



Minnesota BIRDING

January
February
2024
Volume 60
Number 1

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The Science Museum of MN and Ornithological Research

by Catherine Early, Barbara Brown Chair of Ornithology

When you think of the Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM), you may remember a favorite exhibit, field trip, or summer camp. What most visitors don't know is that behind the scenes at SMM there are scientists working in anthropology, limnology, paleontology, and biology to better understand our world through research and building scientific collections.

SMM's Biology Collection has 170,000 plant and animal specimens, including 5,000 specimens of birds that can contribute to ornithological discoveries. It is cared for by Dr. Catherine Early, Barbara Brown Chair of Ornithology, who studies bird brain evolution and has worked at different natural history collections throughout the country, and Biology Collection Manager Dick Oehlenschlager, who has contributed to numerous publications on the biodiversity of Minnesota throughout his 40-year tenure, including some in MOU's peer-reviewed scientific journal, *The Loon*.

A rich collection holds clues about the diversity of life in Minnesota — and well beyond.

Ornithological collections at ac-



Dr. Catherine Early in the Science Museum of Minnesota's ornithology collection, by Zach Vang



Dick Oehlenschlager preparing a study skin , by Zach Vang

credited natural history museums provide an irreplaceable record of bird diversity in the recent past. Specimens can be prepared as study skins (which is like a compact taxidermy); spread wings; skeletons; fluid-preserved specimens; and sometimes even isolated pieces such as feathers, genetic samples, or blown-out eggs. Each type of preparation yields different data on the individual bird and its species, and each one is designed to preserve the specimen in perpetuity so that research methods that haven't yet been invented can be applied to a rich sample of past avian diversity.

Collection staff record the exact date and location where each specimen was collected, as well as measurements like wing chord, body mass, and state of the reproductive organs. This provides a snapshot of biodiversity at the time. We can't go back in time to see what a Black-and-white Warbler looked like in the spring of 1985, for example, but museum collections document this for us. Recent research on bird specimens from museums has shown that body size of migratory birds has decreased over the past 40 years, and that the levels of black carbon, which gets deposited on bird feathers, have been underestimated over the past 135 years. Most of the 5,000 bird specimens at SMM are from Minnesota and the Upper Midwest, making our collection an excellent resource for this kind of research time travel in the state.

Digitization brings data from museum collections out of the vaults.

Data from the collection becomes even more powerful when combined with data from museums with similar collections, such as the Bell Museum or the Field Museum of Natural History. Combined datasets from multiple museums provide a more holistic view of bird diversity and how it has changed in our region throughout time and in response to human activities.

Currently, the best way to combine our data with bird data from other museums is through digitization. Digitization involves photographing the data tags for each specimen, and sometimes the specimens themselves, and transcribing the data into a searchable database that can be shared online. SMM has started digitizing its bird study skins with a subaward from the [Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas](#), a project led by the Bell Museum and funded by Minnesota's Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' (LCCMR) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Anyone around the state can access data from collections and natural history surveys through this resource, which includes an interactive map showing where each observation and specimen was recorded.



A drawer of ornithology specimens at the Science Museum of Minnesota, by Zoe Harvey

Capturing data and building skills and experience for up-and-coming scientists

Digitization provides many opportunities to train the next generation of scientists, as it involves a lot of repeated actions and builds skills in digital data management, photography, and collections care. The Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas funds undergraduates from the University of Minnesota to digitize specimens at SMM, where they receive specialized training and work mostly independently to mobilize ornithology and other biology data from our collection. Interns from Macalester College and SMM's Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center also frequently spend time working in the Biology Collection. A current Macalester College intern has been learning how to prepare bird study skins, a critical skill in museum ornithology, and is starting to digitize our collection of thousands of ruffed grouse feather samples collected by various hunting groups for famed Minnesota grouse expert Gordon Gullion. Volunteers have also been essential to supporting this important ornithology resource.

Beyond the collection: research and outreach

While we improve the care of its existing specimens, we also continue to grow the collection and conduct our own research. Dick Oehlenschlager is constantly preparing new bird specimens. If you're lucky, you may spot him dissecting one out on the exhibit floor, surrounded by en-

tranced children who have likely never been that close to a bird. He is also updating his checklist of the butterflies of Wadena County and organizing his collection of ruffed grouse gut contents for digitization and research by an intern. In the last year, Catherine Early co-authored papers on a new phasianid fossil from Nebraska and on the utility of zoos and museums partnering to build better understandings of zoology. She also spoke about her research in Australia, Los Angeles, and the Twin Cities. They will both be working on a new LCCMR-funded project led by faculty at the University of Minnesota to salvage birds and mammals found dead by state agencies and other partners, which will generate more specimens for SMM and the Bell Museum and grow a dataset about wildlife health and diversity in the state.

*Intern Kari Myhran inventorying osteological specimens
by Zoe Harvey*



Message from the President

by Justin Watts, MOU President

Every January is an opportunity to refresh our goals and expectations for the coming year. Whether this ritual means planning your annual birding or setting your personal resolutions, there is a significant amount of energy that permeates the apparent cold and dormancy of our north woods here in Minnesota. Nature too begins to anticipate another year of progress and growth. As late December's winter solstice moves behind us, the days grow longer and the hardiest of birds will be turning their attention to song and courtship by the end of January. As you plan your own year, be sure to check out the MOU 2024 Daily Birding Planner for sale at lulu.com. The planner provides a great way to support the MOU while both looking ahead and documenting a year filled with birds.

For me, the coldest winter months are my favorite time of the year to get outdoors and enjoy the most unique aspects of Minnesota's natural beauty. I'll be out on the road to watch the Snow Buntings and Rough-legged Hawks trace the geographic contour lines of deep snow across the state, I look forward to ice skating in open air while perhaps hearing the lively 'Kip Kip Kip' of Red Crossbills overhead, and I will be venturing along the frozen shores of Lake Superior where dramatic ice formations attract dramatic feathered visitors. I also look forward to seeing the results of the annual Christmas Bird Counts. One nice tool can be found at https://moumn.org/CBC/birds_summary.php, where you can see for yourself how the cycles of Ruffed Grouse or Pine Siskin responded to the early winter conditions.

