



Minnesota BIRDING

March
April
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American Tree Sparrow
by Jean Brislanice

What Is a Prairie Bird?

by Greg Hoch

The closer a person looks at any habitat or ecosystem, the more complex it becomes. That may be especially true of the Midwestern tallgrass prairie. The prairie forces us to question many of the terms used in textbooks. It invites discussions that can be almost as philosophical as scientific and ecological. In *Prairie Birds*, Paul Johnsgard writes that each person who maps the prairie has a “somewhat different set of terms and mapped boundaries.” In 1928, ecologist Henry Cowles wrote that the prairie was a “tension line,” and in 1950 J.R. Borchert described the prairie as a “boundary zone” between eastern forests and dry western grasslands. Numerous other studies have shown that the boundaries or edges, or the width of those boundaries, have been in a constant state of fluctuation over the last few centuries from a number of different factors, including changing weather patterns, burning by Native Americans, and a reduction in burning in many areas with Euro-American settlement. Is the tallgrass prairie an ecosystem itself?

Is the prairie an ecotone or transition between two other eco-

systems or habitats? How do we define an ecosystem or habitat, and draw lines on a map to best characterize that habitat? Those statements and questions are focused more on the vegetation of the prairie. The questions become even more complicated when considering wildlife. In 1970, R.M. Mengel described the plains and prairies as an “isolating agent” that separated western and eastern bird species. Examples include Lazuli and Indigo Buntings, Black-headed and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Bull-ock’s and Baltimore Orioles, Western and Eastern Meadowlarks, and Mountain and Eastern Bluebirds. Similarly, K.B. Lizesey describes the grasslands as a “barrier to the range expansion” of many species, and specifically the Barred Owl, in his studies.

In contrast, John Madson’s *Where the Sky Begins* describes the prairie “as a great faunal crossroads — the eastern limit of some wildlife species, and the western limit of others.” In *Great Wildlife of the Great Plains*, Johnsgard describes the grasslands as “a biological meeting place for northern, southern, eastern, and western elements, acquiring a kind of collec-

tive uniqueness simply by virtue of their central position, thereby becoming a sort of melting pot into which plants and animals have seeped from around all their edges.”

Madson also writes that “In this rich confusion of life there were few distinct “prairie species.” Many of the creatures that inhabited tall prairie either extended farther out into the plains or back into the great forests, and sometimes both; few species were confined to the precise limits of the prairie itself.” In 1983, J.D. Rising concluded that the prairies were a “hybrid zone” between eastern and western species.

There have been at least five studies, from 1913 to 2001, that listed tallgrass prairie birds. There are eighteen species across all these lists. The Eastern Meadowlark appears on all five lists and the Dickcissel on four of them. Henslow’s Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Greater Prairie-Chicken are on three of those lists. The Bobolink is listed twice. Eleven other species appear on only one of those five lists. Indeed, there are few “distinct” species we can directly tie to the tallgrass prairie.

We can add to the confusion by focusing on meadowlarks. Dr. Philo Hatch and Thomas Roberts literally wrote the books on Minnesota birds. In 1892, Hatch wrote that the Western Meadowlark “has been occasionally obtained in the Red River valley for the last fifteen years, but is still rare.” However, forty years later, Roberts wrote: “[T]here is no more abundant and characteristic bird of the prairies of western Minnesota than the Western Meadowlark.” It’s hard to believe either of those two ornithologists couldn’t tell their meadowlarks apart. It’s also difficult to explain how there could be that dramatic of a change in the early 1900s, even with the plowing up of the prairies that would have been starting during the early years of this period.

Perhaps the biggest issue in studying the tallgrass prairie is that it is one of the youngest ecosystems or habitats in North America. Before the Pleistocene glaciers, there probably wasn’t anything that resembled the tallgrass prairie. The species we think of as native to the Midwest region and tallgrass prairie moved into the area from adjacent regions over the last several thousand years. There simply has not been enough time for unique species to evolve in this ecosystem.

We can add land management and land use changes to the discussion. Today, populations of Greater Prairie-Chickens exist in northwest Minnesota, the Dakotas, central Nebraska, and central Kansas. However, all of those areas are to the west and north of the range of



While the Eastern Meadowlark may be the most characteristic tallgrass prairie species, the Upland Sandpiper is a favorite for many birdwatchers. It’s hard for a person to see these birds without reciting Aldo Leopold in their head, “Whoever invented the word ‘grace’ must have seen the wing-folding of the plover.”
Photo by Carrol Henderson.

prairie-chickens at the time of Euro-American settlement. The species moved into new areas during this time period and has gradually gone extinct across all of its ‘original’ range.

In reviewing the literature on prairie birds, we see that the prairie is both an isolating agent and a barrier. The prairie is also a melting pot and crossroads. It’s impossible for one habitat to be both an isolating agent and a melting pot. And finally, the prairie may be a hybrid zone.

How do we deal with an ecosystem that has few definable borders and maybe fewer definable species? We follow Madson’s and Johnsgard’s words, combining a “rich confusion of life” with “collective uniqueness” to each define for ourselves what the prairie is and what it means.

Greg moved to Minnesota 22 years ago and his career has included college professor, working for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the last twelve years with the Minnesota DNR. This article is a summary of his fourth book, To Find a Pasqueflower.

Getting to 15,000 County Tics

Two Stories

*Note from the editor: When I became aware that Ben Fritchman had reached the lofty goal of 15,000 Minnesota county tics, I thought that might make for an interesting story, so I invited him to write it up for **Minnesota Birding**. He agreed to write something, though with some hesitation, and pointed out that Brad Abenddroth was about to reach 15,000 as well and suggested they might do something together. I realize that Ben and Brad are not the first to log 15,000 tics (the MOU Composite 87 Counties list shows 17 birders before them). Nevertheless, I thought their stories might be of interest to newsletter readers, so I invited them each to submit a piece. GRH*

Ben's Story

by Ben Fritchman

A passion is often fueled by a mentor to guide you. I was lucky enough to have three mentors while growing up. Some of my earliest memories of birding involve my grandpa, John Kroll. My cousin and I would jump in the old farm pickup and our grandpa would drive us around all day looking for birds.

Another of my mentors would come several times a year to visit my grandpa and me: Bob Janssen. Bob would come to work on his Todd County list, and it was Bob's passion that piqued my interest and fueled a passion that would become a lifelong journey. Bob would drive two hours each way to get a Northern Saw-whet Owl, or a Varied Thrush, for Todd County. I found this fascinating, especially when he would pull out the three-ring binder of all his county lists. He'd let me peruse it often, and the wealth of knowledge stored in it absolutely amazed me. Over the years, Bob and I would go birding together dozens of times in every corner of the state, adding county birds for him and me alike. Every time Bob would get a new county bird, a certain twinkle in his eye and smile on his face would brighten even the dreariest of days. I knew I had to follow in his footsteps and experience the joy he seemed always to exude.

