



# Minnesota BIRDING

May  
June  
2023  
Volume 60  
Number 3

## Inside

- 1 Savaloja Grants Awarded
- 3 President's Message
- 4 Conservation Column  
New Members
- 5 Staying Local
- 7 MOU Calendar
- 14 MOU Minutes
- 16 Membership Info



White-throated Sparrow  
by Jean Brisance

## 2023 Savaloja Grants Awarded:

by *Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus*  
*Chair, MOU Savaloja Committee*

At the MOU Board meeting on March 11, board members voted to award a total of \$13,074 in Savaloja Grants to six diverse projects in Minnesota. This year's total includes \$4,000 in special donations: one generous donation of \$3,000 from Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd to be used in support of a BIPOC project, and another generous donation of \$1,000 from Tom Will in memory of Bob Russell. Based on the recommendations of Savaloja Committee members Ann Kessen, Pam Perry, Chuck Neil, Sue Keator, Ezra Hosch, Alyssa DeRubeis, and Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, the following projects were awarded grants by the MOU Board:

**MYBirdClub** is receiving \$1800 to conduct professionally guided field trips that connect youth (and their families) to birds and birding. These inclusive field trips help instill a desire to care for birds and show kids and adults how they can weave personal conservation actions and efforts into their everyday lives. This project benefits birds by inspiring the next generation of birders, conservationists, and environmentalists. Most of their bird outings served approximately 20% non-white and/or neurodiverse youth. They work to attract a diverse group of young birders by marketing their outings in groups specifically for

non-white populations like Outdoor Afro, Urban Bird Collective, and in community Facebook groups. In addition, MYBirdClub contracts with public libraries to offer birding programs which connects them to a more diverse population across the metro.

**North Dakota State University graduate student Tucker Lutter** is receiving \$1974 for a research project studying the interface between human and avian populations along the Red River riparian corridor in Moorhead, MN and Fargo, ND. The objectives are to:

- Assess the diversity of migratory and breeding birds in urban green spaces and to determine the breeding status of birds using urban green spaces.
- Demonstrate relationships between breeding birds in urban parks and surrounding land use (LDI) and vegetation characteristics.
- Understand the attitudes of park users about conservation in urban parks and how attitudes differ across demographic groups.
- Quantify the economic inputs of birders visiting Moorhead and Fargo parks.

**The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project** is receiving \$3000 to expand the scope of their project by gathering otherwise unknown information on the species' statewide distribution, reproduction, and the habitat characteristics associated with breeding success. The refined nature of this new approach would provide the necessary information about the species' distribution and reproduction that are critical components of habitat management and restoration efforts. To address these information gaps, this research will focus on the following objectives:

- Identify the current breeding distribution of red-headed woodpeckers in Minnesota and collect information on occupancy, reproduction, and breeding habitats.
- Develop a monitoring protocol to estimate Red-headed Woodpecker population trends and responses to habitat management.
- Their stated goal is to implement a broad-scale, fine-resolution survey for Red-headed Woodpeckers across their potential breeding distribution in Minnesota using cutting-edge technology (acoustic recording units or AR Us) and an evaluation of how ARUs can best be used to establish a monitoring program for this species, and possibly for other species of management concern.



*Red-headed Woodpecker, by Jerry Pruett*

**Staring Lake Outdoor Center** is receiving \$1850 (which includes the special donation of \$1000 in memory of Bob Russell) for its owl education program — developed with the assistance of a previous Savaloja grant — to reach 350 third graders from three different schools, with an estimated 40-50% of attendees being students of color. The goal of these comprehensive programs is twofold: to encourage a development of interest in birds, especially owls, and to establish a deeper respect and understanding of the world around them, which will ultimately lead to a greater appreciation of habitats and preserving the natural world.

**The Urban Bird Collective** is receiving \$3600 (which includes a special donation of \$3000 for a BIPOC project) to expand their work further by developing a cohort of 6-8 new leaders. The UBC's vision is to empower individuals who are willing to deepen their knowledge of bird identification and appreciation of natural spaces and to develop their skills to lead others on UBC walks. Through these shared experiences, the UBC will build community connections, increase awareness and stewardship of the environment, and facilitate ongoing multi-generational participation in outdoor recreation for the health of people and the environment. The new cohort will build their birding identification skills and their ability to facilitate bird walks and positive outdoor experiences for BIPOC and LGBTQIA participants. Developing new leaders will allow their current leaders to gain more advanced teaching experience while also building the identification and social skills of these new leaders. Experienced leaders will create curriculum and focused learning opportunities that provide a consistent, year-round, supportive learning environment for folks who are willing to learn, but are lacking, bird ID skills.

**Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society** is receiving \$850 to provide the Northland Arboretum — a designated Audubon Important Bird Area (IBA) — and their chapter area with an up-to-date printed checklist of bird species. They will revamp their current checklist and have copies printed for use at their programs and to promote interest, education, and appreciation of birds in their area.

Your donations make these grants possible. Please consider supporting future grants that promote important education, research, and monitoring projects designed to benefit birds by making a donation. Simply go to MOU's home page (<http://moumn.org/>), click on the "Donate" button at the top of the page, and contribute whatever you can. (Under "Add special instructions to the seller," please enter "Savaloja donation.") Your help today gives hope to the future of birds and birding in Minnesota.

# Message from the President

by Michelle Terrell

After what seemed like a particularly long winter, spring migration is at last underway. More and more lakes are free of ice, and it has been a joy to witness the return of waterfowl, to spy shorebirds dotting the banks of local wetlands, and to welcome back the pair of Eastern Phoebes who use a shelf nesting box on our front porch. I hope that members have had the opportunity to enjoy the change of seasons.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update the members on two MOU initiatives. The first is a follow-up to the Conservation Column printed in the January/February issue of the newsletter entitled “Pheasants Forever as a Conservation Partner: A Modest Proposal for the M.O.U.” In that piece, Carrol Henderson shared some ideas that had come out of discussions with Mark Johnson, Executive Director of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and a presentation that Mark subsequently made to the MOU Board at its December meeting: namely, how could the MOU become more directly involved in the conservation and improvement of bird habitat — particularly for those grassland bird species that are in serious decline.

The idea that Carrol presented in the newsletter centered on the MOU partnering with Pheasants Forever to create an assessment protocol for evaluating the impact that the improvement, restoration, and management of grassland habitat has on birdlife through examination of parcels that have been acquired and developed by Pheasants Forever as prairie sites. MOU volunteers would carry out field assessments following the developed protocol. In late March, Carrol and I met with Mark Johnson and Joe Pavelko from the LSOHC, and Tanner Bruse and Sabin Adams from Pheasants Forever to discuss this potential partnership and what the process might look like on the ground. We are still working out the details, but if you would be interested in learning more and volunteering to survey parcels undergoing habitat enhancement/restoration, please contact me at [mterrell.mou@gmail.com](mailto:mterrell.mou@gmail.com). This is an exciting opportunity for the MOU to be involved in furthering our understanding of the impact that these management efforts have on grassland avian species. As this program develops, additional information and opportunities will be shared in future newsletters and through our social media.