I look forward to these months, because nothing inspires quite like watching the flora and fauna across our state tackle the challenges of cold and scarcity. It is amazing to witness Black-capped Chickadees staying warm from the fuel of a million specs of "nothingness" or Spruce Grouse burrowing into deep snow banks to shield from the wind. However, despite the clever strategies of our winter birds, there are challenges like never before, and these challenges are growing at a pace that is hard for even dedicated natural science researchers to comprehend.

This year's annual Paper Session, held the first Saturday of December, tackled topics focusing on such challenges. The session's theme was "Minnesota's Grassland Birds: A Fragile Community." The fantastic line-up featured speakers that were funny and informative, and the talks were capped by that of keynote speaker Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer of the National Audubon Society, who presented an engaging call to action in grasslands conservation and reflected on how a love of birds can be a bridge across political and cultural divides.

His talk emphasized, among other things, that much work remains to be done in increasing equity and inclusiveness in birding organizations as well as in providing increased access to nature. The talks as a whole spanned from uplifting to cautionary, and promoted much discussion on the research and trends taking place in our own backyards. The whole Paper Session was recorded, and is available on the MOU YouTube channel.

This year, the MOU welcomes new board members Darcy Pinotti, Recording Secretary, and Rob Daves, Vice President. As the new President of the MOU, I look forward to working closely with both of them and will enjoy learning more about their approach to improving and contributing to the MOU's mission. This is especially true for the MOU's commitment to understanding Minnesota's birds, promoting their conservation, and growing educational outreach. I want to thank Richard King for his guiding engagement with the board in his role as Past President, Michelle Terrell for her wonderful example in thoughtful leadership and organization as President (she will continue on the board as Past President), Kathrynne Baumtrog for her diligence as Recording Secretary, and Carrol Henderson for his fantastic drive and breadth of actions as Conservation Committee Chair. Finally, I also want to acknowledge the outpouring of love and respect from folks all across the state upon news in late October of the passing of board member Bob Janssen, whose contributions to the growth of our birding community was foundational to the engagement and detailed records we enjoy today.

Now let's look ahead to the new year and raise the bar of excellence required of ourselves, as is necessary to ensure that the birds and their habitats across Minnesota can be enjoyed by everyone long into the future, regardless of gender, race, income, culture, political beliefs, or mobility. Please join me in my enthusiasm for the coming year and spread the word on the benefits of membership in the MOU. With your support we will kick off a year of exciting field trips across the state, help members network and learn about birds at the Spring Primer, fund exciting new science via the MOU's Savaloja grants, expand our organization's collaboration and affiliate network to magnify conservation actions, host bird walks at the Bell Museum, encourage fair-goers to "ask us about birds" at the MOU booth, engage in newly organized surveys and big sits across the state, update the official state checklist of birds, and so much more.

See you in the field!

Justin

2023 M.O.U. Awards Presentations

Thomas S. Roberts Memorial Award: Ann Kessen
Nominated by Paul Budde; presented by Ben Douglas



Ben presenting the Roberts Award to Ann Kessen

I'm honored and a bit out of my league to read for you and celebrate the incredible achievements and dedicated service of someone that has been a member of the MOU for 42 years. For context I was five years old in 1981 when she became a member of this organization.

From handling our finances as Treasurer from '94 to '97 to taking on the Vice President title in '98, she consistently showed she's a leader and contributor. She took the stage as President of this organization twice in '99-2000 as well as 2010-2011.

She dove deeper in bird studies than the vast majority of us by earning a Ph.D. in Ornithology in 2004 while studying Fox Sparrows.

She even did the very job I'm doing right now as the Awards Chair from 2003 to 2008, and steered the ship as the Savaloja Committee Chair from 2007 to 2009. Her impact as the Associate Editor of *The Loon* from 2007 till today demonstrates incredible dedication within the organization.

You might think all of this would require a break, but she has been back in the Treasurer role since 2020, keeping our finances on the up and up.

Simultaneously, she has coauthored the Summer Seasonal Report since the 2004 season, and has served as a member of the Records Committee from 2004 to 2010 and again from 2019 to today. That's commitment on another level and is making me tired just reading it all out to you.

So, as we celebrate and thank Dr. Ann Kessen today, let's not just give our appreciation for her accomplishments and contributions but also be in awe of how much she has sacrificed for our organization over the last 42 years. It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Thomas S. Roberts Award to DR. ANN KESSEN.

Brother Theodore Voelker Award: Hannah Toutonghi
Presented by Ezra Hosch



Hannah Toutonghi with Northern Hawk Owl

I first met this year's Voelker Award winner sometime in the fall of 2017, when she was doing a traineeship at Hawk Ridge. Although she was officially the education trainee that year, it seemed like she quickly learned counting was where it was at and spent most of her time that fall at the platform assisting the counters. The next year, she came back to the ridge as the count trainee, but then ended up spending a lot of time that season in the banding blind. Of course, it was natural that in 2019 she would do a third and final traineeship as a bander, before returning to work as the Hawk Ridge owl bander in 2020. With her work as an owl bander at both Hawk Ridge and Whitefish Point in Michigan, it came as no surprise when her graduate research at the University of Minnesota Duluth focused on one of our least studied and most fascinating species in Minnesota — the Northern Hawk Owl.

The Northern Hawk Owl is a difficult species to study, due to it being a low-population-density species, having nomadic movements, and favoring habitats that are difficult to access, but that was not enough to deter our winner from being at the forefront of working to fill in our knowledge gaps about this species. Studying this species required putting satellite transmitters on individual birds — the first time such a study has been conducted with hawk owls — but first the birds had to be found, as well as trapped and banded, in order to successfully deploy a transmitter. This required countless hours driving snowy and icy roads in the Minnesota and Manitoba winters scanning the spruce and tamarack tops hoping to get lucky and find an owl. Even when an owl was found, that did not mean deploying the transmitter was a given — some birds frustratingly required hours and even days to trap. Despite what was no doubt

many disappointments along the way, our nominee was able to band an excellent total of 19 hawk owls, with transmitters being deployed on ten birds.