My third mentor I met on August 21, 1999. I was only thirteen years old, but I had begged my parents to drop me off in Maple Grove where a Painted Bunting had been found. I don't think my parents quite grasped why I wanted to wait around all day to try and see a certain bird. I brought a camping chair to sit on while waiting, and after a bit I walked around to look for the bunting. When I returned to my chair, someone was sitting in it. His name was John Hockema. That was the start of many birding adventures we would go on together. John also caught the county listing bug, and we've spent countless days driving back roads, hiking trails, or exploring grasslands looking for county birds together.

I started my county listing with a big spiral notebook in which I listed all the counties and the birds I saw in each. I would make my parents stop at any public space we drove by, any rest stop, wildlife management area, state park, or



Ben hoping to add a county tic

public lake access. I would identify all the birds and write them down. I loved going to new counties! I recall that number 800 didn't take long to get: a Blue Jay in Kanabec. My mom took me on a trip to Houston County, and I quickly passed 1,000.

Later, mounn.org came online, and I was able to enter my bird sightings there instead of just in a notebook. Eventually, I got my 5,000th county bird: a Northern Waterthrush in Mille Lacs County. And my 10,000th county bird, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Norman County, came in the fall of 2009, while I was still in college. Soon after that, I ran into Bob Janssen at Minnesota's first Acorn Woodpecker. I was excited to tell him about my achievement of getting 10,000 county birds. When I told him, though, he was quiet, so I said: "Well, I know the second 10,000 is a lot harder." I'll never forget his response: "Ben, the second 10,000 isn't the hard part. It's the third 10,000!" All I could do was smile and nod. I could see that twinkle in Bob's eye and the grin on his face. I could tell he was proud of me.

I spent the next few years trying to get all my counties to 100 species. Once I got to a hundred in each county, my next goal was 150 in each county. This step took a lot longer but was a lot of fun. It made me get to know each county and seek out specific habitats to find certain species. My last county to get to 150 was Hubbard County. I finally reached that goal on May 21, 2023 with the help of Josh Watson and John Hockema. We spent the whole day birding Hubbard County, and it didn't take long to find bird number 150, which turned out to be a Tennessee Warbler.

At the beginning of 2023, I needed just under 500 birds to reach 15,000 total county birds. After reaching my initial goal of 150 in each county in May, I focused on getting to 15,000. I spent many days getting up at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. and driving around the state in order to add as many birds as possible. It all culminated on September 28, 2023. I began the morning needing 24 more birds to reach 15,000. It would be a stretch, but I thought it might be possible. I began the morning in Scott County, adding eight birds, including Orange-crowned Warbler, American Pipit, Merlin, and White-throated Sparrow. I knew I would need a similar amount in Carver to keep my hopes alive of getting to 15,000 that day. I spent a few hours in Carver but was able to add only four birds. So, there I sat just 12 birds away from 15,000 — just 12 birds! And with the two counties offering my best chance of adding birds behind me.

I started to bird my way home, knowing that reaching my goal might have to wait until another day. I added three

birds in Wright County, getting me to 14,991. I stopped at a park in Sherburne County and picked up a Sharp-shinned Hawk for 14,992. I needed eight more, and the daylight was diminishing. I had almost given up my hope of achieving the feat that day, when I decided to make one more stop at Oak Savannah Park in Becker. There, in 15 minutes, I picked up five new birds! I was elated and thought 15,000 might still be possible. I stopped in Benton, where I picked up a Palm Warbler, for 14,998. I then looked at my options. I figured my best shot would be a drive over to Mille Lacs Lake to get the last two birds. A cormorant in Crow Wing was 14,999. And then, as the sun was setting, I found an Orange-crowned Warbler in Aitkin for number 15,000!

I really couldn't have done this without the guidance of my mentors. Others who have significantly helped me along the way include Andy Nyhus, Dedrick Benz, Ron Erpelding, Herb Dingmann, Denny and Barb Martin, Kim Eckert, Bob Dunlap, Dave Bartkey, Shawn Conrad, Chris Hockema, and numerous others that I can't thank enough.

After my first 1,000 county ticks, I was basically hooked for life, if I hadn't been already. My next goal will be 160 species in each county and marching on towards a total of 20,000. I like Ron Erpelding's comment about county birding: "There are a lot of bad habits a person can have, but I think county listing is a good one."

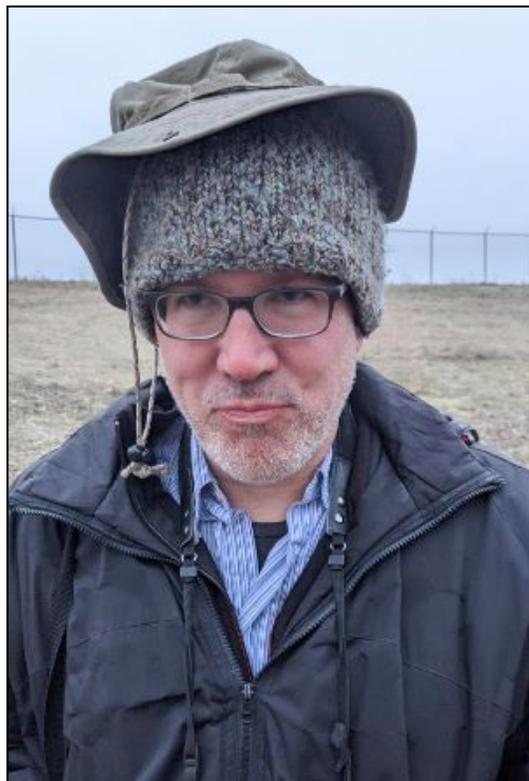
Ben Fritchman is a birder and pharmacist living in Todd County.

Brad's Story

by Brad Abendroth

Hi, it's me again. I hope everyone enjoyed reading my 2023 FOY challenge in the November/December issue of *Minnesota Birding*. Although I am not doing that again this year, I did exceed 15,000 total ticks last year as well — meaning I have seen 15,000 total bird species encompassing the 87 counties of Minnesota.

I started paying attention to my county lists in 2013, after George Lahr showed me how county lists and other records can be documented on the moumn.org website. After that year, I had birds tallied in 47 of the 87 counties, totaling a bit over 2500 ticks. The first goal was to get over 50 birds in each county to rid my county map of the black dots (or, as Linda McGourik would say, "Performing the Black Dot Eradication Program"). I was able to do that by



*Brad, with a hat found on the ground,
by Andy Nyhus*

the end of 2017. Then, my next goal was to exceed 100, which is the very light green color, and that occurred by the end of 2021. My current goal is to reach 150 and attain the dark green color in each by the end of this year. I have 15 counties left to go. I say this now, but I currently do not have aspirations to get over 200 in each county, let alone 225. Of the counties in which I do have over 225, which is the gold color, I am working my way outwards from my home county, Scott County.

