



2016
saving burrowing
owls for 8 years

birds. people. communities.



the urban bird way

A Brighter, Sustainable Future

We seek a way forward to a healthy, sustainable planet for birds, people and their interconnected human and wildlife communities. Our work is rooted in the principles of sustainable development — social, environment and economics. We seek to instill in people everywhere that prosperity absolutely does not have to come at the cost of losing green space, wildlife, and human health. In order to achieve strong, healthy, and vibrant communities, we need to build connections to nature, not barriers against nature.

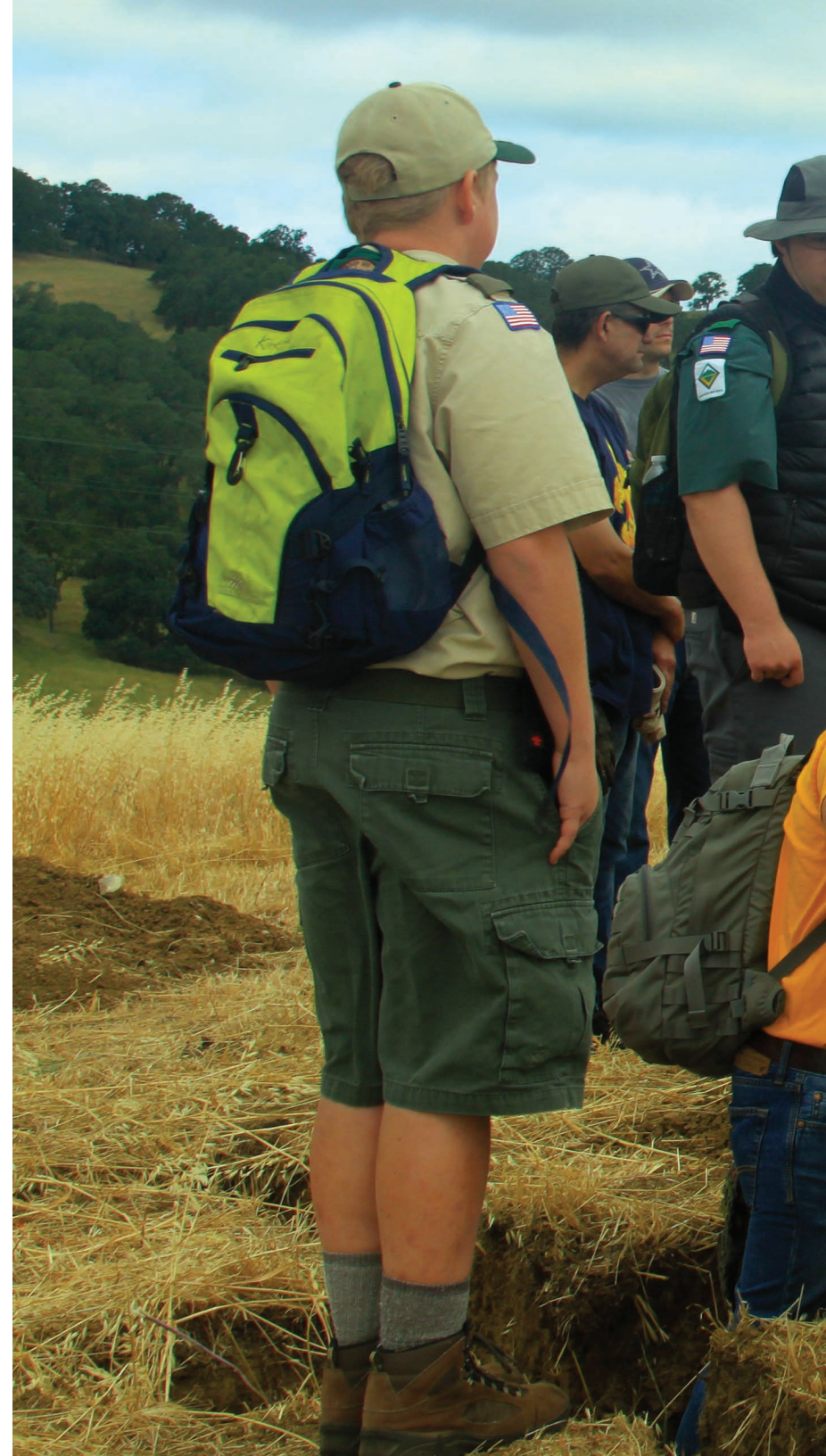
At Urban Bird, we understand the issues and we have bold, innovative, and science-based solutions that are beneficial for bird populations, human health, and economics.