Once the transmitters were deployed, the data started pouring in, with many interesting and even surprising discoveries being the result. These included surprisingly small winter ranges of individual birds and larger migratory movements than were anticipated, and the data also showed that some birds even utilized deciduous forest along with the more expected coniferous forests. The study also made important discoveries related to hawk owl microhabitat selection; her vegetation plots showed that snag density and heights of snags were significantly different between used and unused sites. We all eagerly await her final published results, which will no doubt play the leading role in our understanding of how we can better protect this climate-imperiled species.

Since graduating with her master's degree this past spring from the University of Minnesota Duluth, Hannah

has done field research for the Natural Resources Research Institute and has now returned to her home state of Washington to take on a teaching position at a community college and doing marine research in the Puget Sound. I would also like to stress that not only is Hannah a careful and dedicated scientist, but she is also one of the best birders I know! Surprisingly, being a great ornithologist and field birder do not seem to regularly overlap, but if you have ever observed her identifying warblers by flight call or distant migrating birds in an instant, you know that she is truly at the top of her game.

Of course, it would be amiss if I did not mention that not only is she a great ornithologist and birder, but is also a gem of a person, which all of her many friends in the Minnesota birding community attest to. Although she unfortunately cannot be in attendance today, please join me in congratulating our winner of the Brother Theodore Voelker Award for special achievement in field ornithology: HANNAH TOUTONGHI!



**David A. Cahlander Volunteer of the Year Award:
Peder Svingen**

Nominated by Jen Veith;

written and presented by Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus

The David A. Cahlander Volunteer of the Year award is presented to a person whose dedicated, useful service to the MOU and/or the birding community at large has made a significant difference, and it is a way for the MOU to honor those individuals who have devoted many hours and much energy to the good of birds. This year's recipient of this fairly new award (established in 2019) has made, what I would consider anyway, significant volunteer contributions to our understanding of birds in Minnesota and has put forward significant contributions of time and expertise to support the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.

This year's award winner has contributed to the production of *The Loon* in many ways. They served as Seasonal Report Compiler and Contributor for 34 years, starting with the Winter 1990 issue and officially retiring from the post just last month. Further, our award winner spent six-and-a-half years as MOURC Chair, serving this position from 2003-2010. The time spent reading over rare bird reports, compiling data for seasonal bird reports, and more helps us all better understand how birds move through, to, and within our state. Holding the offices of Seasonal Report Compiler and MOURC Chair in the same season is no small task, and we appreciate the work done for the MOU by this person.

A part of this award's description states: "whose dedicated, useful service to the MOU and/or the birding community at large has made a significant difference." While their contributions to the MOU are impressive, I think our



Clinton with Peder Svingen

award winner's greatest volunteer contributions to the birding community at large and for our understanding of birds in general is through the contributions made by this person to citizen science. Citizen science platforms like eBird do not just serve as a way for birders to keep track of our personal birds or act as a database for researching where we might get our next lifer, but increasingly, this data is being utilized by researchers to better understand birds. Our award winner has made tremendous contributions to eBird that others benefit from every day.

Our award winner has:

- Created dozens, if not hundreds, of eBird Location Hotspots to better guide data collection on the platform
- Submitted a total of 108,601 checklists globally (2nd all time, and almost 20,000 checklists more than the 3rd all time!)
- Submitted a total of 76,759 checklists in Minnesota (most all time, and 60,000 more checklists than 2nd all time!)
- Submitted a total of 64,231 checklists in St. Louis County (most all time, and 56,000 checklists more than 2nd all time!)

To put the above into perspective for you: in St. Louis County, the home county for this birder, they have submitted a total of 64,231 checklists as of November 20, 2023. I dug back into eBird records and found the first records submitted by this birder in the county back in 1986. So, running the numbers, our award winner has submitted an average 4.75 checklists a day . . . for 37 years(!) in the county! There is only so much an average can tell us about contributions, however. Amazingly, this birder has twice(!) submitted more than 10,000 checklists in the county in a year (13,200 in 2009 and 10,024 in 2010). This translates to at least 27 checklists a day, every day, for the entire year! The quantity of data submitted rivals the quality of the data submitted by our award recipient. I remember back to a talk given in Duluth a few years ago by Chris Wood, eBird Director, profiling best practices for eBird and what eBird data can tell us. Chris specifically profiled this birder's submissions as what folks should strive for when submitting data to this platform.

Whether our award winner's volunteering hours have been spent leading committees and supporting the Minnesota Ornithologists Union or supporting the greater birding and research community at large, I hope you will all agree their volunteer investment to the cause of birds and birders has made a significant difference and is more than worthy of this award.

This year's David A. Cahlander Volunteer of the Year Award goes to PEDER SVINGEN!



Bohemian Waxwing, by Jean Brisance

2023 Birder Award: Sean McLaughlin

Presented by Ezra Hosch



Ezra with Sean McLaughlin

Our winner of the 2023 Young Birder Award hails from Pennsylvania, where he first got bitten by the birding and hawkwatching bug. Luckily for Minnesota birders, he did not stay in Pennsylvania, first coming to our region when he attended Northland College in Wisconsin before moving to Duluth.

Over the past few years, he has become a familiar face at Hawk Ridge, first as a volunteer counter and then as a member of the counting staff in 2021, where he has found multiple Mississippi Kites and the Ridge's only record of Swallow-tailed Kite. He also has served as the main counter for the spring West Skyline hawk count in Duluth for the last two years, as well as the official or volunteer counter at several hawk watches in Pennsylvania.