I am quite particular on how my color map looks! When I exceed 220 in a county, which is the dark "Janssen" orange color, I work hard to get that county over 225. For those who are not familiar with the story, the 220-225 color was requested by the late Bob Janssen, who has 225-plus in every county and is the gold standard (pun intended) of county listing. I am one of the few county listers to have fewer than 200 birds in

St. Louis County, which is the easiest 200-plus-tic-potential county outside my home range. Or from most Minnesota birders' home ranges for that matter. This is by design. I do not want some random county in the middle of nowhere sticking out like a red sore thumb messing up my organized colored map! I am currently at 190, and a vast majority of them were from the subsequent birding after chasing lifers or rarities, and from visiting the Sax-Zim Bog. I will eventually get to the point of "Getting the hell out of Dodge" after future chases to St. Louis to avoid turning that county red. Speaking of Dodge, I am sure many county listers have uttered that phrase while birding that challenging county.

There are a few special terms you should know when it comes to county listing. Anytime you change color, it is called a "Wizbangah." Getting a particular bird species in all 87 counties is called a "Hefty Cinch Sack" or simply shortened to a "Sack." A "Hockema" — or getting "Hockema-ed" — is when you are birding with another county lister and that person starts out with more total tics in that county than you and ends up with more new tics. I also have a term for when you start out with fewer tics than the person you are birding with and end up with more total tics in that county, but I won't mention it, since this is a family show. (And this is more geared to day listing, but getting a bird species in every month of the year is called a "12-pack.")

At the time when I started county listing, I did not realize what I had gotten myself into. County listing and birding in general can be expensive. Besides the gas and the obvious added car maintenance expenses, other unfortunate events like getting stuck in the snow at least four times, blowing out a tire once, and running over road hazards, which inevitably lead to the dreaded slow tire leak. Oh, and I also got into an accident where I totaled my car. I heard this has also happened to at least two other birders, but I will not name names.

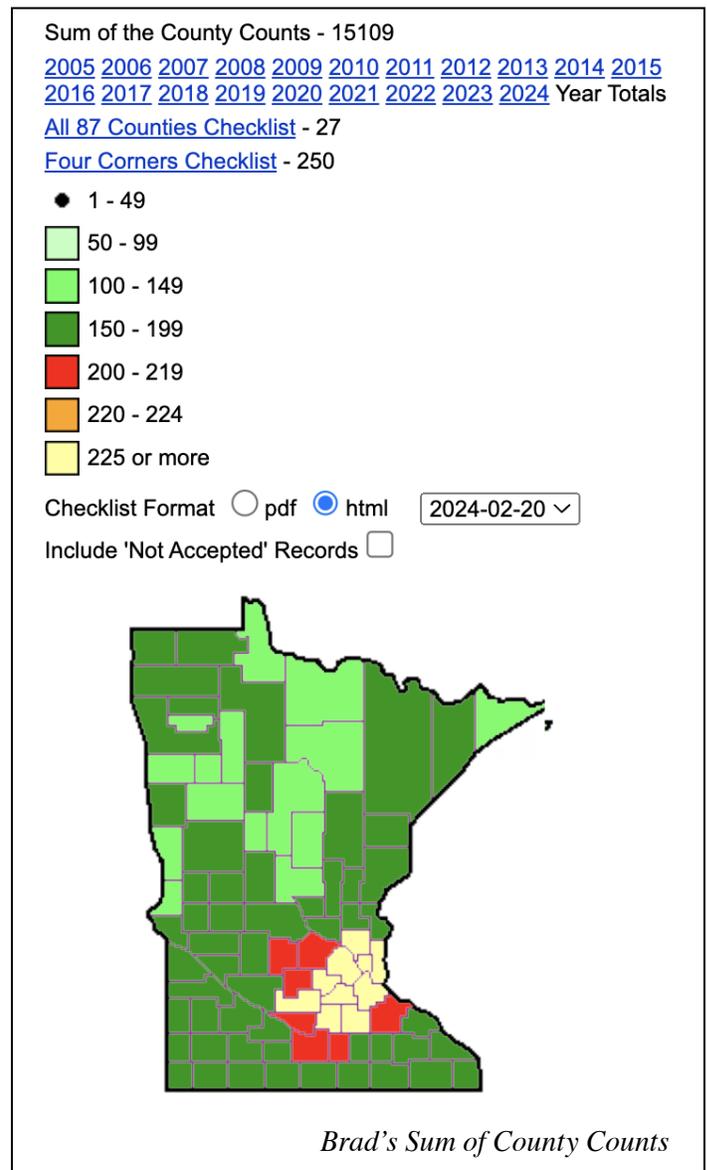
Of course, birding is fun, so that makes it all worth it, right? Speaking of expenses, two years ago I accidentally left my scope and tripod on the side of a gravel road in Jordan in Scott County. I didn't realize this until the next day, when I opened my hatch to grab my scope to look for a reported Long-Tailed Duck on Little Rock Lake in Benton County. I panicked, of course, performing mental somersaults trying to remember where I may have left it. A big thank you to Bonnie Heinecke, whom I called that morning and asked to check the road that skirts the Jordan wastewater treatment plant. It was still there! So, luckily, I avoided the expense of purchasing a new scope and tripod that day.

I normally bird alone, but when I am not county listing with a birding friend, I do like to take part in the Minnesota Birding Weekends (MBWs). One could quickly amass many new tics with all the extra sets of eyes and the knowledge of guides like Kim Eckert and Craig Mandel. This can surely maximize the number of birds seen, since they know the best spots. I have gotten so many birds on these trips, and there is never a bad trip. Though it can be a whirlwind and it can be frustrating trying to see every bird I need and

that others in the group are able to spot, I shouldn't expect to see everything. So, I have been told.

I cannot really say I have a favorite county to bird not named Scott. As long as I go to a county and leave with a new tic, or multiple tics, I am happy. It is often the case that slow-driving a neighborhood for birds is a requirement to get potential new tics. I am always anxious that I may appear suspicious and someone may call the cops, especially when I'm peering at a feeder for too long. Years ago, in the town of Eyota, in Olmsted County, I spotted a Northern Mockingbird hopping around in someone's front yard. Of course, it flew into the owner's backyard as soon as I got my camera out to document it. I waited for close to 15 minutes, hoping it would come back. Meanwhile, I noticed some movement at the neighbor's patio slider of a kid banging both hands on the glass and flashbulbs going off from a person snapping pictures of my car. It was time to leave!

Brad Abendroth was as a backyard birder for many years before he started traveling the state. He lives in Savage.



Conservation Column

The Ring-necked Duck — Bad Name, Great Bird

by Andy Forbes

You'd be forgiven if you wondered where one of our more common waterfowl species got its name: *Aythya collaris* (loose translation: "collared waterbird"), the Ring-necked Duck.

