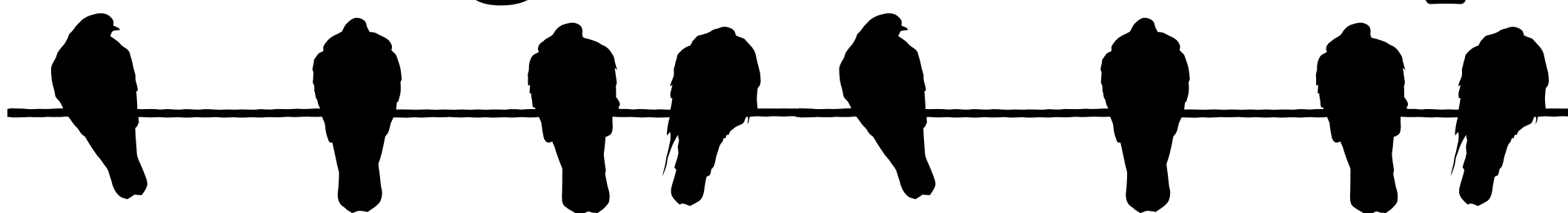




Sustaining Ann Arbor Report



Thanks to the Sustaining Ann Arbor Together (SA2T) neighborhood grant program, the Ornithological Society of Pioneer (OSP) was granted \$2,000 to launch the initiative "Bins 4 Birders" to grow the community of young birders as a means of promoting environmental literacy in the city. A grant of \$2,000 and a generous subsidy of \$100 from the Washtenaw Audubon Society enabled the purchase of seven binoculars, a spotting scope, and a tripod!



Since obtaining these tools, the club has grown to include over 100 members across the district and engaged Ann Arbor residents in the wonder of birding. This year, more students have recruited for and participated in local bird counts like the annual Swifts Night Out, Christmas Bird Count, and May Count. Many students, like Pioneer seniors Mimi Barnes and Sydney Bunce, have learned "so much more about the native birds of Michigan" and "started advocating for environmental sustainability" as a result of the club's efforts. The grant has made activities with AP Biology classes in the district (pictured above) and elementary students participating in the Washtenaw Elementary Science Olympiad "Feathered Friends" event possible and improved the club's ability to increase awareness about the power of citizen science and conservation efforts in Ann Arbor. OSP is thrilled to continue educating Ann Arbor youth and the general community about the importance of birds and how protecting them plays a role in Ann Arbor's transition to carbon neutrality by 2030. Thank you SA2T!

OSP is a student-run organization throughout Arbor Public High Schools that aims to promote birding and bird conservation among youth. The initiative "Bins 4 Birders" strives to enhance equity, inclusion, and diversity in the birding community by eliminating the cost of professional equipment to allow students to explore the exciting world of birds. Birding is an outdoor activity that motivates youth to explore their community parks and encourages them to live an active lifestyle. OSP club members lead weekly bird walks advertised to the general public in Ann Arbor parks. Pictured below are three Pioneer students on a weekly walk.