Our nominee is not just a hawk watcher, though. This past summer, he worked as a field biologist in northern Minnesota for the Natural Resources Research Institute on their forest birds and Golden-winged Warbler projects and is also an avid birder. During migration when he is not engaged with his hawkwatching duties, he can often be found at the various sites around Duluth renowned for their visible migration of passerine morning flights. You should check out some of the recent flights of finches that he has helped document this fall. Finally, our winner is not just a great young birder, but most importantly also manages to avoid the shameless self-promotion that is so common among many young birders today, so I guess we will have to do it for him. Please give a warm hand to our 2023 Young Birder Award winner: SEAN McLAUGHLIN!

2023 MOU Certificate of Appreciation

The MOU gives Certificates of Appreciation to people with a “rare” bird on their property who provide access for visiting birders. Any MOU member may nominate a bird host/hostess at any time of the year by simply emailing the Awards Committee and including the name(s), address, shared rare bird, and a general description of the circumstances. A complimentary MOU membership is included with each Certificate for non-MOU members. We give heartfelt thanks to the following individual who shared her bird with MOU members and others in 2023:

Elizabeth Tiller, Dakota County, Anna’s Hummingbird



Anna's Hummingbird, by Gerald Hoekstra

Seeking Savaloja Grant Applications and Donations

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

Do you or someone you know have a bird-related project in Minnesota that could benefit from grant funds? MOU will award grants for bird-related projects to be funded from the Savaloja Memorial Fund in 2024. Projects that increase our understanding of birds, promote preservation of birds and their natural habitats, or increase public interest in birds may be considered for grants. Proposals that include or benefit underrepresented people within our birding community (BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled folks, etc.) are especially encouraged, as we hope to support opportunities that diversify this community in order to better serve Minnesota's birds and birders. All are encouraged to apply!

Further details on past projects and application information can be found at <https://moumn.org/grants.php>. Awards typically range from a few hundred dollars up to as much as \$4000. In 2024, we anticipate that at least \$12,000 will

be available for grants. The deadline for receipt of applications is **January 20, 2024**. Grant recipients will be notified by April 1, 2024. If your organization has an idea for a great project, please consider applying!

With support from generous member donations, MOU has helped fund a diverse array of worthy projects over the years. Donations specifically made to the Savaloja Fund help us offer grant funding to more worthy projects and support positive change and important research in Minnesota. You can help MOU make sure worthy projects receive the support they need by upgrading your membership next time you renew. **Donate now** by clicking the "Donate" button at the top of the MOU homepage, and be sure to note "Savaloja Fund" in the special instructions to the seller. Your support today makes a world of difference to the future of our beloved birds.

MRVAC Grants Available

by *Lee Ann Landstrom*

MRVAC Conservation Chair and Board Member

Each year, the MN River Valley Audubon Chapter (MRVAC) awards grants to organizations that support their mission of providing leadership in promoting environmental awareness, education and advocacy action, especially relating to wildlife and habitats of the Minnesota River Valley. However, a few grants have been awarded outside of their defined southwestern Metro area.

MRVAC gives priority to grant requests that benefit wildlife, especially birds and avian habitat; that support its legacy projects within MRVAC's membership territory; and that have an education component, especially for children and youth.

Grants shall only be approved for nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporations and governmental or educational entities. Grants are typically up to \$3,000.

Past recipients have been schools installing pollinator gardens, scouts with bird house building projects, researchers, youth birding clubs, or signage at birding locations.

If you know of schools, faith organizations, youth groups, or public spaces who need a little funding to enhance habitat, help wildlife, or increase education, have them check out mrvac.org/grants for details, criteria, and the online, short application link.

New MOU Members

Note to members: Please notify the Membership Chair (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.

Janet Arth, *St. Paul, MN*

Jeremy Cushman, *Edina, MN*

Jim Duncan, *Balmoral, Canada*

Alex Fredin, *Arlington, MN*

Peggy Kipp, *Mendota Heights, MN*

Craig Lilja, *Buffalo, MN*

Anne Lowe, *St. Paul, MN*

Allison McGinnis, *Stillwater, MN*

Jennie McNicoll, *Bloomington, MN*

Steven Meisel, *Woodbury, MN*

Nolan Meyer, *Lynd, MN*

Jennifer Miller, *New Brighton, MN*

Holly Myhre, *Oak Grove, MN*

Jim Nehl, *Eden Prairie, MN*

Constance Pepin, *Minneapolis, MN*

Mary Lou Wilm, *Minneapolis, MN*

MOU Calendar

January / February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	JANUARY 1 ZVAS Whitewater Christmas Bird Count	2	3	4 CNC: Owls & Ales	5	6 CNC: MN Campus Bird Hike RBNC: Bagels & Birds ZVAS: Quarry Hill Bird Walk
7	8 MGB: NSW, Australia	9	10	11 MRVAC: Sax-Zim Birding Days I SPAS: Mystery of Bird Migration	12 MRVAC: Sax-Zim Birding Days I FOSZB: Golden- Winged Warbler Research	13 CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike
14 MRVAC: Bass Ponds Birding	15	16	17 RBNC: National Loon Center	18	19	20 FOSZB: Intro to Birds & Birding Workshop LNC: Bird Banding MRVAC: Wilkie Unit
21 FOSZB: Intro to Birds & Birding Workshop LNC: Raptors Up Close	22	23	24	25 MRVAC: Zoom - Birding Northern Peru	26	27 IOC: Expert-led Owl Prowl MRVAC: Bass Ponds Birding
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3 CNC: MN Campus Bird Hike RBNC: Bagels & Birds ZVAS: Quarry Hill Bird Walk
4	5	6	7	8 CNC: Owls & Ales	9	10 CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike
11 FOSZB: Corvid Ecol. Field Trip	12	13	14 MGB: Japan	15 MRVAC: Sax-Zim Birding Days II	16 MRVAC: Sax-Zim Birding Days II	17 LNC: Bird Banding
18 LNC: Raptors Up Close MRVAC: Wilkie Unit	19	20	21 RBNC: World of Woodpeckers	22 MRVAC: Zoom - Think Like a Raven	23	24 CNC: Masters of the Sky MRVAC: Bass Ponds Birding
25 CNC: Masters of the Sky	26	27	28	29	March 1 IOC: International Festival of Owls	2 IOC: International Festival of Owls
3 IOC: International Festival of Owls						