As far as I can determine with a reasonable amount of research, the species received its name in Great Britain in 1809 by the amateur collector, writer, and naturalist Edward Donovan. That, in and of itself, is interesting to me, since the species does not regularly occur outside of North America. What compelled Donovan to zero in on the narrow band of cinnamon-brown feathers between the bird's head and breast — which is not even easy to see with a bird in the hand — I don't know. But here we are. Good luck to any birder that tries to use that mark to distinguish the bird from similar species in the field.

Anyway, the Ring-necked Duck is very common migrant throughout Minnesota in both the spring and fall and it can be seen just about anywhere there is open water, often in the company of other diving species. It is a herald of spring as small lakes and ponds open up around urban areas, where you can find pairs of them even in small, shallow, storm ponds along highways as they move through. Huge concentrations of them can be seen on larger bodies of water during peak migration. Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Aitkin County is a great place to go to see big numbers of Ring-necked Ducks. Daily counts on the Refuge in the fall (mid-October is best) regularly number in the hundreds of thousands and sometimes approach 1,000,000 birds as they feed upon the wild rice that gave the area its name. Tamarac Refuge in Becker County is another great place to see large numbers of them. Ring-necked Ducks are one of the more frequently harvested species in Minnesota during the fall hunting season. Hunters often refer to them as "Ringbills," which, I might argue, is a better name for the bird!

In the summer, you can still find Ring-necked Ducks in Minnesota in the northern two-thirds of the state, especially the northeastern region. They breed in forested wetlands in relatively low densities — beaver ponds, bogs, and smaller lakes. Pair bonds are mostly monogamous but do not seem to endure year after year. Females construct somewhat flimsy, simple platform nests along wetland margins. Males do not contribute substantially to the care of eggs or young. The female will lay between 6-12 eggs and care for the young by herself. Ducklings grow quickly by necessity and are able to fly before they are two months old.

All but a few birds leave Minnesota in the fall. They spend the cooler months of the year throughout the southern



Ring-necked Duck, by Gerald Hoekstra

half of the United States and Mexico in a variety of wetland habitats. They tend to avoid salt water and deeper areas. Ring-necked Ducks dive to find most of their food (largely plant-based, but also including some invertebrates); however, they generally do not dive very deep, like some other waterfowl.

Overall, Ring-necked Duck populations are stable to increasing throughout their range, and the species' breeding distribution is much more extensive now than what it once was. Pre-1930s, the species was largely limited to north-central North America during the breeding season but it can now be found throughout eastern and western Canada, as well as south through the Rocky Mountain states. While some concern remains around things like lead poisoning and some other issues, the species seems to be in good shape overall.

Lots more to think about, perhaps, as you enjoy watching Ring-necked Ducks and other waterfowl move north through our state during the time of the year that you're probably reading this article. I particularly enjoy watching the courtship antics of this (and other) species of waterfowl during spring migration. Watch for the variety of chases, head throws, and nodding, and the unavoidable drama that occurs during this annual spectacle.

Most importantly, don't bother to look at the neck to try to see the "ring," especially as you sift through mixed flocks looking for something different. Bill color and pattern — yes. Head shape — yes. Back color — yes. Neck ring . . . nope.

Andy Forbes is Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the Midwest Migratory Bird Program with USFWS.

MOU Calendar

March / April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					MARCH 1 International Festival of Owls	2 International Festival of Owls RBNC: Bagels & Birds ZVAS: Quarry Hills
3 International Festival of Owls	4	5 ACM: Overlooked Birds in N.A.: Females	6	7 CNC: Trails & Ales	8 FOSZB: Winter Raptor Surveys	9 CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike FOSZB: Bird Anatomy and Artifacts
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 LNC: Bird Banding MRVAC: Bass Ponds
17 LNC: Raptors Up Close MOU: Spring Skywatch in Duluth	18	19	20 SPAS: Beginning Birding at Silverwood Park	21	22	23 MRVAC: Bass Ponds
24 MRVAC: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge	25	26	27	28 MRVAC: Elevating Women Birders	29 CNC: MN Campus Bird Banding	30 MOU: Lake Byllesby Waterfowl Migration
31	APRIL 1	2 MOU: Woodcock Display Carver Park ACM: Lasting Effects of Redlining Birds	3	4	5	6 RBNC: Bagels & Birds CNC: MN Campus Bird Hike CNC: Spring Birding Primer via ZOOM MRVAC: Bass Ponds ZVAS: Quarry Hills
7 MRVAC: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge	8	9 MOU: Woodcock Display at Carver Park	10	11 ZVAS: Woodcock Walk at Chester Woods	12	13 CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike
14	15	16	17 SPAS: Beginning Birding at Silverwood Park	18 MRVAC: Hubbard County Birding Days	19 MRVAC: Hubbard County Birding Days	20 CNC: Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival ZVAS: Rochester Reservoirs
21 MOU: Carver County Field Trip MRVAC: Bass Ponds ZVAS: Armstrong Wetlands/Rice Lake	22	23 MN Global Birders: Northern Peru	24	25 MRVAC: Ornithology Research at U of M.	26 MOU/MRVAC: Salt Lake Weekend	27 MOU/MRVAC: Salt Lake Weekend
28 MOU/MRVAC: Salt Lake Weekend ZVAS: Root River County Park	29	30				

MOU Calendar

March / April 2024

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

AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS

<https://www.minneapolisaudubon.org/events>

March 5: The Most Overlooked Birds in North America: Females

7–8:30 pm. Female birds are typically more drab and inconspicuous than males, leading over time to an unconscious bias towards male birds in birdwatching, photography, and even in our ornithological knowledge. This talk explores the history of focus on male birds, female vocalizations, conservation implications of overlooking female birds, and female bird identification tips. Presented by Joanna Wu, a PhD student studying female birds in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA. She is a member of the Galbatross Project, a group of birders, scientists, writers, and conservationists who are passionate about spreading awareness about female birds. Registration in advance for this webinar is required [here](#).

April 2: The Lasting Effects of Redlining Birds

7–8:30 pm. The social and economic decisions made in a city can shape the character of that city for decades, even centuries to come. Some of the most profound contrasts in any urban area — the location of good vs. poor housing, healthy living conditions vs. localized pollution, and school quality — have their roots in racist policies and attitudes. Historical inequality can also shape the natural environment of a city and the plants and animals that call the city home. Presented by Dr. Eric Wood, an associate professor of avian and urban ecology in the Biological Sciences Department at Cal State LA, and a Research Associate in the Department of Ornithology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Eric Wood studies how practices in Los Angeles like redlining shaped where birds and other wildlife are found today. Registration in advance for this free, public webinar is required [here](#).



CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

<https://carpenternaturecenter.org/events/>

March 7: Trails & Ales

5:45 pm–8:00 pm. Enjoy the beauty of the St. Croix River Valley with an after-hours hike at Carpenter Nature Center. Learn about the history of CNC, listen for owls, and more during a 45-minute naturalist-led hike. Be sure to bundle up and bring a headlamp. After the hike, we will meet at nearby Spiral Brewery in Hastings for a Taproom Take-over. Space is limited, and reservations are required. To register please call 651-437-4359 or register online by clicking [here](#). Must be 21 years of age or older to participate. Location: Carpenter Nature Center Minnesota Campus, 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings. Program Fee: \$25 per person, includes a hike, one beer flight, and guided tasting. 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. This includes a flight of beer for each participant and a staff member leading a discussion around each sample of beer. Enjoy the atmosphere of the bright and fun taproom while you learn about the history of Spiral Brewery and its beer. This experience will take approximately 45 minutes with the option to stay for another beer you can purchase on your own.

March 9 : 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: 279 S. Cove Rd., Hudson, WI.

March 29: MN Campus Bird Banding

8:30 am–12:00 pm. See birds up close and watch the experts band birds at CNC. Banding runs continuously, so come and go as you please. Donations of bird seed and suet are appreciated in lieu of a program fee. All banding, marking, and sampling are being conducted under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the U.S. Geological Survey. Location: 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. More information [here](#).



Evening Grosbeak, by Allan Meadows

April 6: MN Campus Bird Hike

8–10:00 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.

April 6: Spring Birding Primer

8:00 am–12:00 pm. Pre-registration for this Online ZOOM presentation is required to receive the zoom link. Sign up [here](#) or by contacting Jennifer at 651-437-4359 ext. 108 or jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org, or email Susan at honeywarbler@gmail.com. Link sent upon registration. Co-hosted by the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union and Carpenter Nature Center. Learn about Minnesota birds from the comfort of your home! Join MOU and CNC online for presentations from regional bird experts, passionate birders, and educators. Presentations are 20-25 minutes each with 5-10 minutes of Q&A. Program Fee: FREE, but donations to both non-profit organizations are encouraged. For more information: [Spring Birding Primer](#).

April 13: WI Campus Bird Hike

8–10:00 am. 300 East Cove Rd., Hudson, WI. 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.

April 20: Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival

7:00 am–5:00 pm. Celebrate birds and conservation at the CNC MN Campus, 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings. Attend classes that introduce you to raptors, birding, bird banding, and go on guided bird trips through the Hastings area. Register [here](#). The Youth Birding Competition is a highlight of the festival. Young birders are encouraged to team up and count all the bird species they find. Register [here](#). Check out the [event webpage](#) for more details on the full schedule.

FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG

<https://saxzim.org/>

Note: For more information on all of the following events go [here](#).

March 8: Winter Raptor Surveys in the Bog

Noon–1:30 pm. This winter, we will be hosting a variety of talks for visitors in the newly constructed Lois King Education Center. These talks will cover a wide variety of topics and will be given by FOSZB staff or volunteers. Join us for the final Friday speaker of the winter season with Head Naturalist Clinton talking about the winter raptor surveys in the Sax-Zim Bog. The Sax-Zim Bog is home to the longest running winter raptor survey (supported by Hawk Migration Association of North America) in Minnesota and has documented some interesting trends in use by our overwintering birds of prey. Stop by over your lunch break from birding and check out this final talk of the winter. No registration required for this program.

March 9: Bird Anatomy and Artifacts

1 am–2:00 pm. Sometimes birds have negative interactions with human-made infrastructure. Those birds often get found by folks who take them to science museums, collections at universities, or seek out nature centers to utilize those birds for education purposes. Over the years, we have been able to collect feathers, wings and feet, skulls, nests, and professional mounts from a number of species under our education permit and now have a space to share those items with you. If you have ever wanted to learn about birds through their feather adaptations or skulls, this program is for you. Our time will be spent in the Lois King Education Center investigating the bird artifacts collection at the Welcome Center. Register for this field trip here:

[Bird Anatomy and Artifacts](#).

INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

126 E Cedar St., Houston

<https://www.internationalowlcenter.org/>

March 1–3: International Festival of Owls

Meet and learn from World Owl Hall of Fame award winners Dr. Martin Šálek from the Czechia on Saturday evening and Dr. Roar Solheim from Norway on Sunday afternoon. Conservation reporter Krishna Mani Baral will also show a short video of our sister owl festival in Nepal Saturday evening. There will also be live owl programs by the Illinois Raptor Center (including a live Snowy Owl), nest box building, pellet dissection, vendors, face-painting, and Saturday morning children’s book author Susan Richmond will do a presentation about her wonderful book *Night Owl Night*, which is about a young girl who desperately wants to go banding Saw-whet Owls with her researcher mother. Her book will be for sale, and you can get it autographed! For full details and to purchase admission online go to www.FestivalOfOwls.com.

LOWRY NATURE CENTER THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria.

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

March 16: Bird Banding

9 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.

March 17: 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.

MOU and MRVAC: SALT LAKE WEEKEND

<https://moumn.org/saltlake/>

April 26, 27, & 28: Salt Lake Weekend

The 46th Salt Lake Birding Weekend will take place in Lac qui Parle County over the last weekend in April, with the main count day being Saturday, April 27. On the evening of Friday, April 26, beginning at 5:30 PM, birders are invited to stop by Madison Mercantile for a potluck dinner and live music. It is a coffee shop/art gallery with a wine and beer selection. Birders will meet at the American Legion in Marietta at 7:00 am, Saturday, April 27, with breakfast and coffee available for a modest fee, and assemble with guides into caravans for the day. While most of the birding is centered around Lac qui Parle County, they also make their way to sites in Big Stone and/or Yellow Medicine Counties. Maps and checklists will be provided. After returning to the Legion at noon to buy lunch, birders will share their finds and then embark on the afternoon leg of the journey. At 7:00 p.m. they will meet at the Sons of Norway Lodge in Madison for supper and the final tally. Supper is roasted chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, and pie for \$15. Reservations are necessary for dinner, with prepayment preferred; please contact Bernice Oelien or Camey Maland, Sons of Norway Lodge, at oelmal@farmerstel.net, (507) 829-0676 or (320) 752-4757. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available upon request via RSVP. Payment at the door without a reservation will be \$20 per dinner (limited meal availability). *Note:* Advanced registration is appreciated, to help us with the planning. Register [here](#). Event venues, lodging options, and birding spots are provided on the linked map on MOU's Salt Lake Page, accessible from the homepage header bar, or [here](#). Any questions can be sent to Jason Frank, event coordinator, at jmfrank84@gmail.com

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 pages in Facebook a few weeks before each session.

April 23: Birding Northern Peru

7–9 pm. Lee Ann Landstrom, retired nature center director and naturalist, will give a presentation on the birds, habitats, sights, and flavors of northern Peru, from the dry coastal lands to Andean cloud forest to the moist Amazonian foothills.

