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Merlin
photo by Marcia Johnson

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Minnesota Birding

Eat Lead and You're Dead

I have been thinking a lot about lead poisoning in birds recently. The latest issue of the DNR's *Conservation Volunteer* has an article about the studies done by the U of M's Raptor Center on lead poisoning in eagles and how they are getting the lead from bullet fragments in deer gut piles. The article advocates switching to copper bullets. Then last week I heard Laura Erickson talking on the radio about California Condors and their struggles to survive not only lead poisoning, but now in one area they are picking up DDT and have thin eggshells. I also received an e-mail from National Audubon about lead in condors and their efforts to reduce lead in the environment.

Many of you know that while I worked for the DNR, I coordinated the Loon Watcher Program and was involved in efforts to get anglers to quit using lead sinkers and jig heads, and switch to a non-toxic alternative. The purpose of these efforts was to reduce the amount of lead being put into our lakes through lost tackle and thus reduce the number of loons that die from lead poisoning after ingesting just one jig or sinker. Other species, such as Trumpeter Swans have also had notable problems with lead poisoning when they ingest shot gun pellets while foraging for food.

We all know that lead is a toxic heavy metal. We have taken lead out of paint and gasoline, but we continue to use it in ammunition and fishing tackle. At the MOU paper session last December, Dr. Pat Redig talked about lead poisoning in eagles and how it increases in the fall after the opening of deer season. I spoke with Dr. Redig after his presentation and told him that I would work on a position statement on this issue for MOU.

At the October MOU Board meeting, I presented this position statement and it was approved by the Board. "The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) recognizes that lead is a potent toxin to wild birds that can have individual- and population-level effects. Therefore, the MOU advocates the replacement of lead-based sporting ammunition and fishing tackle with non-lead alternatives."

Be informed and spread the word about the dangers of lead in our environment.

The MOU's position statement was adapted from the Association of Avian Veterinarians with their permission. More information about lead poisoning is available at http://www.aav.org/association/unweaned-Birds_3_64414891.pdf

Read Michael Kallok's article in the September–October issue of the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* about lead poisoning in eagles and how copper bullets are better, go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteer/sepoc13/copper.html>

The Wildlife Society, a nationwide organization of professional wildlife biologists, has also developed a position statement and background information at http://joomla.wildlife.org/documents/positionstatements/Lead_final_2009.pdf

For more information about the condor's issues with lead poisoning, go to <http://www.peregrinefund.org/challenge/lead-poisoning>

Pam Perry is the MOU's Conservation Committee Chair and lives in Brainerd with her husband Ken. They are both active birders with the Bee Nay She Council Bird Club and the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society.

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	Minnesota Birding Weekends: North Shore of Lake Superior 2
Minnesota Birding Weekends: North Shore of Lake Superior 3	4	5	6	7	Start of Cornell's Project FeederWatch 8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	MRVAC Field Trip to the Weaver Bottoms 16
17	18	18	20	21	21	Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Field Trip - Winter Sneak Peak 23
24	25	26	27	Thanksgiving 28	29	30

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	MOU Board Meeting 6	MOU Paper Session, Bell Museum of Natural History 7
8	9	10	11	12	Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Field Trip - CBC Scouting 13	CBCs for Bloomington, Duluth, and Rochester 14
CBCs for Two Harbors and Cedar Creek Bog 15	Sax-Zim Bog CBC 16	17	18	19	20	Winter Solstice 21
22	23	24	Christmas 25	26	Pine County CBC 27	St. Paul NE CBC 28
Red Wing CBC 29	30	New Years Eve 31				

Welcome our New Members

Kathy Burrill, *White Bear Lake MN*
 Jane & Frank Cleave, *Duluth MN*
 Laurie Clemens, *Stillwater OK*
 Carol Cummins, *Golden Valley MN*
 Cathy & Tom Fritz, *Detroit Lakes MN*
 Jill Genaw, *Saint Paul MN*
 Gary Gorman, *Saint Paul MN*
 Lynn C. Hartmann, *Rochester MN*
 Jim & Pat Hoglund, *Blaine MN*
 Karen Karis, *Minneapolis MN*
 Florinus Kooyman, *Plymouth MN*
 Rachel Lawson, *Seattle WA*
 Erin Loeffler, *Duluth MN*
 Dave Malecha, *Savage MN*
 Matthew Martinson, *Minneapolis MN*
 Allan Meadows, *International Falls MN*
 Arthur & Mary Pedersen, *Chanhassen MN*
 Anan Schlieff, *Lowry MN*
 Christopher Sellwood, *Mahtomedi MN*
 Brenda Steeber, *Rush City MN*
 Julie & Jonathan Sybrant, *Minnnetonka MN*
 James V. Weber, *Minneapolis MN*

MOU Book Sale

MOU will be holding its annual book sale at the Paper Session on December 7th at the Bell Museum. We are looking for donations of books on or about birds, from scientific tomes to children's books. We will also accept books on Minnesota natural history. We cannot accept journals, magazines, or VHS tapes. Persons interested in donating books should contact John Moriarty at 763-694-7842 or jmoriarty@threeriversparkdistrict.org

Savaloja Small Grants Program

Every year the MOU supports several bird-related projects through the Savaloja Grants Program. This year grants ranged from \$700 to \$1400. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to submit grant applications to the MOU for Minnesota projects that increase our understanding of birds, promote preservation of birds and their natural habitats, or increase public interest in birds.