— MOU Calendar

January / February 2024

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

CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

www.carpenternaturecenter.org/events

Jan. 4 & Feb. 8: Owls & Ales

5:45–8:00 pm. Enjoy an after-hours hike in the scenic St. Croix River valley at Carpenter Nature Center. After our eyes adjust, we will head out on the trail to watch and listen for some of Minnesota's native owl species. This portion of the event is outdoors; please dress for the weather. After our Owl Prowl adventure, we will join the staff at Spiral Brewery for a guided tour of the flagship flavors and styles of their beers on tap at the moment in the taproom. The 45-minute tasting includes a beer flight for each participant. Stay for another beer on your own. The cost is \$25 and includes a hike and one beer flight, and guided tasting. Registration is required. Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot today. Must be 21+ to participate. MN campus: 12805 St. Croix Trail S, Hastings.

Jan. 6 & Feb. 3: MN Campus Bird Hike

9–11:00 am. Learn to identify birds with local experts. Field guides and binoculars are available to use or bring your own. Program fee: \$5.00 or free for "Friends of CNC", SCVBC members and students. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Please call CNC at 651-437-4359. Location: 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings.

Jan. 13 & Feb. 10: WI Campus Bird Hike

9–11:00 am. Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Program fee: \$5 per participant or free for "Friends of CNC," SCVBC members and students. Space is limited and reservations are required, please call CNC at 651-437-4359. Location: 300 E. Cove Rd., Hudson, WI.

Feb. 24 & 25: Masters of the Sky

See CNC website for times. One of our team's favorite events is back: the Masters of the Sky weekend. Educators and birds from the [World Bird Sanctuary](#) in St. Louis, Missouri will present a captivating program about birds of prey. Learn about eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls from around the world and see them close up. Witness the silent flight of a Barn Owl and be amazed at the aerial maneuverability of a Harris' Hawk. Space is limited. Book your ticket early. Pre-registration required; book online [here](#). Ticket prices \$15 or \$10 for "Friends of CNC." MN campus: 12805 St. Croix Trail S, Hastings.

FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG

www.saxzim.org

For more information on the following events go [here](#).

Jan. 12: Golden-winged Warbler Research

Noon–1:30 pm. Friday Speaker, Stephen Nelson, at the FOSZB Welcome Center. Although Golden-winged Warbler populations are declining throughout much of their range, the Minnesota population is relatively stable and supports over 50% of their entire breeding population. We feel a responsibility to investigate this species in an attempt to provide insights to Minnesota land managers that will help provide best management practices that continue to support this species in our state. No registration required for this program.

Jan. 20 & 21:

Introduction to Birds & Birding Workshop

10:00 am–3:00 pm. This workshop will help you develop your skills and give some important background for beginning birders on your journey in this life-long hobby. This workshop is meant for beginning birders and will feature two days of instruction, featuring how-to birding tips and tricks to get you started, an introduction to birds and anatomy, and more. Please bring snacks and lunch, as well as your optics and favorite bird books. Meet at the FOSZB Welcome Center. Register for this workshop [here](#). \$100 non-members; \$85 members and Master Naturalists.

Feb. 11: Corvid Ecology Field Trip

9:00 am–2:00 pm. The family *Corvidae* includes crows, ravens, magpies, jays, treepies, ground-jays, and more. In northern Minnesota, this group of birds is one a few that can be found all year round, so there are lots of opportunities to observe these birds in your backyard, local park, or here in the Sax-Zim Bog. This field trip will offer a mix of indoor learning and outdoor observation to explore this amazing group of birds. Meet at the FOSZB Welcome Center. Register for this field trip [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

126 E Cedar St., Houston

www.internationalowlcenter.org

Jan. 27: Expert-led Owl Prowl

4:30 pm. Join expert owl caller Jo Severson for an indoor session to learn local owl calls and owl prowl etiquette, then drive your vehicle following Jo to 3-4 rural stops to call for wild owls. Owls are usually heard but not seen. Pre-registration is required: \$10 for Owl Center members and \$15 for non-members. For more information or to register go [here](#).

March 1–3: International Festival of Owls

Immerse yourself in owls at this all-owl, all-weekend festival. As in most years you can expect live owl programs by the Illinois Raptor Center, nest box building, pellet dissections, owl prowls, vendors of owl wares and more. Special for 2024 we'll be joined by World Owl Hall of Fame award winners Roar Solheim from Norway, who has done much work on Snowy and Great Gray Owls, and Martin Šálek from the Czech Republic, who has focused his efforts on Little Owls. Susan Richmond, author of the children's book "Night Owl Night" will be doing a presentation and signing books. Pre-registration is required for the owl prowls, Sunday bus trip and keynote presentation and should open by early January. For more information and to register go [here](#). The schedule and information are added to the website as it is firmed up.

LOWRY NATURE CENTER

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria.

For more information on these events please go [here](#).

Jan. 20 & Feb. 17: Bird Banding.

9:00 am–12:00 pm. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied, and banded with numbered rings. Find out what scientists learn from these banded birds. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Jan. 21 & Feb. 18: Raptors Up Close

2:30–4:00 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 how they help teach. Drop in anytime. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

MINNESOTA GLOBAL BIRDERS

Note: This informal group of people interested in birding throughout the planet has monthly online gatherings. Details on the events, and on how to register for the Zoom sessions, will be provided via MOU-NET and also on the Minnesota Global Birders and Minnesota Birding Facebook pages a few weeks before each session.



