

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union -- Savaloja Grants Program

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) is committed to fostering the study of birds, increasing public interest in birds, and promoting preservation of birds and their natural habitats. Toward these ends, the MOU annually considers funding requests for bird-related projects. The amount awarded depends on funds available in any given year and the number of requests approved. Not all requests are funded.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit complete answers to the following questions, where applicable:

1. Please give the name, address, telephone number and email for the organization (project administrator) and project leader submitting the request. If submission through an institutional, nonprofit or government entity isn't possible, funding may be dispersed to individuals directly as reimbursement for documented, direct expenses.
2. Describe the project for which you are requesting funds? What is its goal? How will it benefit birds, increase our understanding of birds, or expand or diversify Minnesota's birding community?
3. Where, specifically, will the project be conducted? (Projects should take place entirely or predominantly within Minnesota.)
4. On what dates is the project expected to begin and end?
5. Please describe how the project will be carried out by including the following information:
 - a. If this is a scientific study or monitoring project, include your methods, where the data will be maintained, who will be able to access it, and how the results will be used. If you are conducting field or lab research for your project, provide literature citations in your proposal.
 - b. If this is an educational or bird appreciation project, how will the public be made aware of the project, and how many members of the public do you expect to reach?
 - c. Will your project include or reach people of color or members of Indigenous communities? If so, how many, or what proportion of expected participants?
6. What personnel will be involved in this project, and what are their qualifications? If this is a scientific study, please include the researcher's institutional affiliation(s), and indicate any other investigators consulted in developing the project.
7. What amount of money are you requesting from the MOU? Will you accept less, and if so, what is the minimum you will accept? Please include an itemized budget, with justifications for expenditures. The committee will consider cost of materials, transportation within Minnesota (rate = \$0.20/mile), equipment, and reasonable compensation for time, although salary supplements for faculty and permanent institutional employees are not generally considered, or will typically be assigned a lower priority, as will institutional indirect costs.
8. Will additional funds, beyond this request, be required to finish the project? How much? From what other sources have you requested funding? If this is a long term project, how will it

be funded in subsequent years? (The MOU is most interested in providing support to initiate projects; projects which have already received three grants will be given lower priority.)

9. Does this project require cooperation with other individuals/organizations, and if so, have they agreed? If the project requires permits or approvals, have they been obtained?
10. How will the project recognize the MOU? We particularly encourage reaching out to local media to publicize your project, and MOU's participation .

Applications should be emailed to both of the following addresses: grants@moumn.org AND stina.dexter@gmail.com.

Deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 20, 2026. Applicants can expect an email confirming receipt of their proposal by February 1st. Grant recipients will be notified in April.

Stipulations:

1. Financial support by the MOU must be acknowledged in all published material associated with the project.
2. A final report is required for all projects; 20% of the grant will be withheld until a satisfactory report is received. Reports are due by Dec. 31 of the award year, or at project's end if it extends into the next year. It should include a summary of methods, objectives, personnel, location, results (including numbers and types of people served if the project is an education or bird-appreciation project), and a budget reconciliation at the end, or in an appendix, including a list of expenditures by category. These will be posted to the MOU web site, so photos and anecdotes are encouraged. A pdf format is preferred.
3. Grant recipients are expected to present either an oral presentation or poster on their project at the annual MOU meeting on the first Saturday in December, or submit either a paper for publication in *The Loon*, journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, or an article for the newsletter *Minnesota Birding*. Grant recipients are also encouraged to provide photos with a caption or narrative during their projects that can be shared on MOU's Facebook page.