The second initiative I want to highlight is related to the MOU website. You may have noticed the “Website Manager Volunteers Needed” postings in recent issues of the newsletter. As an organization, we have been incredibly fortunate to have in David Cahlander a skilled computer scientist willing to devote decades to building and maintaining



*Scarlet Tanager, by Trey Weaver*

moumn.org, but he now looks to retire from that role. For many years, the MOU Board has discussed the need to find a backup for David to whom the management of the website could eventually be transitioned. Despite David’s willingness to mentor a new website manager or team, it has been difficult to find volunteers from within the membership. It has become increasingly apparent that if the MOU wishes to maintain the incredible resource that moumn.org has become, it will be necessary to hire an outside vendor with the capability to modernize a complex and custom website.

Such an undertaking will of course require a substantial financial investment. In recognition of this, the MOU Board, at its March meeting, authorized the preparation of a proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for a grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The proposal is to fund a contract with a website development vendor to modernize the MOU website so that we can continue to provide open-source access to an online database of more than 19 million statewide avian records documenting species seen or nesting in Minnesota from the mid-1800s through the present, as well as the detailed occurrence information, distribution maps, migration data, and seasonal reports that build on the database.

The MOU’s proposal entitled, ‘Ensuring Continued Access to Minnesota’s Ornithological Records’ is now winging its way through the proposal review and evaluation process. Hopefully I will be able to share a positive update on the status of the proposal in the next newsletter.

Happy Birding!



# Conservation Column:

## The eBird Status and Trends Maps: Tools for Better Understanding Bird Populations

by Andy Forbes

Tracking populations of wildlife is at times a daunting endeavor. This is a particular challenge for species that occur in remote areas or that have life histories that are not well understood. In general, the information available to assist with tracking populations of birds is comparatively good, at least for many species. A combination of high public interest and effort, and long-term survey efforts such as the North American Breeding Bird Survey (which began in 1966) has given us the information we need for some species to effectively plan and target conservation efforts where they are needed most. However, much of this information has not always been easily accessible, and interpreting data at different geographic scales can be a challenge, especially for people and organizations that lack analytical capacity.

A lot of that has changed since the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology introduced eBird in 2002. eBird is an online, publicly accessible database of bird observations submitted by casual birders and professional ornithologists alike. Originally focused on North America, it has since expanded to provide coverage across the globe as of 2010. Many birders are familiar with the utility of eBird to help plan birding trips, find rare species, year birds, county birds, etc. However, recent advances have enabled much more sophisticated use and analysis of eBird data. One of my favorite tools is the new (as of fall 2022) eBird “Status and Trends” tool, which I’ll briefly describe here.

Anyone with an eBird account (which is free) can access this and several other tools under the “Science” tab on the main page at ebird.org. It’s as easy as entering the name of a particular species that you want to learn more about and pushing a button. The status and trends tool will pop up, and can be used to view easily interpreted visualizations of bird population trends over approximately the last 15 years all the way down to the local (near county in some cases) level for over 500 species of birds. It’s a fascinating and at times troubling look at how bird populations are doing across their ranges — including during the critical non-breeding period. One caution: some trend data has a higher degree of confidence than others, for a variety of reasons. Check out the “confidence intervals” when you explore the trends at the smallest geographic level — the larger the confidence interval, the more uncertainty there is around the trend estimate. Even when data for an individual area may be uncertain, though, looking at broader patterns in certain larger portions of a species’ range vs. another can be quite revealing.

More details about how these trends were derived and a variety of other very useful visualizations about bird populations, including some really amazing, animated migration maps, are available on the eBird website. While there is still so much more to learn and understand about birds, technological advances have brought us a long way in better assessing and explaining what we’re seeing anecdotally every year in the field. These eBird maps, combined with information from other sources such as the Breeding Bird Survey, the Bird Banding Lab, the Motus Network, and, of course, the MOU website can really help anyone get a good picture of the latest state of knowledge about birds and bird populations. The only limitation is free time to browse them!

*Andy Forbes is Acting Assistant Regional Director for the Midwest Migratory Bird Program with USFWS and is a former member of the MOU Records Committee.*

## New MOU Members

Note to members: Please notify the Membership Chair ([membership@moumn.org](mailto:membership@moumn.org)) of any email or address changes so you can continue receiving the MOU’s two publications. We would also appreciate notification when a MOU member dies.

Catherine Anderson, *Minneapolis, MN*

Cigale Ahlquist, *Arden Hills, MN*

Keith Bergmann, *Lake Elmo, MN*

Therese Cacek, *Rice, MN*

Amanda Cowden, *St. Paul, MN*

David Cunningham, *Blaine, MN*

Nancy Dallman, *Brooklyn Park, MN*

Davis Harder, *Mountain Lake, MN*

Joshua McMahon, *Bloomington, MN*

Tricia O’Donnell, *Edina, MN*

Robert Ritter, *Akeley, MN*

Susan Rolandelli, *Minneapolis, MN*

Margaret Seibel, *Vadnais Heights, MN*

Jamie Swanson, *Burnsville, MN*

Elizabeth Steiner, *Minneapolis, MN*

Wayne Swanson, *Minnetonka, MN*

Margaret Tillery, *Roseville, MN*

Bethany Tiner, *Rochester, MN*

Paul Watcrott, *Minneapolis, MN*

# Staying Local

## A Site-Lister's Account

by Ben Douglas



*White-faced Ibis.* by Ben Douglas  
*First Washington Co. record (2022), found by Dan Beran*

Many birders in Minnesota experience a similar start within the hobby. After a handful of local bird watching efforts gives us a taste of things, the idea begins to creep in to find every species possible. What follows is a rapid expansion in skill and life list mired only by each person's means and availability. Small trips often turn into longer ones further afield chasing singular finds week after week. This is where I'd like to pick things up and share my own thoughts on a more focused and localized style of birding that has as much to offer a brand-new birder as a veteran of the hobby.

No matter how far flung or ambitious my own goals for birding have been over the years, one thing has remained true and consistent. I most deeply enjoy birding at one park just down the street from my home. I enjoy it to the extent that I visit several days a week and have a life list that sits at 208 species. I have long viewed Lake Elmo Regional Park as my personal 2,000+-acre birding classroom. I spend more bird watching hours at this park than anywhere else in the state, and it has become the place where I develop new skills in bird identification and observation.

I believe several factors contribute to a park acting as a great home base for birding. The first and most important to me has been proximity to home. Still deep within my

professional working career, a very short travel distance has helped ensure that even after a long day of work it doesn't take much motivation to wedge in a birding effort.

Another factor is more broad habitat diversity within the park. Though I would argue Lake Elmo Park itself doesn't excel in any particular space it does contain a good mix of open grasslands, scrubland, marshes, lakes, ponds, small tracts of forest, and even a larger deep-water lake. This diverse mix of land has led to the site being a reasonable and diverse migratory stopover in the east metro as well as a solid nesting location for many species.