Mission and Vision

Urban Bird's mission is to engage, educate, and nurture a broad-based constituency to ensure the conservation of bird populations, and preserve the interconnected relationship between people and nature.

Our vision is Birds. People. Communities.
A better, sustainable living for all.

With your support, in our first 8 years we continue to grow as a leader in conserving and protecting urban and suburban habitat for the benefit of birds, people, and communities.







report to donors



Dear Friends,

With the help of our incredible supporters, Urban Bird Foundation continues to be a leader in burrowing owl conservation.

In 2008, we rejuvenated a movement to save burrowing owls. It was a hard fought battle that united organizations, communities and people across the state and country. We first came together to protect 25 acres of breeding habitat that 18 burrowing owls called home. It was critical suburban habitat in which 9 pairs of owls were successfully fledging between 27 and 48 young, or more, each year – nurturing a dwindling San Francisco Bay Area population. But this was not just about one habitat or one city or one colony of burrowing owls, it was an all too familiar situation taking place every day across the golden state and beyond.

We formed Burrowing Owl Conservation Network to:

- Lead and support on-the-ground conservation action for burrowing owls and their habitat in urban and suburban environments;
- Provide much needed protection to burrowing owls residing in habitat slated for development or undergoing construction; and
- Advocate for burrowing owls locally, regionally and nationally.

As we expanded our work and evolved into Urban Bird Foundation in 2013, we continued a primary focus on

saving burrowing owls while ensuring other birds and wildlife also have a place in our communities. We work to conserve one of the most important and impactful places on the planet — your community! This is a place where you live, work, play, and educate your children. And your community is a place that has the power to significantly shape and change lives.

This year we are celebrating 8 years of challenging inadequate conservation policies, serving as a leading burrowing owl organization, and making progress for birds, people, and communities.

In the 2016-2017 year it is imperative we strengthen communities' ability to conserve their natural resources and open spaces, transform policies to reduce local impact to habitat and bird populations, work towards a California state-wide burrowing owl conservation strategy, and mobilize people to support the conservation of urban and suburban birds.

We owe special thanks to our supporters for making many great victories possible and for helping us reach these goals...creating a better, sustainable living for all.

With kind regards,

A blue ink signature of Scott Artis.

Scott Artis
Executive Director





A VISION THAT STARTED A MOVEMENT

In 2008, a group of San Francisco Bay Area wildlife enthusiasts spearheaded a local campaign to protect a colony of burrowing owls threatened by suburban development. Known as Burrowing Owl Conservation Network (BOCN), the organization's plight captured the hearts of residents and the attention of local media — quickly sparking a statewide debate regarding the effectiveness of antiquated policies and guidelines designed to protect and restore dwindling populations of burrowing owls in California.

Over the next few years, BOCN found conservation success and established itself as a North American-wide movement focused on restoring habitat, increasing populations and reaching out to communities for the benefit of burrowing owls. However, in order to attain organizational goals, ensure the future of burrowing owls, other birds, and wildlife in urban environments, a conservation scope greater than burrowing owls was required.

In August 2013, the decision was made to rename the organization as Urban Bird Foundation to better communicate our highest priorities, reach new audiences, and expand our influence to achieve our critical conservation goals.

8 years and counting

Together, we are gaining momentum – thank you for your incredible support!