Golden-crowned Kinglet, by Matthew Scott

Jan. 8: Australia

7–9:00 pm. Annie Shao will present on a birding trip to New South Wales in southeastern Australia, supported by her photos and paintings of birds.

Feb. 14: Japan

7–9:00 pm. Dani Collier will give the first presentation to the Minnesota Global Birders group on birding in Japan.

MN RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER

www.mrvac.org

Note: Registration process for MVNWR Field Trips: Registration for these walks is available on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website. Registration for some dates will remain locked for about a month prior to the date of the walk. Please indicate in your registration if you would like to receive a birding summary and species list from the walk. Registration is required online [here](#). For information about MRVAC birding events contact Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647 or EgretCMan@msn.com

Jan. 14, 27 & Feb. 24: Bass Ponds Trailhead

8–10:30 am. Join us for these winter birding walks. Each winter offers a different variety of waterfowl and raptors that over winter on the Refuge. Other species observed some winters include Northern Shrike, Winter Wren, and Brown Creepers. We'll look for these species and watch for the species that regularly over-winter in Minnesota. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration required online [here](#). Meet at 2501 86th St. E., Bloomington.

Jan. 20 & Feb. 18: Wilkie Unit Trailhead

8–10:30 am. Join us for these winter birding walks. Each winter offers a different variety of waterfowl and raptors that over winter on the Refuge. Other species observed some winters include Northern Shrike, Winter Wren, and Brown Creepers. We'll look for these species and watch for the species that regularly over winter in Minnesota. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration required online [here](#). Meet at 7701 County Road 101 E., Shakopee.

Jan. 11–12 & Feb. 15–16: Sax-Zim Birding Days I & II
7:00 am. Join us for a visit to the Sax-Zim Bog. In some winters it can be a great location to observe several species of birds that overwinter in Minnesota. There can be a variety of finches, crossbills, shrikes, and several owls. Please contact Craig to register for this field trip: 952-240-7647. Cost: \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members.

Jan. 25: Birding Northern Peru (Zoom meeting only).
7:30 pm. Lee Ann Landstrom will explore the birds, habitats, sights, and flavors of Northern Peru Birding. Peru is a hot bed for hummingbirds, as well as tanagers, flycatchers, and many other interesting species. The Zoom link will be available about a week before the event.

Feb. 22: Think Like Raven (Zoom meeting only).
7:30 pm. Dr. John Marzluff, Award-winning author, James W. Ridgeway Professor of Wildlife at the University of Washington, National Geographic Explorer. This is a culmination of his work detailing the intertwined lives of ravens, wolves, pumas, and people. The talk's arc follows the seasons of Yellowstone and the scientific journey to decode the mysteries of raven life. The Zoom link will be available about a week before the event.

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER

1000 Rustad Rd., Faribault
www.rbnc.org

Jan. 6 & Feb. 3: Bagels & Birds
10–11:00 pm. Join us for bagels while watching birds through the windows on the wild viewing area. Free program for all ages on the first Saturday of the month.

Jan. 17: Lunch & Learn: National Loon Center
Noon–2:00 pm. Bring your own lunch and listen to our guest speaker of the month from the National Loon Center. \$5 member /\$10 non-member.

Feb. 21: Lunch & Learn: The World of Woodpeckers
Noon–2:00 pm. Bring your own lunch and listen to our guest speaker of the month, Andy Wendt, Naturalist, Nerstrand State Park. \$5 member /\$10 non-member.

ST. PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events

Jan. 11: Rebecca Heisman, “Flight Paths”
(a Zoom-only meeting).
7–8:30 pm. Rebecca Heisman will discuss her book “Flight Path: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration.” In her talk, she’ll share some surprising stories from the history of bird migration research and discuss why understanding migration is so crucial for bird conservation. For more information and to connect to Zoom go [here](#).

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.zumbrovalleyaudubon.org/calendar

Note: For full information on these events, go to the ZVAS [website](#).

Jan. 1: Whitewater Christmas Bird Count
8:00 am. Want to participate in the Whitewater State Park Annual Christmas Bird Count? Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Visitor Center at 8:00 am to divide into teams. Most birding is done by car. Call 507-312-2301 to sign up or for more information.

Jan. 6 & Feb. 3: Quarry Hill Bird Walk.
9–10:30 am. 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.

Northern Flicker, by Thomas Burns



~ MINNESOTA BIRDING WEEKENDS ~

MARCH 2024 – JANUARY 2025 • <http://www.mbwbirds.com> • our 39th SEASON !

Descriptions of all MBWs (i.e., summaries of previous MBWs), registration information, etc. will be posted on the MBWbirds website (mbwbirds.com) on DECEMBER 31, 2023.

• **PLEASE NOTE** the opening of registrations for 2024-25 will be at NOON on JANUARY 2, 2024 •

MARCH 2024 – FEBRUARY 2025 MBWEEKENDS SCHEDULE

See mbwbirds.com/mbweekends.html for more information on each MBWeekend – and note that some MBWs will take place on weekdays, including the summer & fall **MBWednesdays**. Changes in this schedule are possible and will be updated on mbwbirds.com. Note that all **MBW fees are \$20/day**.