MOU FIELD TRIPS

<https://moumn.org/>

For questions, please contact Trey Weaver, MOU Field Trip Chair: fieldtrips@moumn.org

March 17: Spring Skywatch in Duluth

9 am–2 pm. Join trip leaders Kristina and Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus for an opportunity to skywatch for migratory birds, particularly raptors. This is a great time of year to see Golden Eagles migrate through Duluth and the group will have a chance to see and learn identification tips on multiple species. Meet at the Thompson Hill Rest Area (8525 W. Skyline Parkway, Duluth), then to an overlook about 4 miles away. Due to limited parking at the Skyline Parkway overlook, we ask that participants be willing to carpool with others from Thompson Hill to the overlook. A spotting scope is recommended for this event. Registration via this [signup](#) form is required and is limited to 15 participants. *Note:* Due to the nature of a migratory flight watch, weather may not be suitable for migration or viewing conditions. Although we will plan the event to be on March 17, March 23 will be reserved as a backup date.

March 30: Lake Byllesby Waterfowl Migration

8 am–noon. The group will meet at the dam on the south-east side of the lake (5001 MN-1, Cannon Falls) and will be encouraged to carpool from there. Expect to hike the cedar stands at Lake Byllesby Regional Park in the morning. Come prepared with muck boots and for possibly slippery conditions on the trail to the lake from the cemetery on the northwest side of the lake. Participants can expect large numbers of waterfowl, including all five expected goose species, and interesting gulls. Late winter passerines and owls are possible in the cedars at the regional park. Both meadowlarks, Lapland Longspurs, Horned Larks, and many other open-habitat specialties are possible at Great Western Industrial Park. Registration via this [signup](#) form is required and is limited to 10 participants.

April 2 & 9: Woodcock Courtship Display, Carver Park Reserve

7:45 pm. Join Trey Weaver for a chance to witness the American Woodcock's courtship display. Carver Park Reserve is excellent habitat for this species, and other nocturnal species could be encountered, including owls. The group will meet at the [Grimm Farm](#) parking lot. No more than an hour of viewing, and we do not anticipate having a long hike. If Woodcocks are displaying at this open area at the rendezvous, we may only walk a few hundred yards for closer viewing and listening. Ungroomed grass trails. Wear footwear with ankle protection. There are vault toilets at the trailhead. Limited to ten participants. Registration required. Sign up for April 2 [here](#); Sign up for April 9 [here](#).

April 21: Carver County Field Trip

6:30 am–3:00 pm. Meet Trey Weaver at the [Rapids Lake NWR Visitor's Center](#). After our walk at the Visitor Center, we will walk the grass units of the NWR in search of grassland species such as longspurs, larks, and sparrows. The group will then caravan around Carver County to look for waterfowl at various locations. You are free to stay with the group for as long as you want, we may go all day if weather and migration make for good birding. The morning hike will last 2 to 3 hours for about 2 miles of hiking. Trails will be a mix of groomed turf and paved with moderate slopes. Depending on weather conditions leading up to the event, the trails may be muddy; please keep this in mind and wear proper footwear for the weather. The rest of the day's stops after Rapids Lake is to be decided but will not be likely to consist of much walking as we look for waterfowl at multiple locations. Registration via this [signup](#) form is required and is limited to 7 participants.

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

March 16, 23 & April 6, 21: Bass Ponds Trailhead

8–10:30 am. Join us for a spring walk on one of the many refuge units. Each spring offers a chance to observe a variety of birds that stop at the refuge during their spring migration. The early spring walks will feature waterfowl, and the later spring walks will see the first of the migrant sparrows and warblers of the season. Bring along your binoculars and favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required online [here](#). Meet at 2501 86th St. E., Bloomington.

March 24 & April 7: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge Trailhead
8–10:30 am. Join us for a spring walk on one of the many refuge units. Each spring offers a chance to observe a variety of birds that stop at the refuge during their spring migration. The early spring walks will feature waterfowl, and the later spring walks will see the first of the migrant sparrows and warblers of the season. Bring along your binoculars and favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required online [here](#). Meet at 9551 Old Cedar Ave. S., Bloomington.

March 28: Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders (Zoom meeting only)

7:30 pm. Tiffany Kersten, environmental educator, and international bird guide, didn't set out to do a Big Year, but after a series of unanticipated and serendipitous events, she suddenly found herself amidst one. As a sexual assault survivor, she spent 2021 traveling to all corners of the Lower 48 States, tallying birds and gifting personal safety alarms to women she met along the way. Her goal was to see 700 species, and to raise awareness of women's safety in the outdoors. She ended up surpassing her goal and setting a new record: 726 species. In her presentation, Tiffany will lead us through the fear, empowerment, struggles, and healing that all played vital roles in the personal growth she experienced on this wild adventure. Zoom links will be posted about one week in advance on our website.

April 18 & 19: Hubbard County Birding Days

6:30 am. Our mid-April birding days in Hubbard County should be a great time to look for a variety of migrating birds. With luck we'll find some open lakes and there is large amount of State Forest land to explore. SNAs and the lake Alice Bog can also be interesting locations to bird in the spring. Please contact Craig at 952-240-7647 to register. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members.

April 25: Ornithology Research at the University of MN

7:00 pm. Social gathering at 7 p.m. with presentation at 7:30 p.m. by Simone Maddox, researcher and PhD candidate at the Barker Lab at the U. of M., and David Wolfson and Wildlife ecologist and PhD candidate at the Fieberg Lab at the U. of M. Special Report on Ornithology Research at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Maddox's research investigates the ways that city living affects our local birds, especially their brains. Mr. Wolfson will report on his research on the annual movement and migration patterns of trumpeter swans in the Midwest. Note: The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter meetings are held in-person at the refuge and simulcast via Zoom, unless otherwise noted. Zoom links will be posted about one week in advance on our website. The refuge visitor center is located at 3815 American Boulevard East, Bloomington. All meetings are free and open to the public.

RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER

1000 Rustad Rd., Faribault

www.rbnc.org

March 2 & April 6: Bagels & Birds

10–11:00 am. 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.

ST. PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events/>

March 20 & April 17:

Beginning Birding at Silverwood Park

2–4:00 pm. Silverwood Park is a beautiful urban park on the shores of Silver Lake. The variety of habitats in the park—oak forest, marsh, grassland, and lakefront—make it a great birding destination, with over 180 different species sighted in the park. Participants will be introduced to basic birding techniques and tools, including digital resources. Bring your binoculars. Meet at the Visitor Center, 2500 County Rd. E., St Anthony. No registration necessary. Most paths are paved but may be icy in the winter. Walks will range from 1-1.5 miles. Leaders: Jen Miller birdingjen@gmail.com and Liz Richards. For full information on these trips go [here](#).

