



# MYBirdClub

## 2023 Savaloja Grant Summary Report



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For 10 years, MYBirdClub, a nonprofit headquartered in Minneapolis, has been introducing kids and their grownups to the excitement and fun of birding. We've birded with people who have never birded; who have hearing, gross-motor, and mobility challenges; as well as numerous kids who are neurodivergent. That is the joy of birding... everyone can do it!

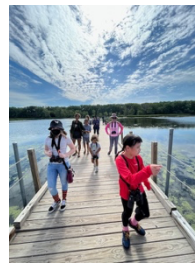
Two guides lead each outing: experienced birders who also excel at environmental education. To erase as many barriers to access as possible, we offer all outings for free, most convenient to city bus lines, and provide quality binoculars.



Scanning for birds



Looking for Touch-me-Nots



Kids taking the lead  
at Wood Lake



Vulture Encounter  
The Raptor Center

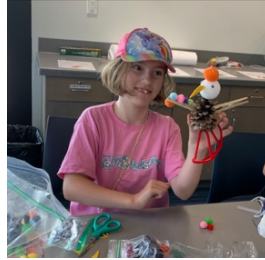
See us on the trail and we don't look like your typical group quietly ambling down the path, stopping to scan the trees and bushes. We scatter along the path and just as often stop to look at holes, poop, plants (we love Touch-me-Nots AKA Jewelweed), nests, feathers, rocks, insects, toads and turtles.

Usually about a half hour in, kids begin to walk ahead together chattering non-stop while the grownups mosey behind and we like it that way. The kids get to experience nature at their own pace with their peers and both groups have a guide to help them along.

MYBirdClub offers more than birding. Our young birders attended naturalist-led programs, crafted their own birds and feathered dinosaurs, and discovered how many M&Ms and Oreos they'd have to eat if they ate like a chickadee in winter (pounds worth).



Meeting a Grasshopper in the field



Build-a-Bird



Falconry Demonstration

They thrilled at a live falconry demonstration and a Raptor Center program where they watched a Red-Tailed Hawk being trained to fly between perches. During our migration game the kids got banded, eaten by a cat, stalled by weather and helped along by rehabilitators and birdfeeders.

With the help of a 2023 MOU Savaloja grant we were able to fund six outings, each open to 20 people. Our 2023 goal was to reach even more kids and to offer some “winter” activities to keep our families and young birders engaged. Our only hiccups were the weather which caused 4 cancelled outings and a trial-run at a Halloween party which didn't receive any interest. This lesson-learned will help inform future planned activities.

Our 2023 season included...

- 26 scheduled outings
- 412+ registrations
- 290+ attending

We eagerly anticipate our 2024 season which we kicked off in late March with our first ever MOU-inspired birding primer and an early-April outing to the Heron Rookery on the Mississippi River. We heartily thank MOU and the Savaloja grant for helping inspire the next generation of Birders, Naturalists and Conservationists.

**2023 Savajola Grant Amount \$1080.00**

12/10/23	Raptor Center Program	\$200
12/10/23	MYBirdClub Guides x 2	\$180
	MYBirdCub guides presented the Raptor Center Program and led tours of The Raptor Center	
5/24/23	MYBirdClub Guides for birding outing x 2	\$180
7/9/23	MYBirdClub Guides for birding outing x 2	\$180
9/10/23	MYBirdClub Guides for birding outing x 2	\$140
11/11/23	Falconry Demonstration Honorariums x 2	\$200

Report Submitted April 5, 2024