I would encourage you to think about your favorite locations and other nearby parks to see if any of them begin to offer the type of habitat diversity and species variety that could sustain a long-term listing effort. Ask yourself what habitat types might be missing or weaker in general and then what species groups might be more challenging to find in the park space. Will it be functionally impossible to find certain groups of birds, or just challenging?

Bird watching at the same location consistently for many years in a row does something for you that chase birding just can't. As each year passes you begin to peel back layers of nuance you might never have realized existed for many species. Even the lack of a species' presence begins to tell a story about the habitat itself and its quality or lack thereof. Near daily observation lends context and visibility to otherwise hidden events.

One such example I can share to illustrate this comes from the Sedge Wren. I've recorded them at Lake Elmo Park pretty much every single year for a decade straight. The true education came with regular observation during entire breeding seasons over several consecutive years. I had read in field guides that Sedge Wrens will produce a second brood some years by moving nest locations. This behavior is really hard to observe without visiting the same park spaces for an entire year. You first need to find preferred spring territories and then must also confirm other potential locations with no birds nesting. After enough time passes the early nesters will fledge young and singing will cease abruptly. With near daily visits to the park, while rotating hiking across 20 miles of trails, I will eventually cross paths with singing birds in areas I had noted weeks prior as having no birds present. These are the moments where I've come to recognize a species like Sedge Wren moving to alternate breeding locations and attempting to start a second brood.

Beyond training on the breeding and even migratory

habits of individual species one of my favorite activities has also been engaging in big year efforts focused on an individual park. Geographically restricted big years force us to explore every inch of a park in all seasons and think more deeply about how to maximize the final list. These personal challenges can help engage a healthy competitive spirit that is just yourself against what nature offers on any given day and leans heavily upon your own historical knowledge of the space.

In 2022 I pursued a broader state-wide goal of identifying 300 species. Upon completing this goal in late May, I stopped looking for more, and instead turned back to Lake Elmo. I skipped chasing four first state record species found by others to instead set my highest single year species count of 189 at Lake Elmo because I found greater personal challenge in the endeavor. I found myself designing after work routes to maximize my chances at finding species I had missed in the spring. Every effort in the fall began to include a post hike scoping of the biggest lake instead of driving directly home. This I estimated was the only way I could add any of the scoter species to my list for the year. A Surf Scoter would be my reward on November 19, my first ever for the park, after dozens of attempts starting in September.

I have found that even when a park has plenty of foot traffic from other birders it is not uncommon for dedicated individual efforts to produce a significant and unique dataset that would otherwise go unreported.

In late 2021 I was targeting the only available cedar grove in Lake Elmo Park in a little used space that is allocated by the maintenance crew for dumping debris and brush. This targeted effort produced my favorite moment with the large seasonal brush pile first producing a nearly ghost white Vesper Sparrow mixed in with other migrant sparrows. Moments later though I saw a bird perched up on a cedar tree just 100' away from the Vesper Sparrow I first thought might be an American Robin. The Townsend's Solitaire I found perched on the tree instead ended up being the successful culmination of a three-year effort at the park to focus fall birding in and around the cedar grove specifically for that species.

What I have found time and again is that local site birding forces me to ask myself new questions about my approach to finding birds. I have to think well beyond the idea of where I need to drive to see the next one I want.

If I'm going to find a bird that is missing from my life list in the park, then where should I be looking?

At what time of year should I be targeting that species?

Do I possibly need to change my search methodology to increase my odds of seeing a particular species?

Are there any unique or temporary factors in play that I need to consider? These might include temporary mud flats due to drought or flooding, spring prairie burns, or maybe just prevailing wind patterns that boost migration.

If I've missed a particular common or even uncommon



*Dilute/Leucistic Vesper Sparrow  
October 7, 2021, by Ben Douglas*

species for multiple years, are my own methods flawed in some way or deficient? How can I improve them to gain more success?

An additional unique aspect of local site birding is that you also get a front row seat to habitat and population change and how those changes affect species diversity and site utilization. Just as a conservation-focused entity might conduct annual surveys of a property, we can engage in very similar activities to educate ourselves on subtle shifts over time.

A recent highlight in watching buckthorn removal and oak savanna restoration in the park came up last spring as I noted a vegetation stripping activity had created a large tract of mostly barren land. This space made it look really good for Lark Sparrow use based on my experiences from other locations around the state. This was a species I'd only seen one time as a spring migrant back in 2013 in the park. I soon turned up a singing Lark Sparrow within just a few feet of where I first had the thought about their potential. Another birder would later report food carrying behavior indicating nesting was occurring in the park.

In closing I really want to encourage you to consider what parks near you might provide enough diversity and total space to draw your interest for years long birding efforts. The rewards of delving another level deeper in bird watching can provide amazing insight and education that chasing and location jumping can't.

*Ben is a volunteer with the MOU's Social Media Committee and the annual Awards Committee. Ben also volunteers providing event and guide support for Carpenter Nature Center birding events annually.*



# MOU Calendar

## May / June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>MAY 1</b> LNC: Mondays for the Birds	<b>2</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: Park Point SPAS: Crosby Farm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: W. Waterfront Trail ZVAS: Kutzky Park	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> CNC: MN Bird Hike ZVAS: Quarry Hill
<b>7</b> MOU: Lake Elmo MRVAC: Bass Ponds SPAS: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge	<b>8</b> MOU: Warbler Walk ENC: Spring Birding LNC: Mondays for the Birds ZVAS: Kutzky Park	<b>9</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: Park Point SPAS: Snail Lake ZVAS: Kutzky Park	<b>10</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesday	<b>11</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: W. Waterfront Trail MOU: Warbler Walk ZVAS: Kutzky Park	<b>12</b> SPAS: Hok-Si-La	<b>13</b> ACM: Guided Birding CNC: WI Bird Hike CNC: WI Spring Festival FOSZB: Waffles & Warblers MOU: SW MN Trip SPAS: Hok-Si-La
<b>14</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds SPAS: Hok-Si-La ZVAS: Hok-Si-La	<b>15</b> MOU: Warbler Walk LNC: Mondays for the Birds	<b>16</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: Park Point SPAS: Rachel Lilly ZVAS: Kutzky Park	<b>17</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesday	<b>18</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: W. Waterfront Trail MRVAC: Wilkin & Ottertail Cos. SPAS: Murphy-Hanrehan	<b>19</b> MRVAC: Wilkin & Ottertail Cos.	<b>20</b> BELL: Open Birding MOU: 7 Mile Creek SPAS: Lebanon Hills ENC: Bird Banding LNC: Bird Banding ZVAS: Rock Dell
<b>21</b> MOU: Sherburne NWR SPAS: Swede Hollow LNC: Raptors up close SP: Morning Birds	<b>22</b> LNC: Mondays for the Birds	<b>23</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: Park Point SPAS: Silverwood Regional Park	<b>24</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesday	<b>25</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: W. Waterfront Trail	<b>26</b> CNC: Bird Banding	<b>27</b> FOSZB: Songbird Saturday
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> DULUTH AUDUBON: Park Point SPAS: William O'Brien SP	<b>31</b>	<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> CNC: MN Bird Hike MOU: Crow Hassan ZVAS: Quarry Hill ZVAS: Chester Woods
<b>4</b> MOU: Stanley Eddy Park	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> SPAS: Afton SP	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> CNC: WI Bird Hike MOU: Louisville Swamp MRVAC: Bass Ponds ENC: Family Birding
<b>11</b> MOU: Aitkin County	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> SPAS: Battle Creek Park	<b>14</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds	<b>15</b> MRVAC: Sax-Zim Bog & Carlton Co.	<b>16</b> MRVAC: Sax-Zim Bog & Carlton Co.	<b>17</b> ENC: Bird Banding
<b>18</b> MRVAC: Louisville Swamp SPAS: Carpenter Nature Center LNC: Raptors up close	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> FPCWMA: Expansion Dedication SPAS: Reservoir Woods	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> SPAS: Maplewood Nature Center	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