- March 28 - 29 ~ Nobles & Jackson Co's
- March 30 - 31 ~ Traverse & Grant Co's
- April 12 - 13 - 14 ~ Lyon & Lincoln Co's
- April 25 - 26 ~ Minnesota River Valley / Mankato
- April 27 - 28 ~ Minnesota River Valley / New Ulm
- May 10 ~ Murray County pre-MBW
- May 11 - 12 ~ Cottonwood County
- May 23 - 24 ~ Big Stone County
- May 25 - 26 - 27 ~ Lac Qui Parle County
- June 6 - 7 ~ Northern St. Louis County
- June 8 - 9 ~ Lake County
- June 20 ~ Norman County pre-MBW
- June 21 - 22 - 23 ~ Clay County
- MBWednesdays ~ July 10 - July 24 - Aug. 7 - Aug. 21 (no MBW fee, no lodging required; see mbwbirds.com)
- August 29 - 30 ~ Roseau County
- Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 - 2 - 3 ~ Lake of the Woods County
- MBWednesdays ~ Sept. 11 - Sept. 25 - Oct. 9 - Oct. 23 (no fee, no lodging, based in Duluth; see mbwbirds.com)
- September 26 ~ Jackson County
- September 27 ~ Nobles County
- September 28 ~ Rock County
- September 29 ~ Pipestone County
- October 17 - 18 ~ Yellow Medicine County
- October 19 - 20 ~ Minn. River Valley / Redwood Falls
- Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 ~ North Shore I
- November 2 - 3 ~ North Shore II
- January 9 - 10, 2025 ~ Duluth
- January 11, 2025 ~ Duluth post-MBW



LeConte's Sparrow / Swift Co. MBW / Joanne Dial

- **MBW registrations only accepted by e-mail.**
- **Limit one MBW registration per day (note: also OK to include any associated MBW or pre-MBW).**
- **Limit one person per registration (note: also OK to include others at the same address).**
- **Registrations for 2024-25 MBWeekends opens on JANUARY 2, 2024 beginning at NOON.**

~ **QUESTIONS?** Contact Kim R. Eckert ~
eckertkr@gmail.com • 218 349 5953



Black-legged Kittiwake / Beltrami Co. MBW / Rose Shea

MINNESOTA BIRDING WEEKS

(The End of an Era)

After a total of 35 seasons and nearly 130 MBWeeks, please note that the February 2024 South Texas MBWeek will be the final Minnesota Birding Week. There will be no MBWeeks scheduled in the 2024-25 season or thereafter.

Summary of MOU Board Minutes

November 30, 2023

Recorded by Justin Watts, Vice President

Members present: Michelle Terrell, President; Justin Watts, Vice President; Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, Richard King, Gerald Hoekstra, Mark Lystig, Carrol Henderson, Jen Vieth, Peter Nichols, Trey Weaver, Tony Hertz, Kara Snow, Ann Kessen, Kate Kelnberger, Cindy Smith. Board nominees present: Darcy Pinotti and Rob Daves.

Members absent: Kathrynne Baumtrog, David Cahlander, Liz Harper, Tom Tustison

Approval of minutes from the Aug. 5, 2023 meeting with the following two corrections:

- Education Committee meeting moved to monthly meeting
- Conservation Committee discussion: There was a typo in previous minutes. Conservation Committee report should begin: "Dave noted breeding birds show...."

Meeting was called to order by Michelle Terrell, President

I. Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget

(Ann Kessen, Treasurer)

A. Report

- New line item in admin expenses: postage due, costs resulting from returned mail. Carpenter Nature Center used to cover it, but this cost has increased to hundreds of dollars now.
- Expenditures were roughly \$1000 more than we took in. If our income had been where anticipated, we be in the black.
- Restricted funds: Budget surpluses are applied to Savaloja Grant income, so no additional SG income from that source this year.
- Acceptance of the report moved, seconded, and approved by vote.

B. Annual budget proposal

- *The Loon* was over budget for mailing list, printing, post office (which has increased 2x this year). Every returned, printed copy costs MOU about \$4, according to Cindy. At least a dozen come back after each mailing. Kristina proposes we update membership for electronic version as default.
- MOURC sends 36-page checklist booklet every five years. This will be a larger expense this year.
- Additional money spent on MEP and Cornell memberships. We can drop Cornell membership as we have the eBird portal, which has separate fees.

- Paypal has gone up, and insurance costs were over budget, since officer and directors' insurance (every 3 years) was due.
- Projected shortfall is \$700.
- Ann observed that currently we do not solicit donations for the general fund but we could. Options include Give to the Max, Giving Tuesday, a year-end letter seeking donations, zip-code targeted mailings, member drives, or other fund-raising possibilities (e.g., big sit fundraisers). Justin and Michelle explore Give to the Max, Giving Tuesday, solicitation at Paper Session, etc.
- Ann will follow up with Tom on finding potential cost savings for MOURC checklist printing. Do paperless members need or even expect to receive a mailed copy?
- Acceptance of proposed budget moved and approved by vote.

C. Discussion of membership dues

- Dues have not been raised since 2001 (from \$20 to \$25). Discussion of cost compared with other ornithological society dues in the upper Midwest.
- Pete suggested the board look not just at cost, but also compare membership benefits. Kristina suggested we could pursue tiered membership fee to recoup costs for members wanting a printed copy of *The Loon*.

II. Membership Report

(Cindy Smith, Membership Secretary)

- Membership has been holding steady and is nearly balanced between new members vs. lost renewals. Cindy also noted that many are shifting from family to single, that complimentary club subscriptions were very outdated, and that we have very few youth members retaining.
- Michelle requested that we study membership retention, and Jen suggested that we document recruitment sources (time of year, event, etc.)
- Cindy will start a report on new member recruitment by comparing Paypal dates at time of joining. This could be tedious. Can it be automated?

III. Committee Reports

- A. Paper Session (Kara Snow, Paper Session Chair)
- Paper Session is this coming Saturday 12/2/23. Kara is entering her fourth year in this position, but is willing to continue for now.
 - Costs: AV prices have increased. Currently we charge \$10 attendance, offered \$500 for honorarium to keynote speaker. Kara supports raising fee with possibility of offering discounts (e.g., student rate).
- B. Field Trips (Trey Weaver, MOU Field Trips Chair)
- Trey asked whether the board has considered charging a fee. Since the number of participants is restricted, a small fee might help with the problem of no-shows. General consensus was that the MOU not charge for field trips.
 - Ann suggested that we budget to provide gas money to field trip leaders if this might help with recruiting leaders. Trey and Ann will discuss mechanics of trip leader reimbursement.

