard) ○ “Plants & Wetlands for Birds” lesson & pond planting with Joyce Bender ○ Conservation project: pond habitat restoration - planted turtlehead, blue flag iris, seedbox, lizard’s tail, milkweed ○ “Cattails Craft & Bird Habitat” workshop with Roberta Burnes ○ Photographing nature, including birds ○ Nature journaling, including capturing bird sounds via sound maps and sketching birds, and recognizing the connection between birds, insects, and plants ○ Habitat requirements for birds and other species ○ Bird adaptations ○ Maintaining feeder stations ○ Monitoring and maintaining a bluebird trail ○ Relating ecosystem connections to our human connections as a community; noticed strength in diversity ○ Original poetry writing from the perspective of a natural object or being other than human ○ Time to freely explore park grounds & connect with and/or observe nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased Diversity & Accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In comparison to 2020 Art in Nature Camp, in 2021 we expanded the age groups we could offer this camp to from only ages 11-16 to also include ages 5-10. ○ In comparison to 2020 Art in Nature Camp, in 2021 we hosted the most diverse groups of campers in terms of race/ethnicity and gender. ○ We partnered with the Franklin County Health Department’s Just Say Yes initiative to provide this camp free of charge for middle school youth who either attend Frankfort Independent Schools or are affiliated with the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation or Franklin County Schools Youth Services Centers. ● High camper satisfaction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five campers in 2021 had attended at least one other camp session ○ All campers reported that they would like to return to camp ● Expressed value of spending time in nature ● Expressed affective connection with nature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on participant observation, notes on campers’ conversations, journal entries & artworks, birds and their habitat received the most attention. Some specific examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noticing the bluebird trail houses ● Watching a chickadee on the bird feeder station ● Falling in love with “a red cardinal!” ● Finding a nest ● One of campers’ favorite activities was learning about the connection between

	<p>plants and bird habitat, and then getting to create habitat by planting natives around the pond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birds in the general and more specific ways (i.e. their sounds, flying, habitat, specific species) were mentioned more than any other plant, animal, insect, or element • Connecting red-winged blackbirds to cattails
Bluebird Trail Monitoring Volunteer Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed Bluebird Trail Monitoring Info & Data Station in the Visitor Center, which is open every day dawn to dusk • Monitored & maintained JSP's 11 bluebird nest boxes every Sunday at 1pm; done by group of 3+ rotating volunteers from March-August • Trained onboarding volunteers at large event & throughout the season • Featured JSP's Bluebird Trail during 2 First Sunday Nature Tours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased habitat for cavity nesting birds and overwintering birds • Developed a robust and committed group of bluebird trail monitoring volunteers in partnership with Bluebirds of Central Kentucky and Wild Birds Unlimited • Volunteers expressed enhanced connection with nature • Volunteers expressed understanding of connecting personal health to health of ecosystem • Volunteers are developing a lifelong love of birdwatching, bird monitoring, bird feeding, and general care for bird habitat • Impact Story: Program Director, Jeri Howell, spoke with an Art in Nature Camp mother who is now a bluebird trail monitor volunteer. The mother shared that before her daughter did Art in Nature Camp (during which her daughter and fellow campers built and painted the nest boxes for the trail), she was not interested in birds. But when she attended the first bluebird trail monitoring volunteer training with her husband and daughter, she was hooked! She started volunteering regularly, put up several nest boxes and feeders at her private home, started learning bird identification and monitoring in natural areas and her home, and continues to be one of the best advocates for JSP and our bluebird trail!
Bird Habitat Restoration & Educational Signage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded JSP habitat for birds, insects & other wildlife: seed drilled 2.13 acre meadow with mix of native forbs and grasses • Pond habitat restoration: removed excess cattails, removed invasive species, planted native plants • Featured native plant habitat & its connection to birds during 2 First Sunday Nature Tours in 2021 • Created educational signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the plant diversity and native habitat for birds, insects, and other wildlife • Increased opportunities for visitors to observe and learn about native habitat

Photographs, Videos & Work Samples

Art in Nature Camp

Photo 1- Campers identified ideal bird habitat then filled up the bird feeders in the park. They loved knowing that they were caring for their feathered friends! (Winter Session)



Photo 2 - Campers were a Kentucky bird for the day. They got to know their bird in a variety of ways, such as by drawing and coloring it. In this photo, Willow drew a goldfinch! (Winter Session)



Photo 3- Campers nature journaling at the former birdhouse sculpture at JSP (Spring Session) (By Karen Lanier)



Photo 4 - Campers planting natives around the pond (Spring Session) (By Karen Lanier)



Photo 5 - Joyce Bender teaching camper how to plant blue flag iris (Spring Session)



Photo 6 - Roberta Burnes teaching campers about the generosity of cattails (Summer Session)



Photo 7 - Campers showing each other their nature photos (Summer Session)



Photo 8 - Camper enjoying the sculptural bird blind at JSP (Summer Session)



Bird-Related Haikus - Spring Session

I scream into sky
It's something to scream about
For i am a bird
(By E. G.)

Photo 9



"Bird" by Ava

Birds chirping loudly
Flying above the water
Louder than the wind

Impact Stories & Quotes

Story 1: COVID-19 and Art in Nature Camp

*On the last day of Art in Nature Camp, a camper's mother shared how much her daughter loves the program. **"This is the absolute perfect program for her!"** The mom continued to explain that when COVID-19 hit, her family lost many of their healthy routines, such as getting outside and moving at the start of the day. Furthermore, their daughter developed a fear of going outdoors, stemming from the virus outbreak. **"We are so thankful for this camp***

because this is the first time since COVID that she has wanted to play outside again. I think it is because she has loved this experience so much! We cannot thank you enough.”

Story 2: Empowered

After several nature journaling sessions during which campers could go to a place in the park alone and reflect, one camper returned with an empowering realization. “Usually, I am so bored when I’m at home, especially with COVID. But I realized that I can just be in nature – go outdoors, without having to do anything or having a reason!” She realized the way to overcome her boredom was to simply go outside, be present, and let her heart and mind roam.

Powerful Quotes

“This plant is so freaking cool.”

“This is the first photograph I’ve taken that doesn’t look like it was made by a child.”

“I really love coming to this camp.”

“All of you love me, and I can really tell.”

Bluebird Trail Monitoring Volunteer Program

Visitor Center & Bluebird Trail Data Station Video Tour: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_IMhuxbujI

2021 Nesting Season Video Update: <https://youtu.be/YE0bLXAxVHg>

Photo 10 - Volunteer Training



Photo 11 - Chris Forsythe, Bluebirds of Central Kentucky Founder, on Bluebird Trail Install Day.



Photo 12 - Art in Nature Campers volunteering to install bluebird trail. (They built & painted the boxes!)



Bird Habitat Restoration & Educational Signage

Photo 13 - Seeding the large meadow.



Photo 14 - Installing erosion control measures post-seeding.



Photo 15 - Blooming lizard's tail, planted by Art in Nature Campers spring '21 as part of pond habitat restoration project, purchased with KOS grant funds from Dropseed Native Plant Nursery.



Photo 16 - Blooming milkweed, planted by Art in Nature Campers spring '21 as part of pond habitat restoration project, purchased with KOS grant funds from Dropseed Native Plant Nursery. Photo features new sculptural installation in the pond!



THANK YOU!