# MOU Calendar

## May / June 2023

**Note:** Readers are advised to check the web sites of the respective organizations before going.

### AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS

[www.minneapolisaudubon.org/events](http://www.minneapolisaudubon.org/events)

#### **May 13: Birding for People with Mobility Challenges**

11:30 am–12:30 pm. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—Bloomington Education and Visitor Center ([map](#)). Meet at the bird feeder just behind the MRVNR Visitor Center. This outing is appropriate for birders with a range of mobility challenges including birders who use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes, as well as those who walk slowly. All birders from beginner to experienced are welcome. Binoculars will be available for those who need them. Please dress for the weather. The path is paved and has curb cuts from the parking lot. Disability parking spaces are available and accessible portable toilets are located nearby. There are a few benches near the bird feeder, but you may also wish to bring your own folding stool or chair. [Sign Up today - Advance registration is required.](#) Limited to 15 participants. For questions or concerns, please contact Mark Paller ([palle001@umn.edu](mailto:palle001@umn.edu)) or Marian Weidner ([mpweidner@gmail.com](mailto:mpweidner@gmail.com))

### BELL MUSEUM

2088 Larpenteur Avenue W., St Paul  
[www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/](http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/)

#### **May 20: Open Birding**

10–11 am. All visitors can join the birding fun on the Bell Museum’s Learning Landscape. This short, guided experience welcomes all experience levels, especially those who are new to birdwatching. Binoculars are available for check-out, and the group will remain on the flat, paved sidewalk just outside of the museum. Free; no registration is required for open birding; you can drop in any time during the session. Note: Museum admission is not included.

### CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

[www.carpenternaturecenter.org/events/](http://www.carpenternaturecenter.org/events/)

Minnesota Campus: 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings  
Wisconsin Campus: Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center, Hudson, WI

#### **May 6 & June 3: Minnesota Campus Bird Hike**

8–10 am. Join expert birder Garrett Wee on a morning hike

around the Nature Center. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Field guides and binoculars are available to use or bring your own. Program fee: \$5.00 or free for “Friends of CNC,” Hastings Environmental Protectors, Hastings High School students, and St. Croix Valley Bird Club members. Space is limited and reservations are required, please call CNC at 651-437-4359.

#### **May 13 & June 10: Wisconsin Campus Bird Hike**

8–10 am. Hike various trails on our Wisconsin Campus and learn to identify birds with local experts from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club. Program fee: \$5 per participant or free for SCVBC members and “Friends of CNC.” Space is limited and reservations are required, please call CNC at 651-437-4359.

#### **May 13: WI Campus Wings of Spring Festival**

8 am–noon. Join Carpenter Nature Center, Tropical Wings, and the St. Croix Valley Bird Club to celebrate World Bird Migration Day. For a complete list of the day’s activities go to: [Wings of Spring](#). This event is free, but registration required. Call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot.

#### **May 26: MN Campus Public Bird Banding**

8:30 am–noon. See birds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously. Donations of birdseed appreciated in lieu of a program fee.

### DULUTH AUDUBON

*Note: For more information on Duluth Audubon birding events go to: [DAS events](#). For questions about these field trips please contact Duluth Audubon VP and Field Trip Coordinator Clinton at [xanthomn@gmail.com](mailto:xanthomn@gmail.com).*

#### **May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30:**

#### **Spring Warbler Walks at Park Point**

7–9 am. Meet at Park Point Parking Lot, at the beach house parking area west of the ball fields. No registration is required for these field trips, and you do not need to be a Duluth Audubon member to attend. Trail and beach conditions may be uneven. Please reach out to [duluthaudubon-president@gmail.com](mailto:duluthaudubon-president@gmail.com) with any accommodation requests. Weather-related cancellations will be communicated by email and Facebook prior to the walk.



**May 4, 11, 18, & 25:**

**Spring Warbler Walks at Western Waterfront Trail**

7 am. Meet at Waabizheshikana Trail (Marten or Western Waterfront Trail) parking lot behind Munger Inn. No registration required. Trail and beach conditions may be un-even. Please reach out to [duluthaudubonpresident@gmail.com](mailto:duluthaudubonpresident@gmail.com) with any accommodation requests. Weather-related cancellations will be communicated by email and Facebook prior to the walk.

**FRIENDS of PRAIRIE CREEK WMA**

[www.prairiecreekwma.wixsite.com/fopc](http://www.prairiecreekwma.wixsite.com/fopc)

**June 20: Dedication of Prairie Creek WMA Expansion**

4–6 pm. The Koester Prairie unit of this conservation area will be expanded to include nearly 600 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and hardwood forest. It is a notable habitat for grassland birds in SE Minnesota. The dedication will provide opportunity to visit and learn about the site, and to hear from those involved in its conservation. Location: 13371 Lamb Ave., Dennison. The parking lot is on the east side of the road. The site is eight miles southeast of Northfield.

**FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG**

*Registration is required for all Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Field Trips. Limited space is available on our field trips and registration information can be found at [saxzim/events](http://saxzim/events). For questions, please contact Head Naturalist Clinton at [naturalist@saxzim.org](mailto:naturalist@saxzim.org). All field trips will be meeting at the Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center at 6:00 am, with field trips returning around 12 noon.*

**May 10, 17, & 24: Warbler Wednesdays**

6 am–noon. Warblers! The target of this weekly field trip. Of course, there are many other species of birds to see and hear in the bog during the end of spring migration and the start of nesting. Field trips will hope to see and hear flashy warblers, cryptic wetland species, and even prairie birds. Our trips are a good introduction to summer birding in the Sax-Zim Bog and routinely document 80-100 species during a morning of birding. Join us each Wednesday to see and learn about the diverse bird communities that make the greater Sax-Zim Bog area such an amazing and important collection of habitats. Registration for these trips will be split into two groups and each group will try to see similar species but will cover different areas of the Bog. Registration required at: [saxzim/events](http://saxzim/events)

**May 13: Waffles & Warblers Field Trip**

6–11 am. Join us for this one-of-a-kind field trip, where we will be searching for warblers in the morning and then enjoying waffles in the afternoon! Meet at the Welcome Center Parking Lot. This field trip will end with a short talk by FOSZB Executive Director Sparky about the wonders of the Sax-Zim Bog. Between 11:30 am-12:30. Register for this field trip here: [Waffles and Warblers Field Trip](#)

**May 27: Songbird Saturday**

6:00 am–noon. Warbler Wednesdays are expanded to Saturdays. Meet at the Welcome Center Parking Lot. This birding event is the same as Warbler Wednesdays. Please read that description above. Register for this field trip here: [Songbird Saturday](#)

**MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

[www.moumn.org](http://www.moumn.org)

*For questions, please contact* Trey Weaver, MOU Field Trip Chair: [fieldtrips@moumn.org](mailto:fieldtrips@moumn.org)

**May 7: Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

8 am. Join Ben Douglas for a morning hike through Lake Elmo Park Reserve's multiple biomes. The group will meet at the Nordic Center (be aware that there is a day use fee of \$7 or a \$30 annual pass to all Washington County Parks). Contact info: Benjamin Douglas email address: [hj70ft@msn.com](mailto:hj70ft@msn.com) or field trip coordinator Trey Weaver at [fieldtrips@moumn.org](mailto:fieldtrips@moumn.org). Registration is required, limited to 15 participants. For more information and registration, go to: [LakeElmo/signup](#).

**May 13: Southwest Minnesota Field Trip**

6:30 am. Join Trey Weaver for a day of birding in the very southwest tip of the state. Meet at McDonalds in Luverne. Key site visits will be Blue Mounds SP, Touch the Sky Prairie, Pipestone National Monument, and Split Creek SP. Final route TBD. Registration is required, limited to 11 participants and 3 vehicles. For more information and registration, visit [SWMN/signup](#).

**May 8, 11, & 15: After Work Warbler Walks**

4–5:30 pm. Join Trey Weaver for warbler walks after your daily grind. Hosted at a few different sites each day, the groups will meet at 4:00 pm and will hike for about 1 to 1.5 hours. Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. For registration and information on each event, go to the appropriate link below:

May 8: Carver Park Reserve: [CarverPark/signup](#)

May 11: Veteran's Park in Richfield: [VetsPark/signup](#)

May 15: Wood Lake Nature Center: [WoodLake/signup](#)

### **May 20: Seven Mile Creek & Kasota Prairie**

7:30 am. Join William Morengo for a morning hike in Seven Mile Creek in search of migrant warblers and resident breeding species (specifically Cerulean Warbler and Acadian Flycatcher), followed by a trip across the river to Kasota Prairie. The group will meet at the Seven Mile Creek information kiosk at the very west end of the road entering the park. Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. Contact Bill at [wcmarengo@gmail.com](mailto:wcmarengo@gmail.com) for questions about this event. For more information and registration, go to [7-MileCreek/signup](#).

### **May 21: Sherburne NWR Wildlife Drive**

7 am. Join Tony Lau for a drive through the Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive in Sherburne NWR. Meet at the entrance to the wildlife drive. Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. Contact Tony Lau for questions about this event at [Tony@fros.com](mailto:Tony@fros.com). For more information and registration, go to [SherburneNWR/signup](#).

### **June 3: Crow Hassan**

6:30 am. Join Trey Weaver for a hike through Crow Hassan Park Reserve, a great breeding bird site close to the Twin Cities. Meet at the main park trailhead. Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. For more information and registration, visit [CrowHassan/signup](#).

### **June 4: Stanley Eddy Park Reserve**

7 am. Join Tony Lau for a hike targeting resident breeding species, Cerulean Warbler being the primary target. Meet at the trailhead off Rhoades Ave. NW (CR2). Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. For more information and registration, visit [StanleyEddyPR/signup](#).

### **June 10: Louisville Swamp & Rapids Lake**

7 am. Join William Morengo for a hike targeting species typical of the wooded Minnesota River Valley: flycatchers, vireos, orioles, towhees as well as sparrows in the grassland portion of the park. Meet at the Louisville Swamp trailhead at the end of 145<sup>th</sup> St West (just beyond the entrance to the Renaissance Festival grounds). Limited to 10 participants, registration is required. Contact Bill at [wcmarengo@gmail.com](mailto:wcmarengo@gmail.com) for questions about this event. For more information and registration, visit [LSRL/signup](#).

### **June 11: Aitkin County**

6:30 am. Join Trey Weaver for a day-long trip touring Aitkin County. Meetup location subject to accessibility to Hedbom Logging Road, our backup plan will be Savannah Portage SP. We will meet very early at 6:00 am to gather in our caravan to make it to our starting point by 6:30 in hopes of encountering Connecticut Warbler singing on territory. Limited to 7 participants and 2 vehicles. For more information and registration, visit [AitkinCo./signup](#).

## **MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER**

[www.mrvac.org](http://www.mrvac.org)

*Note: For information about MRVAC birding events contact Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647 or [EgretCMan@msn.com](mailto:EgretCMan@msn.com)*

### **May 7 & 14: Birding the Bass Ponds**

8–10:30 am. May brings us of mix of migratory songbirds to study. We will be searching for birds that visit the Refuge during their Spring migration on this walk. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet at Bass Ponds Trailhead, 2501 E. 86th., Bloomington. Registration required at [BirdingTreks/signup](#).

### **June 10 & 24: Birding the Bass Ponds**

8–10:30 am. On these June walks, we will study the species of birds that nest on the Refuge. With over a 100 nesting species there are lots of birds to search for. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet at Bass Ponds Trailhead, 2501 E. 86th., Bloomington. Registration required at [BirdingTreks/signup](#)

### **June 18: Birding the Louisville Swamp Unit**

8–10:30 am. On this June walk, we will study the species of birds that nest on the Refuge. With over a 100 nesting species there are lots of birds to search for. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet at Louisville Swamp Unit, main Trailhead, 3801 W 145<sup>th</sup> St., Shakopee. Registration required at [BirdingTreks/signup](#)

### **May 18 & 19: Wilkin & Otter Tail Counties Birding Days**

6:30 am. The locations we may explore include the Breckenridge Sewage Ponds, Riverside Cemetery, Richels County Park, and a WMA and WPA's in Wilkin County. On Friday, we will check out some locations in Otter Tail County, including Maplewood or Glendalough State Parks, Grotto Lake, and the Orwell area. We will be searching for warblers and other migrant songbirds on this trip and may also find a spot or two to look for Shorebirds. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members. Please contact Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647 or [EgretCMan@msn.com](mailto:EgretCMan@msn.com) to register for this trip.