In 2010, Urban Bird became fiscally-sponsored by Earth Island Institute

Urban Bird joined Earth Island Institute, an organization with a long and successful track record, as a strategic move for our grassroots organization to receive fiscal oversight, administrative services, training, marketing, and technical assistance. This move was also designed to capitalize on an excellent reputation to attract new donors and financial supporters, and chart a new and exciting course for the organization as our work expanded beyond burrowing owl conservation.

GOALS and STRATEGIES

Urban Bird will develop a broad-based constituency to preserve our connection to nature, the nation's most important component of conservation, by working in partnership with others to:

- Protect and restore species and their urban and suburban habitats;
- Create, enhance, and promote the sustainability of accessible green spaces;
- Strengthen communities' ability to conserve their natural resources and open spaces;
- Transform policies to reduce local impact to habitat and bird populations;
- Achieve a California state-wide burrowing owl conservation strategy;
- Ensure the environmental, economical, educational, and social values of nature are reflected in local, regional, and national decisions; and
- Mobilize people of all ages to support the conservation of urban and suburban birds.

A group of children are participating in a conservation activity, digging in a field of dry grass. One child in a red shirt is using a shovel, while others watch. The background shows rolling hills under a blue sky.

accomplishments and the numbers

Urban Bird is spearheading community-based conservation, education, and leadership empowerment

Since our grassroots movement began in 2008 as Burrowing Owl Conservation Network, Urban Bird has...

Led the restoration of or helped restore open space and grassland habitat across the Western U.S.

10,074 acres

Responded to calls and emails regarding burrowing owl emergencies, habitat loss, and urban wildlife rescues and issues

5,200 calls

Provided outdoor, science-based field experience to students - many seeing their very first burrowing owl in the wild

2,650 children



Provided conservation and burrowing owl information to more than 1.3 million website visitors from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

1,345,796 visitors

Petitioned the office of the Attorney General to end California's policy of evicting burrowing owls - representing thousands of constituents

209,000 people

Partnered with organizations, federal and state government agencies, cities, and counties across the U.S. and Canada for conservation

45 partners

communities of action

Protecting, Restoring, and Advancing Urban Wildlife Habitat Project

Empowering Local Residents

Urban Bird Foundation combines on-the-ground restoration and protection with training and education to achieve lasting conservation of priority habitat located in or adjacent to urban and suburban communities. We empower local residents to take a leadership role in conservation, with the ultimate goal of ensuring the wellbeing of communities and the natural spaces and ecosystems people and wildlife rely on. Our long-term goal is to work with communities across the San Francisco Bay Area and California to attain economically and ecologically viable community-based projects, and to export the successful aspects of our program as a model of conservation to other priority urban and suburban habitats across the nation. Our short-term goal is the establishment of a grassroots-level management plan, mitigation policies that provide for onsite or in-city habitat and species protection, and the continued safeguarding, preservation and restoration of open spaces.

Preserving Species in Place

Our innovative conservation strategy is one that emphasizes preserving the species in place throughout its range, rather than the current process that exports conservation efforts to other areas merely for convenience, but damages communities by removing their connection to nature.



a comprehensive approach

Building a future that preserves the interconnected relationship between people and nature.

We work to conserve one of the most important and impactful places on the planet — your community! This is a place where you live, work, relax and educate your children. Our team is active at every level — conserving birds and open spaces and reversing an unsustainable trend that is driving a wedge between our children and nature. Simply put, we want to protect habitat and wildlife in and surrounding our communities.

Burrowing Owl Conservation

Urban Bird combines hands-on advocacy, research, education, and progressive burrowing owl and habitat management policies to reverse a trend that currently promotes extirpation. We are creating an imperative for conservation in which cities and counties embrace sustainable development for the benefit of their burrowing owls.

Integrated Nature

Urban Bird champions, enhances, and helps create mixed-use green spaces in communities that serve as educational opportunities, community resources, and native habitat. We simply cannot ignore the health, environmental, and social benefits of open spaces as well as their value in maintaining native bird and wildlife populations.