Projects funded in 2013 included

a native plant restoration of T.S Roberts Bird Sanctuary, color banding and blood analysis of nestling Peregrine Falcons, field guides and binoculars for a Young Naturalist Program, bird banding equipment for research banding at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center, and sterilizing equipment to make owl pellets safe for student dissections.

This year MOU received a donation to fund projects that promote diversifying Minnesota's birding community by

recruiting or involving minorities and people of color. Such projects will be given preference in awarding funds from that particular donation.

Application information may be obtained by emailing grants@moumn.org, or by going to http://moumn.org/grantinfo_2014.pdf.

The deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 31, 2014. Funding recipients will be notified during April 2014. — *Steve Wilson, Chair*

MOU Paper Session Registration

Saturday, December 7th 2013 • 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota
10 Church Street SE, Minneapolis

At the corner of Church Street and University Avenue

REGISTRATION		LUNCH	DONATIONS
\$5. ⁰⁰ by mail with this form \$6. ⁰⁰ at the door		\$11. ⁰⁰ each <i>Includes sandwich, chips, cookie, & soda (circle choice):</i> Coke Diet Coke Fresca Sprite Root Beer Water	<i>MOU General Fund helps finance all MOU projects and publications</i> <i>Savaloja Fund helps finance bird-related research and education in Minnesota</i>
Name		<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Salad with Corn Muffin and Dessert Bar <input type="checkbox"/> Beef Sandwich <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Sandwich <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Sandwich <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Salad Wrap <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Salad Wrap <input type="checkbox"/> Roasted Veggie Wrap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Fund \$ _____ • Savaloja Fund \$ _____ • Membership/Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Life (\$500) <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$75) <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$35) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) <input type="checkbox"/> Under 17 years (\$17)
Phone			
eMail			
Mailing Address			

Additional Registrations — if more registrant lines are needed, attach to this form; additional forms are available at <http://moumn.org>

Name		Lunch	Donations \$ _____ Membership \$ _____
Name		Lunch	Donations \$ _____ Membership \$ _____
Name		Lunch	Donations \$ _____ Membership \$ _____
Name		Lunch	Donations \$ _____ Membership \$ _____
SUBTOTALS		\$ _____	\$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make check payable to the MOU. Send this form and check by November 27th 2013 to:

Roy Zimmerman
756 Willow Grove Lane
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Bell Museum of Natural History
10 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

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The Mission of the M.O.U.

We foster the study and conservation of birds by amateurs and professionals. We promote the conservation of birds and their natural habitats. We support these aims primarily by publishing and sharing information, by serving as a repository for records, by conducting field trips, by awarding grants for research, and by supporting programs that educate members and the public about birds.

MOU Officers

Carl Greiner, President
Roy Zimmerman, Vice President
Tamara Holmer, Recording Secretary
Elizabeth Bell, Membership
Mark Lystig, Treasurer
Ann Kessen, Immediate Past President

Birding Hotlines

Statewide: 763-780-8890
Toll Free: 800-657-3700
North Shore: 218-834-2858
Northwest: 800-433-1888

MOU Contacts

Web site: <http://moumn.org>
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Duluth RBA compiler: duluthrba@moumn.org
MOU Records Committee: mourc@moumn.org
Conservation Chair: conservation@moumn.org
Grants: grants@moumn.org
Youth Mentorship: mentorship@moumn.org
Field Trips: fieldtrips@moumn.org
All other MOU functions: mou@moumn.org

MOU Membership: New/Renewal

Name _____

E-mail address _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

County _____

Membership Categories

- Youth (under 18) \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Foreign (including Canada) U.S. \$35.00
- Family \$35.00
- Supporting \$75.00
- Corporate \$100.00
- Life, single \$500.00
- Life, joint \$700.00

Send to: Elizabeth Bell, MOU Membership Secretary
5868 Pioneer Road South
Saint Paul Park MN 55071-1143

Please make a contribution to the Savaloja Fund

The Savaloja Fund supports research and other projects selected by the MOU for special attention. Your contributions help fund a better future for birds in Minnesota. You can include your contribution on your membership check. Amount: \$ _____