### **June 15 & 16: Sax-Zim Bog & Carlton County Birding Days**

6 am. Join us on a summer trip to the Sax Zim Bog. We will be searching for 20 species of warblers and a mix of other Boreal species that nest in the Sax Zim Bog. On Friday, we will bird some areas near Cloquet for similar species that also nest in Carlton County. Some of the locations include Jay Cooke State Park, Ditchbank Road and Moose Lake State Park. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members. Please contact Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647 or

[EgretCMan@msn.com](mailto:EgretCMan@msn.com) to register for this trip.

### ST. PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

[www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events)

For full details on these birding events, go to the St. Paul Audubon website.

#### May 2: Crosby Farm Regional Park

7–9:00 am. Leader Linda Whyte 651-815-7045. Meet in the parking lot, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd., St. Paul. Early warblers and other passerine migrants. No registration needed.

#### May 7: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge: Warblers & Waterfowl Along the Minnesota River

7:30 am–11:00 am. Location: 9500 Old Cedar Ave S., Bloomington. Leader Paul Spreitzer 651-808-2147 [paul.spreitzer@gmail.com](mailto:paul.spreitzer@gmail.com). One of the very best birding locales in the state. We will check the area between Old Cedar Ave. and the Bass Ponds. The Minnesota River flyway makes this a great spot for migrating passerines and waterfowl.

#### May 9: Snail Lake Regional Park

8–10 am. Leaders Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 and Terri Walls. Wetlands and woodlands with lots of edges make this a good birding site. Meeting location: Enter from Snail Lake Blvd at lake level, go straight ahead to park. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. No registration needed. Contact leader/s only if you need additional information.

#### May 12–14: Warbler Weekend: Hok-Si-La Park

For full information about this weekend's schedule, including registration which is required, go to the St. Paul Audubon website [here](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org). Birding locations will include Frontenac State Park's Sand Point Trail and Overlook, Frontenac Town Cemetery & Town Walk, Villa Maria Grounds, and Hok-Si-La North and South. Birders staying overnight need to make their own reservations. Lake City and Red Wing are closest.

#### May 16: Rachel Lilly Preserve

7–9 am. Leader Linda Whyte 651-815-7045. Don't miss this gem. Dodge Nature Center, 680 MN-62E, Mendota Heights. Many possible sightings await you at this little-known preserve. Walking distance up to 2 miles. Meet by the red barn. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Registration not needed. Contact leader only if you need additional information.

#### May 18: Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

7 am–10 pm. Leader Bill Stjern, [norskestar@comcast.net](mailto:norskestar@comcast.net) 651-458-1542. One of the best birding areas in Twin Cities Metro. Focus is on songs and calls of nesting birds in a hardwood forest as well as spring migrants. Hooded warbler is a target species. Meet at 15501 Murphy Lake Blvd, Sav-



age. Take 35E or W to Co. 42, go west about 2 miles, then south about 2 miles on Burnsville Parkway, which becomes Hanrehan Lake Blvd. At Highway 75 (Murphy Lake Rd), turn left and immediately into the parking lot on the left.

#### May 20: Lebanon Hills Regional Park

7:30 am–11 am. Leader: Paul Spreitzer 651-808-2147 [paul.spreitzer@gmail.com](mailto:paul.spreitzer@gmail.com). Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan is a terrific place for migrant and resident songbirds. Join friendly birders seeking the sounds and colors of springtime in a section of this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. Past sightings included Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush. Meet at the Holland Lake entrance of the park at 7:30. From St. Paul, take 35E south. Exit at Cliff Rd./Co. Rd. 32, go east approx. 2 miles. The park entrance is on the north boundary, just west of Holland Lake.

#### May 21: Swede Hollow Park: Spring Migration

7–9 am. Leaders: Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 [kesid@aol.com](mailto:kesid@aol.com) and Chase Davies [Rockybirder@gmail.com](mailto:Rockybirder@gmail.com). St. Paul Audubon Society joins with the Friends of Swede Hollow [www.friendsofswedehollow.com](http://www.friendsofswedehollow.com) to offer this great spring birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what spring migrants might be passing through the Hollow. Registration, limited to 20 people, is required [here](http://www.friendsofswedehollow.com). Meet at the entrance to Drewry Tunnel at Swede Hollow Park across from 622 Beaumont St. East, St. Paul. Off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy (located in the old Hamm's Brewery Building) at 720 Payne Ave, St. Paul.

#### May 23: Silverwood Regional Park: Morning Bird Walk

7 am–9 am. Leaders: Jane Braun [jane@promotional.com](mailto:jane@promotional.com) and Mark Gilbert. Meet at 2500 Co. Rd. E., St. Anthony. From 35W, take Co. Rd. D/37th Ave. west, turn north (right) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take the Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on Co. Rd. E. for approx. 1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the large main parking lot. Registration not needed. Bring water, insect repellent, and field guide. Contact leaders only if you need additional information.



### **May 30: William O'Brien State Park**

7–9 am. Leader Greg Burnes [gburnes@comcast.net](mailto:gburnes@comcast.net) or 612-205-3071. This family-friendly walk along the beautiful St. Croix will explore the lower part of the State Park, looking for spring warblers, vireos, and eagles soaring over the river. We may hear wood thrush singing and see both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush. 16821 O'Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix. Meet at the parking lot by the swimming beach, . When you enter the park from Hwy. 95 follow the signs to the beach and boat launch. Annual or Daily MN State Park Pass required.

### **June 6: Afton State Park**

7–9 am. Leader Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 [mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com). The park has a rich variety of habitats, and the target bird is the Dickcissel. Meet at 50<sup>th</sup> Street S Parking Lot, Afton. Take 94 west from St. Paul to exit MN-95 S/ Manning Ave. S. (exit 253). Travel south for 3.9 mi. Turn left (east) on 40<sup>th</sup> Street S. Travel 2.4 mi. to Trading Post Trail S. Travel 1 mi. Turn left onto 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Travel 0.9 mi. Afton State Park parking lot on right. Registration not needed. Contact leader only if you need additional information.

### **June 13: Battle Creek Park: Bobolinks**

7–9:30 am. Leader: John Zakelj [jzakelj@yahoo.com](mailto:jzakelj@yahoo.com). We hope to hear and see Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows. Meet in the South Battle Creek parking lot, 2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood. From McKnight Rd., turn east onto Lower Afton, drive 0.2 miles, turn left into the South Battle Creek Parking lot. Registration not needed. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Contact leader only if you need additional information. Battle Creek website [here](#).

### **June 18: Carpenter Nature Center**

8–10 am. Leader Greg Burnes [gburnes@comcast.net](mailto:gburnes@comcast.net) 612-205-3071. Carpenter is a beautiful nature park on a bluff overlooking the St. Croix River. Meet at the Visitors Center, 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. We will explore a variety of habitats looking for late migratory warblers and summer residents. Bring your binoculars and bird book. If you need binoculars, email Greg before the trip and he will bring an extra pair for you. Registration not needed.