Building Coalitions

The Communities of Action program connects community and civic leaders to one another so they can share ideas, foster sustainably planned cities, and create green space results. The program brings together professionals with on-the-ground experience to advance innovative practices for protecting, restoring, and creating urban preserves

Conservation Policy

Sound planning and public policy is critical to the success of long-term bird conservation efforts in our communities, region, and nation. Urban Bird works to secure transformative change at the local and national level; partnering with and advocating for governments and agencies to protect birds, urban habitats, and the natural resources we all need.



burrow watch

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION - a direct role in the protection of burrowing owls in and adjacent to urban and suburban communities...your community!

With the help of dedicated volunteers, we monitor burrowing owls and their wintering and breeding habitat in and adjacent to urban and suburban communities. Through our Burrow Watch volunteer program, development projects, open spaces, and unintentional reserves are routinely monitored to ensure proper and innovative conservation solutions are implemented, adherence to state and federal wildlife laws, and to champion preservation of habitat within our communities that is accessible to both people and wildlife.



A growing, critical part of Urban Bird is the volunteers that make it possible for us to implement our on-the-ground conservation programs. Learn more about volunteering at URBANBIRD.ORG

...the future

Urban Bird pursues funding to hire first paid staff member

It's time. Over the past 8 years our all-volunteer team has made significant, positive impacts for burrowing owls, other birds, and habitat with the help of people and communities across the nation. We have steadily grown our programs and partnerships and now receive more than 1,000 calls for assistance, burrowing owl protection, and information annually. We try our best, but the sheer volume of this critical work means we are simply unable to provide the level of support each and every one of you need and deserve – especially since we are all working together to protect our urban and suburban wildlife.

The time is now that we take a strategic, next-level approach to our conservation work. In the 2016-2017 year, Urban Bird will be pursuing the funding necessary to transition from an all-volunteer team to hiring our first dedicated staff member.

We are thrilled with the potential this position will have on our emergency call response time, intensive program efforts and accomplishments, ability to protect more burrowing owls in your neighborhoods and communities, and capacity to further our mission.

As burrowing owl populations continue to disappear in and surrounding our communities, we must increase our efforts to avert this preventable loss – a loss that impacts all of us. Thank you for your dedication and being a vital part of creating, supporting, and growing our grassroots movement. *We can't do it without you!*