IV. Other Business (Michelle Terrell, President)

- A. Committee Chair Openings
- Avian Information and Archives (formerly Bob Janssen)
 - Conservation Committee (Carrol stepping down)
 - Social Media Committee (Pete is looking for replacement)
 - Information Technology Committee (open since Liz Stanley stepped down in the fall)
- B. MOU Archives Update
- Purchased shelving to get records off the floor as well as mouse-proof boxes.
 - Contacted UMN to learn location of MOU records formerly housed at Bell Museum. Learned that they were transferred to UMN Archives as part of Janet C. Green and Robert B. Janssen collections (this includes MOURC records).
 - Michelle is reviewing the records inventory from UMN with Tony Hertz and Tom Tustison.
 - CNC is storing the remainder of the MOU archives. A third of the storage is Bob Janssen's personal notes. Also, lots of photos and slides. Jen said storage at CNC was a temporary fix; a permanent solution needs to be found.
 - Michelle will follow up with UMN archivist Rebecca Toov, who assisted in transfer of records, for details on what MOU conveyed.
- C. Request of Hawk Migration Association of North America for MOU sponsorship of 50th Anniversary Conference

- We sponsored 50th Hawk Ridge, but the HMANA is not Minnesota based. We can advertise this event to members, but given our budget shortfall, Michelle suggested that we should not sponsor this event. The Board concurred.

- D. Bell Museum Minnesota Biodiversity Atlas, Phase 3 Update
- Michelle followed up on MOU being named provider of breeding bird data in Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund proposal. The data source is Breeding Bird Atlas data housed at the Natural Resources Research Institute. No need for any further MOU involvement.

- E. Proposal for Diversity and Equity Initiative
- Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd are interested in supporting a dedicated committee to facilitate diversity and equity initiatives.
 - Pete notes that accessible birding outreach is very important and advocated for the MOU taking up this initiative.
 - Michelle proposed that this be handled by the Nominations and Governance Committee. She welcomes thoughts and ideas about the matter.
 - Justin and Michelle will follow up with Steve and Mary to develop a proposal to bring to the Board.

- F. Communication Tools
- Michelle reactivated Mailchimp for MOU mass mailings; received nonprofit discount, prorated for the month. Paper Session postcards were sent to members without email. Between Mailchimp and postcards, she expects that we are now able to reach our entire membership.

- G. Honoring Bob Janssen
- Michelle has received many suggestions that the MOU honor Bob Janssen and celebrate his importance for Minnesota birding. Suggestions have included an annual lecture, conference, scholarship, naming of a state park/WMA/SNA, a tribute page or special issue of *The Loon* or newsletter, a statewide Birdathon (all 87 counties).
 - Jim Williams will speak at the Paper Session.
 - Michelle noted that when choosing how to honor the passing of specific community members the board needs to be mindful of the precedent being established.

Next meeting: Saturday, March 9 at 10:00 am

Savaloja Grant Report

Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society

by Catherine McGoldrick



Left to right: Pam Perry, Judd Brink, LeAnn Plinske, Catherine McGoldrick, and Lorrene Maroney.

In January 2023 the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society (BLAAS) applied for funding from the Savaloja Grants program of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) to update the bird checklist for Northland Arboretum (NA) and Brainerd Lakes Area (BLA). We were awarded \$850, which will go toward the design and printing of the lists.

BLAAS has been leading bird identification outings for many years at NA twice a week throughout the month of May. They are free and open to the public and are led by chapter members. We have had an average of 88 youths and adults each season and have tallied an average of 100 species each May. The most recent checklist had enough inaccuracies that we felt a need for a revision.

Upon deciding to apply, I contacted Lakes Printing in Brainerd, MN for a preliminary estimate. With that and a commitment from four other chapter members to volunteer their time and expertise, I could define our goals and approximate costs. Pam Perry is a retired DNR wildlife biologist, who coordinated the development and production of the 1st NA checklist 20 years ago. She is a longtime member of MOU and Bee-Nay-She Bird Council (B-N-SBC), and is a charter member of BLAAS. Lorrene Maroney is the current president of BLAAS and has been actively birding for over 30 years. She enjoys citizen science projects and activities, because they take her back to seasonal field jobs held after university. Judd Brink is the owner/guide of Minnesota Backyard Birds, president of B-N-SBC and member of BLAAS. He is a CBC compiler and coordinator and working group member of the Paul Bunyan and Mille Lacs Scenic Byways. LeAnn Plinske is an active Minnesota Master Naturalist, member of BLAAS and B-N-SBC, and NA volunteer. She is an excellent photographer, with over

10,000 observations for iNaturalist. Catherine McGoldrick is current vice-president of BLAAS. I have been engaged in many citizen science projects, activities and educational opportunities. As an amateur birder, I am very fortunate and grateful to be working along with these four team members.

We went through the checklist species by species and discussed each one and its seasonal abundance in the BLA. The list was reordered according to the current American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) names, category and order.

Together, the five people on the committee put in a total of 64 hours working on the project (meeting time plus homework), 19 hours traveling to our in-person meetings, and 700 miles traveling to those meetings. We made 100 revisions to the season and abundance codes. There were eight additions and seven removals of species. Our intent was to include not just the NA, but the BLA. The list has 193 species. We plan to make it available at the NA Visitor Center, the BLA Welcome Center, and other appropriate sites.

Our project is not complete yet at this time, but the groundwork is done, and we're now waiting for a final bill from the printer, which we will present to NA in hopes for supplemental funds. We are very grateful to the MOU and the Savaloja Grant Committee for support for this project.



Townsend's Solitaire, by Tom Gilde



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

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MN Birding is published bi-monthly

Editor: Gerald Hoekstra

Designer: Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

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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.

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Rob Daves, *Vice President*
Darcy Pinotti, *Recording Secretary*
Cindy Smith, *Membership Secretary*
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Youth Mentorship: mentorship@moumn.org

Field Trips: fieldtrips@moumn.org

All other MOU functions: mou@moumn.org

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

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

MOU Membership: New/Renewal

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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 |
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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: \$ _____