### **June 20: Reservoir Woods, Roseville City Park**

7–9:30 am. Leader Chase Davies [RockyBirder@gmail.com](mailto:RockyBirder@gmail.com) 651-246-9754. Summer birding is more relaxed and presents possibilities for observing behaviors different from other times of year. This slower pace is ideal for beginning birders to learn and experience the basics to locate, describe, and identify birds. Meet at the Roseville City Park, Woodview Off-Leash Dog Area, between Rice and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. Park in the small parking

lot or street park on Mackubin St. directly across Larpenteur from the dog area parking lot. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Registration not needed. Contact leader/s only if you need additional information.

### **June 27: Maplewood Nature Center**

7 am–9 am. Leader Chase Davies [RockyBirder@gmail.com](mailto:RockyBirder@gmail.com) 651-246-9754. Wooded land and water deep within the metro area are prized by migrants and residents alike. This is an opportunity to walk the trails and see the sights and hear the sounds of Ramsey County's Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 E. 7th Street, Maplewood. On Century Avenue, look for the Nature Center sign, and turn west onto East 7th St. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Registration not needed. Contact leader only if you need additional information.

### **EASTMAN NATURE CENTER: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT**

13351 Elm Creek Rd., Maple Grove

*Note: For more information on these events please go to [EastmanNC events](#).*

### **May 8: Spring Birding Walk**

8–9:30 am. Join a naturalist for a casual morning walk to look for returning spring migrants and warblers. Learn how to identify some of the more common birds by their song. Binoculars will be available on request. Free.

### **May 20 & June 17: Bird Banding**

9–noon. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied, and tagged with numbered rings. Bring a camera. Drop in anytime. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

*Golden-crowned Kinglet, by David C. Keyes*



### **June 10: Family Birding**

9:30–11:30 am. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound, observe birds at the nature center feeders and along a trail, and practice using binoculars. Discover what resources are available to enhance your birding experience. Reservations required by 24 hours prior. Everyone attending must register and pay a fee of \$6.00. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult.

### **LOWRY NATURE CENTER: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT**

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria

*Note: For more information on these events please go to the [Three Rivers Park District website](#).*

### **May 1, 8, 15, & 22: Mondays are for the Birds**

7–9 am. Join naturalist Kirk on this popular series of four Monday morning birding hikes. All levels of birders welcome. Beginners will learn from more experienced birders on the hike, and everyone will learn along the way. Bring binoculars if you have them or borrow a pair from the nature center. Each week we will explore a new trail or area of the nature center. This is a great opportunity to learn the trails and find out where various bird species are seen in the park. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

### **May 20: Bird Banding**

9–noon. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied, and tagged with numbered rings. Bring a camera. Drop in anytime. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

### **May 21 & June 18: Raptors up close**

3–4:30 pm. Raptors have been a part of education at Lowry for many of our 50 years. Meet the current captive raptors, learn about these amazing birds of prey, and discover how they help teach. This program is entirely outdoors. Drop in anytime. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

### **SOCHACKI PARK: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT**

3500 June Avenue N., Robbinsdale

*Note: For more information on these events please go to [Three Rivers Park District website](#).*

### **May 21: Morning Bird Walk**

8–10 am. Enjoy a gentle walk to seek out the birds that have returned from a long winter away from the park. All levels of interest are welcome. Binoculars provided. Dress for the weather and walking on both paved and unpaved trails. Reservations required by two days prior.

### **ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

[www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org/calendar](http://www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org/calendar)

### **May 4, 8, 9, 11, & 16: Bird Walks at Kutzky Park**

Kutzky Park near downtown Rochester comes alive with migrating warblers, vireos, orioles, and more every Spring. Join us for a walk at the peak of migration. Arrive and leave as your schedule requires. Walks start at the picnic shelter. Later arrivals can locate the group along the creek between 11th and 16th Ave NW. Times and leaders for each day's walk are below:

May 4: 6:30–7:45 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom

May 8: Noon–1 pm. Leader: Lance Vrieze

May 9: 6:30–7:45 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom

May 11: 6:30–7:45 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom

May 11: Noon–1 pm. Leader: Lance Vrieze

May 16: 6:30–7:45 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom

### **May 6 & June 3: Quarry Hill Bird Walk**

9–10:30 am. Meet at [Quarry Hill Nature Center](#). Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier. Join us on a casual walk around Quarry Hill Park. Meet by the Nature Center entrance. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather. Stay for any length of time. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

### **May 14: Hok-si-la Park**

8 am–mid-afternoon. Leaders: Joyce & Terry Grier. Located along the Mississippi River, Hok-Si-La is a magnet for migrating birds. Meet at the east parking lot of the RCTC Heintz Center, 1926 Collegeview Rd. E., Rochester to car-pool to Lake City or meet up us in the parking lot at Hok-si-la at around 8:50 am. Bring water, a snack or a bag lunch and dress for the weather. We will return mid-afternoon. This park has nice walking trails and good diverse habitat for a wide variety of birds: [hoksilapark](#).

### **May 20: Rock Dell WMA**

8–10 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom. Meet in the [Olmsted County History Center Parking Lot](#) at 1195 West Circle Drive SW, Rochester. We will car pool (about 15 minutes) to the [Rock Dell WMA](#). This site isn't often visited but it's usually a great spot for finding Dickcissels, Lark Sparrows, Bluebirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers and more. Wear long pants and bring insect spray as there can be ticks here.

### **June 3: Birdsong Walk at Chester Woods**

7–9 am Leader: Michael Degerstrom. Meet in the boat landing parking lot at [Chester Woods](#). With the Spring migration over, birds are busily defending territories, nesting, and raising young. The birds are difficult to see but very vocal. This trip will focus on learning many of the songs and calls of the local breeding birds.

# Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

## Minutes from the March 11, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. The following members were in attendance and each member gave a brief introduction as there are 3 new members on the Board: Michelle Terrell, Jennifer Vieth, Dick King, Ann Kessen, Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, David Cahlander, Tom Tustison, Liz Harper, Anthony Hertzell, Kathrynne Baumtrog, Gerald Hoekstra, Cindy Smith, Justin Watts, Mark Lystig, Trey Weaver, Kate Kelnberger. Absent: Bob Janssen, Carrol Henderson, Peter Nichols



*Bay-breasted Warbler, by Thomas Burns*

Acceptance of December 1, 2022 minutes was moved and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ann Kessen, Treasurer

Ann reported that the 2022 Paper Session had \$900 more income generated over anticipated budget.

\$2000 in sales of the annual the MOU Daily Birding Planner 2023. This is \$500 below anticipated sales, but people are still buying.

The 2022 Paper Session cost less money.

PayPal expenses have increased.

### *Budget Report*

Book sales at the 2022 Paper Session helped with the Savaloja Grant Fund.

The market has seen some improvement recently, so the invested assets of the MOU have recovered somewhat.

Motion to accept the report made, seconded, and approved.