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

<https://zumbrovalleyaudubon.org/calendar.html>

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

March 2 & April 6: Quarry Hill Bird Walk

9–10:30 am. Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier. Join us on a casual walk around [Quarry Hill Nature Center](#). 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.

April 11: Woodcock Walk at Chester Woods

7:30 pm. Every spring the Woodcock perform one of the strangest and most interesting mating rituals. We will try to observe it close, beginning at dusk. Meet in the horse corral parking lot at [Chester Woods Park](#), southeast of Rochester. Leader: Mike Degerstrom.

April 20: Rochester Reservoirs Field trip

8 am–noon. Leader: Lance Vrieze. Meet in the east parking lot at the RCTC Heintz Center, 1926 Collegeview Rd. E., Rochester to car pool. The flood control reservoirs around Rochester have created some of the best bird habitat in Olmsted County and are more often than not where local rarities are found. There will only be a few short walks totaling less than a mile. Bring a scope and binoculars if you have them.

April 21: Armstrong Wetlands / Rice Lake State Park Field Trip

7 am–early afternoon. Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier. Meet in the [Hy-Vee Barlow's](#) south parking lot to carpool to the wetlands (about a 45-minute drive). Dress for the weather, bring your own binoculars, lunch, snacks, and water. Trails are generally good at Rice Lake but be prepared for uneven ground and muddy or wet areas. At Armstrong Wetlands we'll be parking on the edge of a gravel road. Between both locations we should see several kinds of waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, raptors, woodpeckers, early arriving warblers, and possibly Sandhill Cranes. Note: Vehicles entering Rice Lake State Park must have a MN State Park sticker.

April 28: Bird Walk at Root River County Park

9 am–noon. Leader: Sandy Hokanson. Located just south of Rochester near Simpson, [Root River County Park](#) has a nice two-mile loop walking trail and good diverse habitat for a wide variety of birds. We'll look for early-blooming wildflowers, newly arriving migrants like Golden-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and other signs of spring. Dress for the weather. Meet in the parking lot near the picnic tables. Trails can be slippery when wet.



Black-Backed Woodpecker, by Linda Schwegman

Birder Bio: Demelza Larson



Demelza with husband Josh

Tell us about yourself.

I live in Richmond, which is in Stearns County. I teach Biology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University, also in Stearns County. I've lived in Minnesota most of my life, except for the 12 years I lived in Iowa City when I was in graduate school and doing my postdoctoral work.

When did you start birding, and what first sparked your interest?

As adults, my husband Josh and I started birding when we took a trip to Hawaii in 2017. We noticed all the bright and colorful birds there and bought our first bird book. The endemic I'iwi (scarlet honeycreeper) was our "spark bird". However, I already had the bird bug instilled in me when I was a kid. I went to Willmar public school, and Randy Frederickson was my seventh-grade science teacher. One of our projects during the school year was to identify as many birds as we could, including the habitat in which we found the birds. I had the longest bird list in my class that year.

How did your interest expand after that first experience?

After Hawaii, we started paying more attention to the birds at home. We started a yard list and began visiting local parks and WMAs to look specifically for birds. Once I discovered eBird and all the birding Facebook pages, I became diligent with listing, and we started "chasing" rare birds or any bird we were having a hard time finding ourselves. It was through some of these chases that we started meeting other birders in the community.

What is the main attraction of birding for you?

The main attraction of birding for me is being out in nature and discovering the insane amount of diversity that exists. My husband and I have always been "outdoors" people, so we continued our love of the outdoors by actively searching for birds and actively seeking out new types of habitats that we could find target birds. Birding is just a great way to experience nature and learn new things at the same time.

How did you originally become acquainted with the MOU?

I originally became acquainted with MOU when my husband and I stumbled across a Say's Phoebe at the Albany WTP in Stearns County. I was able to capture a photo of the bird, but at the time we didn't know its identity. I posted the photo to the Minnesota Birding Facebook group and only then realized the rarity of the bird we had found. Several people commented on that Facebook post that I should report the bird to MOU. It was then that I opened an MOU account and started learning the ins and outs of that birding resource.

What is your favorite bird or bird family?

There is no way I could only pick one. There is something I love about almost every bird species that exists.

What new bird would you most like to see?

Our next target bird for Stearns County is a Long-eared Owl. We've seen that species in Minnesota before but have never found one on our own or seen one in our home county. Painted Buntings are also at the top of my list for birds I'd like to see in Minnesota.

Common Goldeneye, by Tom Gilde



Savaloja Grant Report: Fargo-Moorhead Urban Birds Study

by Tucker Lutter

The riparian corridor along the Red River in Moorhead, MN and Fargo, ND stands in stark contrast to the vast expanse of agricultural fields that dominate the region. Following severe flooding in the 1990s, the cities removed dozens of homes from the riparian corridor and in the 2010s Audubon Great Plains restored green spaces including some native prairie plantings to many of the former developments through the Urban Woods and Prairies Initiative. These sites are now city parks and nature preserves (Fig. 1) that are popular destinations for birds and birders alike. Migrant passerines and wintering Northern Saw-whet Owls attract dozens of birders each year, and the Fargo Birding Festival regularly brings in over 150 interested members of the public to Forest River Park each May. The importance of these parks for both birds and humans is the focus of my Master's Thesis research which the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union helped to fund through the Savaloja Grant Program.

Bird Surveys

How we manage the riparian ecosystem in the parks and preserves in Moorhead and Fargo is important to the birds that use them for breeding and migration. Birds select for a certain set of environmental variables when considering where to nest and are dependent on a healthy ecosystem to sustain them on their migratory journey. The crux of my research is focused on these questions: What birds are using the riparian corridor? And what variables determine their presence and abundance across these locations? In addressing these questions, we can provide a basis for bird-friendly park management that increases breeding bird populations and improves the quality of the experience for citizens of Moorhead and Fargo.

The Bobolink, a North Dakota Species of Conservation Concern, provides a good example to illustrate the importance of understanding what drives bird site selection. Why does Ponte's Prairie in Fargo have nesting Bobolinks but North River Grassland in Moorhead does not? They are both restored prairies using similar seed mixes. Is there a difference in the density of the grass, the size of the prairie restoration, the amount of forbs, or the canopy coverage created by nearby trees that might explain the differing outcomes? Is there something park managers can do (e.g., tree removal, prescribed fire) to North River Grassland to increase the likelihood that Bobolinks will use the site in the future? Will their actions to increase Bobolink nesting habitat at North River Grassland adversely affect other bird species that prefer to utilize the vegetation structure that this currently there?