URBAN BIRD FOUNDATION STAFF

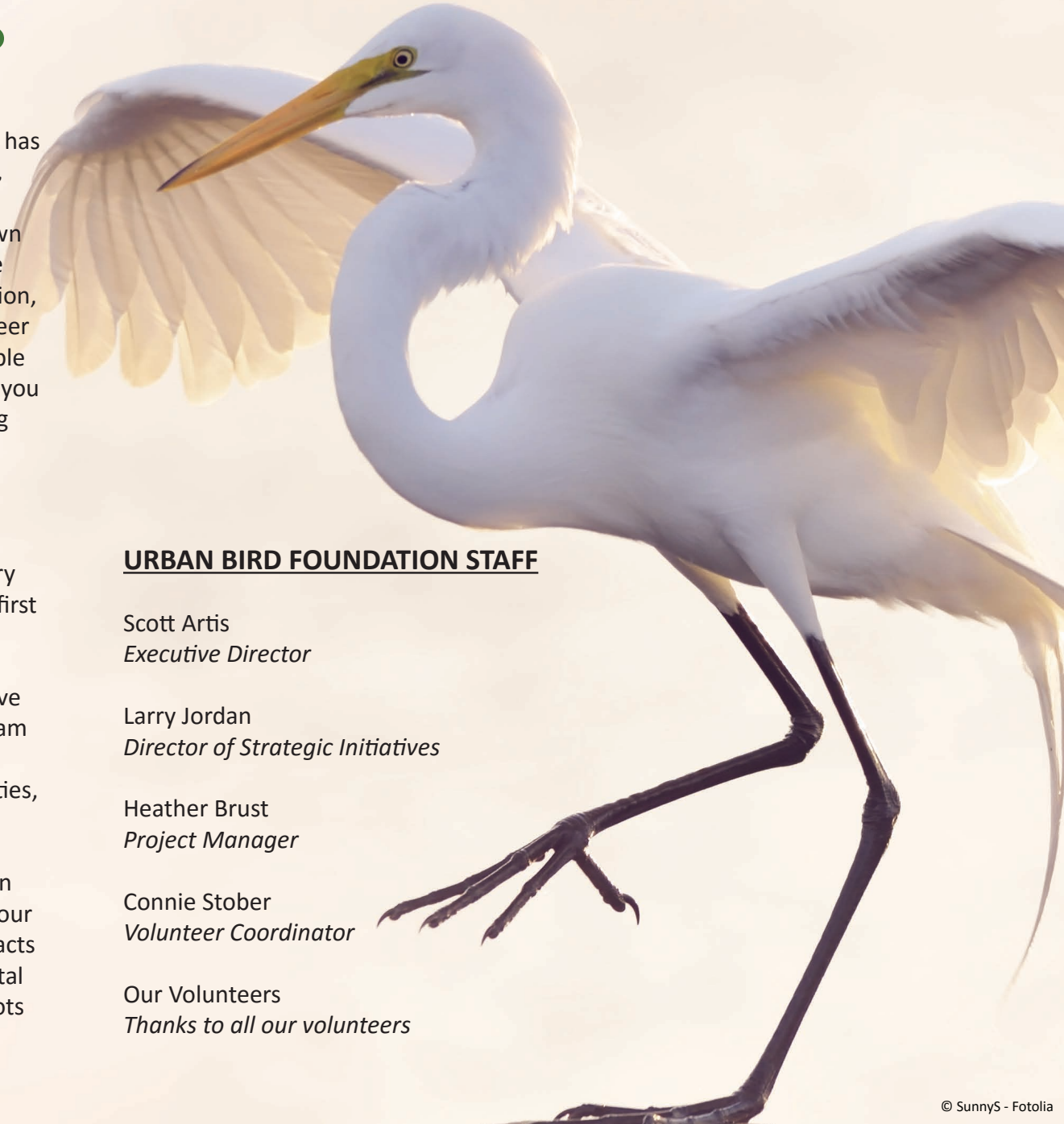
Scott Artis
Executive Director

Larry Jordan
Director of Strategic Initiatives

Heather Brust
Project Manager

Connie Stober
Volunteer Coordinator

Our Volunteers
Thanks to all our volunteers



community-supported conservation

Urban Bird relies on vital volunteer and financial support to implement our conservation programs



Urban Bird uses sound, science-based information, and working preserve models that are presented in such a way that it has real meaning and utility to the people who live and work in urban and suburban settings. We engage citizens in decision-making and build collaborations with nonprofit organizations, agencies, and municipalities that promise to lead our communities in the direction of integrated environmental, societal, and economical sustainability. By advocating for and implementing a birds and people approach, we build healthy, nature-integrated communities.

Our community collaborations provide local residents, often in at-risk or underserved communities, with basic information, technical capacity, and planning frameworks they need to conserve local habitat and habitat fragments, wildlife corridors, and the biodiversity these systems support in their urban and suburban environments.

Simultaneously, we address disparity of opportunity by creating and preserving accessible nature for children and adults - providing a solution to the growing issue of nature deficit disorder.

thanks to our amazing supporters

Over the past 8 years, you have helped make Urban Bird the vibrant and growing organization it is today and we are grateful for your dedication



2015-2016 Finances

REVENUES and SUPPORT

Service Grants	\$44,381
Contributions and Contributed Services	\$60,373
Other Income	\$ 0

Total Revenues & Support	\$104,754
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OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$94,867
Admin & General	\$ 5,207
Fund Development	\$ 4,680

Total Operating Expenses	\$104,754
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OPERATING EXPENSE ALLOCATION

Direct Program Support	90.6%
Management & General Operations	5.0%
Fund Development	4.5%

URBAN BIRD FOUNDATION is a fiscally sponsored organization of Earth Island Institute, a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Earth Island Institute's audited financial statements and annual reports are available upon request and also available at earthisland.org
Statement of activities for year ended June 30, 2016



Urban Bird Foundation

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