Registration of the MOU with the State Attorney General as a Non-Profit Organization. Motion to submit the necessary paperwork made, seconded, and approved.

### *MOU Insurance Policies*

The MOU has two separate policies: one for financial loss and one for liability. The policy for liability is paid every three years as a package, thus saving the MOU \$84. The bill for the policy is \$1605 and is due now. Motion to pay the bill was made, seconded, and approved.

### **Membership Report**

This report was resented by Michelle Terrell on behalf of Cindy Thury Smith, Membership Secretary

The MOU has seen a rise in membership. We are currently at 1,052 members.

Registration for the MOU Spring Primer, hosted by Carpenter Nature Center, included an option to request information on joining MOU and Carpenter Nature Center. The Board agreed that this is a nice way to encourage people to join these organizations.

### **Finance Report**

Mark Lystig, Finance Committee chair

Mark gave a report on the way MOU has the Ameriprise account set up.

Mark presented a resolution designating the MOU President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance Committee as Trustees of the account. The resolution requires two trustees to make changes. Motion to adopt this resolution was made, seconded, and approved.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### *Savaloja Grants Committee*

Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, chair

Kristina submitted the committee's recommendations for 2023 Savaloja Grant awards. This report noted the committee's choices and selection criteria in accordance with the Savaloja Grant guidelines.

Jen Veith reminded members to recuse themselves where conflict-of-interest concerns might arise.

Steve Wilson, prior chair for this committee, did a great job handing off responsibilities to the new chair. His history as chair is greatly appreciated.

Motion to adopt the committee's recommendations was made, seconded, and approved.



### *Education Committee*

Jennifer Vieth and Kate Kelnberger, co-chairs

The Minnesota State Fair accepted the MOU for a booth again at the 2023 State Fair DNR Building. The fair will run August 24 through September 4, 2023. No word yet as to a theme. Also waiting to hear if the DNR will provide tickets for the MOU volunteers that work the booth. The Spring Primer is April 1, 2023, via Zoom. Registration is at the Carpenter Nature Center website, free of cost but required. This also required a \$50.00 fee, split between MOU and Carpenter Nature Center for the added numbers on the Zoom platform.

April 22, 2023, is Earth Day Birding Festival at the Hastings Campus.

September 24, 2023, Migration Count  
Isabella Martinez has joined the Education Committee as one of the MOU's youngest committee members. This is part of an effort to involve more youth in birding programs.

The committee is looking into the Binocular Bob Fund and usage, how to ensure success with this program.

### **Publications Committee**

Anthony Hertzal, chair

MOU Logo update: Tony presented the updated and improved logo for the MOU. The Board had accepted his action to revise the logo at a previous online vote. Tony will make the logo available to the board as a SVG file for different uses, window decals, online posts and publications. Motion to adopt the logo was made, seconded, and approved.

### **Other Business:**

#### **MOU Membership Scholarship Proposal**

Liz Harper

Liz presented a proposal to help make MOU membership more accessible to members who may have financial difficulties or a way to present gift memberships. The board discussed this, and members offered suggestions. A revised proposal will be presented at a future meeting.

#### **Partnership Updates**

Michelle Terrell

The Bell Museum needs a Bird Walk Leader for July 15, 2023. Some training is involved for volunteers, see Michelle for more information.

The Salt Lake Birding Weekend 2023 is back! Jason Frank is the event coordinator this year and registration is open.

Mark Johnson of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is a point of contact for the MOU. Michelle Terrell and Carrol Henderson have a scheduled meeting with Mark Johnson as well as Pheasants Forever staff on March 27 to discuss partnerships.

### **MOU Website**

Michelle Terrell

Michelle provided a history of the Board's Board discussion of the need for an updated website, a discussion that dates back to 2015. There is a need for a website committee and chair to maintain this site when David Cahlander is able to retire. A request for volunteers to help with the website was published in the MOU newsletter, and announced at the Paper Session No response.

Paul Budde has been helping out with some of the updates.

The MOU may need to consider an outside consultant and that may require special funding such as a grant or funding campaign. Applying for a LCCMR grant would require an Ad Hoc Committee to apply before the end of March 2023. The board discussed options for updating the website and its ongoing maintenance including volunteer efforts and contracting with an outside consultant.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. Next meeting: August 5, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.



*Red-eyed Vireo, by Jean Brisance*



# Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Carpenter Nature Center  
12805 Saint Croix Trail South  
Hastings, MN 55033

## Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Carpenter Nature Center  
12805 Saint Croix Trail South  
Hastings, MN 55033  
Email: [mou@moumn.org](mailto:mou@moumn.org)  
Web: <http://moumn.org>

*MN Birding* is published bi-monthly

**Editor:** Gerald Hoekstra

**Designer:** Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

© 2023 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

## 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

Michelle Terrell, *President*  
Justin Watts, *Vice President*  
Kathrynne Baumtrog, *Recording Secretary*  
Cindy Smith, *Membership Secretary*  
Ann Kessen, *Treasurer*  
Richard King, *Past President*

### Editor of *MN Birding*

Gerald Hoekstra  
Gene Bauer, *Calendar Editor*

### Designer of *MN Birding*

Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

### Birding Hotline

Northwest: 800-433-1888

## MOU Contacts

*Minnesota Birding* Editor: [newsletter@moumn.org](mailto:newsletter@moumn.org)

President: [president@moumn.org](mailto:president@moumn.org)

Vice President: [vicepresident@moumn.org](mailto:vicepresident@moumn.org)

Membership Secretary: [membership@moumn.org](mailto:membership@moumn.org)

Treasurer: [treasurer@moumn.org](mailto:treasurer@moumn.org)

Recording Secretary: [secretary@moumn.org](mailto:secretary@moumn.org)

*The Loon* Editor: [editor@moumn.org](mailto:editor@moumn.org)

CBC Compiler: [cbc@moumn.org](mailto:cbc@moumn.org)

MOU Records Committee: [mourc@moumn.org](mailto:mourc@moumn.org)

Conservation Chair: [conservation@moumn.org](mailto:conservation@moumn.org)

Grants: [grants@moumn.org](mailto:grants@moumn.org)

Youth Mentorship: [mentorship@moumn.org](mailto:mentorship@moumn.org)

Field Trips: [fieldtrips@moumn.org](mailto:fieldtrips@moumn.org)

All other MOU functions: [mou@moumn.org](mailto:mou@moumn.org)

MOU web site: <http://moumn.org>

MOU Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MNornithU/>

## MOU Membership: New / Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)           | \$15.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual                 | \$25.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign (including Canada) | U.S. \$35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family                     | \$35.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting                 | \$75.00      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate                  | \$100.00     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life, single               | \$500.00     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life, joint                | \$750.00     |

Send to: Cindy Smith, MOU Membership Secretary  
19885 Lillehei Avenue  
Hastings MN 55033-9354

### Please make a contribution to the Savaloja Grants

The Savaloja Grants 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 add a contribution to your membership check.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_