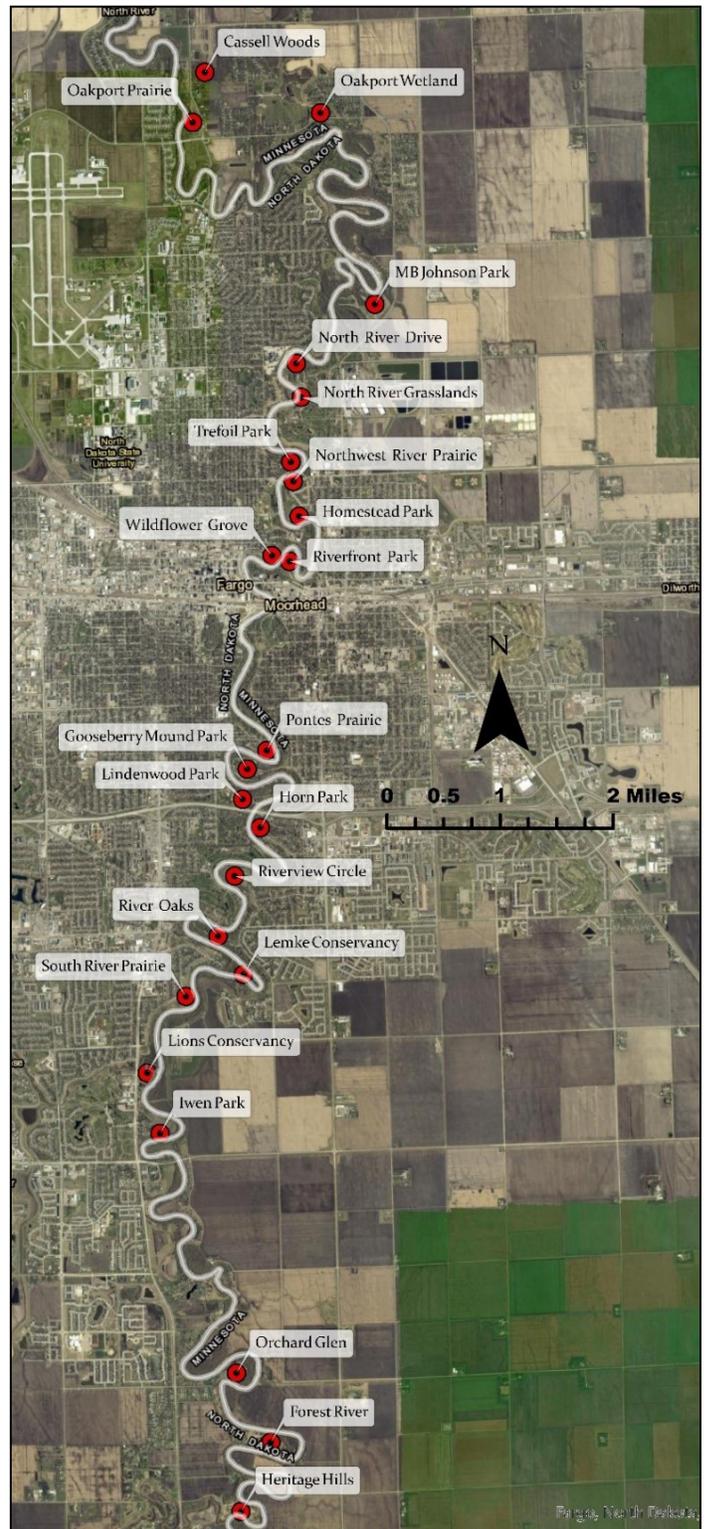


Fig. 1. Parks along the Red River riparian corridor in Moorhead, MN and Fargo, ND included in my research.

During the 2022 and 2023 field seasons I collected data on spring migrant and breeding bird communities at 20 Urban Woods and Prairies sites along the river corridor to address my main research question. I used the point count method (63 points total) and visited each point count location four times each spring (April-May) and three times each summer (June-July). The point counts involved standing at one location for six minutes and tallying all of the birds I could hear or see in a 50-meter radius (excluding flyovers).

During the 2022 and 2023 field seasons I also collected vegetation data from mid-June through July to understand how vegetation structure and composition influenced bird site selection during the breeding season. This sampling took place in 50-meter buffers around each point count, and I gathered data on canopy coverage, the number of snags, and the type of ground cover (e.g., grasses, forbs, dead leaves, bare ground, etc.) among a number of other variables. Overall, I detected 151 species during the two field seasons, including 66 species during the breeding season. Some highlights included nesting Bobolinks, Sedge Wrens, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, possibly breeding Black-billed Cuckoos, migrant LeConte's Sparrows, and 24 species of migrant warblers. It was also a thrill to locate Red-shouldered Hawks on two occasions during the spring, since they are at the periphery of their range in the Red River Valley.

Social Survey

In 2023, I also implemented a social survey to assess the views park users have about conservation and to esti-

mate how large an impact birdwatching has on the local economy. Another goal of the survey was to understand the demographics of birders and park users as a whole to address issues of diversity and accessibility.

Savaloja Grant funds provided the necessary infrastructure to install survey kiosks (fig. 2) in ten parks. The kiosks included an informational panel describing the project and a secure drop box for completed surveys. We received completed surveys from 294 people from May-August 2023, of whom an incredible 162 respondents identified as birdwatchers. Also fascinating was that 145 of the self-identified birdwatchers are local (≤ 20 miles from the park). Of the respondents who answered the race demographic question, 94% of identified as white, which was slightly higher than the 2020 U.S. Census in Moorhead, MN and Fargo, ND, which recorded the non-white population as 13.5% and 18.5%, respectively (U.S. Census Bureau, 2020a; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020b). This discrepancy raises questions that I plan to address in my final analysis, with the expectation that my results will inform steps we can take to create more diverse and accessible outdoor spaces.

Future Plans

I am currently in the process of analyzing the data collected during my two field seasons and I look forward sharing my conclusions at a future Minnesota Ornithologists' Union meeting. I am thankful for the support I received through the Savaloja Grant and I hope my research provides a better future for birds and birders in Minnesota.



Fig. 2. Survey kiosk at Forest River Park, Fargo, ND.

New MOU Members

Note: New members, welcome to the MOU! To all 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.

Steven Bateman, *Minneapolis, MN*
 Owen Brafford, *Minneapolis, MN*
 Samantha Burger, *Burnsville, MN*
 Jacqueline Bussjaeger, *White Bear Lake, MN*
 Jeffrey Cholewa, *Big Lake, MN*
 Jill Duncan, *Lester Prairie, MN*
 Roy Ickes, *Washington, PA*
 Michele Jackman, *Virginia, MN*
 Dan & Margaret Martin, *Alexandria, MN*
 Adam Schurle, *Minnetonka, MN*
 Sarah Sobiech, *Bloomington, MN*
 Sharon Sobiech, *Bloomington, MN*
 Jed Williams, *Savage, MN*



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

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

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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Northwest: 800-433-1888

MOU Contacts

Minnesota Birding Editor: newsletter@moumn.org

President: president@moumn.org

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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.

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