



# Minnesota BIRDING

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*Ruffed Grouse, by Jean Brisance*

## 2024 Savaloja Grants

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

March 9th, board members voted to award a total of \$11,999.70 in Savaloja Grants to seven diverse projects in Minnesota. Based on the recommendations of Savaloja Committee members Ann Kessen, Pam Perry, Chuck Neil, Sue Keator, and Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, the board awarded grants for the following projects:

**Carpenter Nature Center (CNC)** is receiving \$2,000 to deploy eight nano-tags on Wood Thrush as part of a 20-state collaborative research project aimed at furthering our knowledge of the Wood Thrush lifecycle and conservation needs. Summary from the lead researcher: *An international group of bird-conservation partners are initiating a hemispheric and collaborative Motus\*-tagging project across the breeding and nonbreeding ranges of Wood Thrush with a goal of deploying 600 Motus tags to better understand migratory connections, routes, timing, and survival across the full life cycle to inform future conservation and management for this Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The Wood Thrush is a priority species in 25 states and Canada; improving our understanding of the biological and ecological needs and migration patterns of Wood Thrush between their breeding and nonbreeding ranges would facilitate further understanding of targeted habitat management actions along this species' migratory*

*routes and strengthen ties to full life-cycle efforts like Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' (AFWA) Southern Wings Program to better plan for and address this species' conservation needs.*

**Springbrook Nature Center** is receiving \$2189.70 to enrich its environmental education programs with Minnesota-specific field guides and binoculars that are designed for children. Currently, Springbrook Nature Center sees more than 10,000 students and nearly 500 summer campers every year, ranging from 4-14 years old. By providing children with binoculars specifically designed for them, as opposed to our current collection of outdated adult binoculars, the Center can help them to explore with more easily. Copies of the *Birds of Minnesota Field Guide* will enable visitors of all ages to practice identifying birds and to learn more about the life history of species listed in the guide. This project would expand and diversify Minnesota's birding community by providing birding experiences to youth in an environment conducive to learning and skill building. Children participating in Springbrook Nature Center's birding programs will become birders for the duration of the program, and birding may become a lifelong passion for individuals who may have otherwise never been able to try birding.

**MYBirdClub** is receiving \$1080 to help fund professionally guided field trips that connect youth (and their families) to birds and birding. The organization also provides adult field trips upon request. By connecting kids with nature, they draw in their adults as participants. MYBirdClub helps instill a desire to care for birds and shows kids and adults how they can weave personal conservation actions and efforts into their everyday lives. This project benefits birds by inspiring the next generation of birders, conservationists, and environmentalists. Most of their bird outings have served approximately 20% non-white and/or neurodiverse youth. They work to attract a diverse group of young birders by marketing their outings in groups specifically for non-white populations like Outdoor Afro and Urban Bird Collective, and through community Facebook groups. MY-BirdClub also contracts with public libraries to offer birding programs, which connects them to a more diverse population across the metro.

**The National Loon Center and Northern Waters Land Trust**, together, are receiving \$1700 to develop and lead a workshop series, “From Land to Water: Conserving Minnesota’s Loons,” from May through September. They successfully piloted a small number of workshops between 2022-2023 providing general education on watershed conservation and progress in Common Loon research. They requested funds to expand the program scope to a monthly series of complimentary workshops that highlight specialized conservation topics related to loons presented by experts in the field and provide training for statewide volunteer loon monitoring programs. Their goal for the new workshop series is to reach a wider audience and provide a hands-on experience for program participants to acquire the knowledge needed to take actionable steps toward protecting Minnesota loons. The workshops are an opportunity to foster connections between local residents, conservation leaders, and birding communities.

**The Pierz School District** is receiving \$1300 to host the Raptor Center, U of M, which will spend a full day at the elementary school offering four sessions to elementary students of 45-60 minutes each. Elementary students from Holy Trinity Catholic School, also in Pierz, will be invited to attend the sessions. The Center will feature four ambassador raptors (owl, hawk, falcon, eagle) and will teach what makes these birds unique while students are able to see them close up. Professionals from the Raptor Center will offer presentations on the natural history of each bird, the food they eat, their hunting habits, where they live, and what makes them different from other birds. The opportunity to get up close and personal is a fun and exciting way to learn. The students are also introduced to requirements for caring for the birds in captivity. This eye-opening program will inspire students to protect raptors and the environment we share. Four sessions will be offered, two in the morning, and two in the afternoon, for 1st-6th grades totaling 622 stu-

dents. Sessions will be divided by grades with a short Q&A.

**Urban Bird Collective** will receive \$1900 to engage new birders from diverse backgrounds (BIPOC, LGBTQ+) in urban bird conservation through a Chimney Swift roost monitoring program. This outreach and engagement effort will also generate valuable data on Chimney Swift roosting locations and phenology and help inform a planned long-term Chimney Swift monitoring program. This project will identify, map, and monitor Chimney Swift nests and roosts in the Twin Cities metro area. The majority of swift roosts and nests are in older buildings and houses, concentrated in urban areas. Once identified, swift roost locations can serve as community gathering sites for Swift Night Out events to engage urban communities and reach new birders. The UBC will also develop relationships with building and property owners to raise awareness of urban swift habitat and promote preservation of buildings on which swifts depend, as well as encourage native vegetation plantings at these sites to improve urban bird habitat. By focusing their efforts in urban areas, the UBC can reach new communities of birders and promote preservation of urban buildings and engage communities where they live.

*Black-Backed Woodpecker*  
by Linda Schwegman



**The Nature Connection, in collaboration with the Headwaters Science Center**, is receiving \$1830 for educational birds of prey programs for the public, especially children. The funding will help to accomplish The Nature Connection's mission to enhance awareness, appreciation and respect of North American Birds of Prey with individuals of all ages and backgrounds. Programs funded in 2024 through the Savaloja grant will be for educational programs on birds of prey (also called raptors) to be held at the Headwaters Science Center in Bemidji. Their goal is to increase awareness and understanding of raptors. Funding will allow the organization to provide programs free to the public at the Headwaters Science Center. Many in attendance are

members of Indigenous communities, the percentage being about 20-25%.

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

# Conservation Column

## A Most Enigmatic Warbler

by *Andy Forbes*

It's quite possible that there is no better place to be in the springtime than dawn in the northern forests of Minnesota. The variety of bird song that you can hear from our many breeding warblers can't be topped by much else. If you're in the right place, one of the songs you might hear is a loud, ringing song that belongs to a bird that only exists in theory to many, including even some quite experienced birders. Yet another tropical gem that we are fortunate to host here in Minnesota during the summer months.

The species that I'm talking about is the elusive, skulky Connecticut Warbler. Both the common and scientific names for this bird (*Oporornis agilis*, which translates loosely "nimble fall bird") are a reflection of where and when the "first" specimen was described. It is actually quite difficult to find in its namesake state, and even then one might see it only during a limited window in fall migration. I'd argue there are many better names.

The Connecticut Warbler is truly a bird of the far north during the breeding season. Most of its breeding range is in Canada, from British Columbia to Quebec, but it also occurs in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Or at least it used to. More on that later. They are an uncommon late (late May-early June) migrant during the spring in Minnesota, and they typically leave Minnesota in August or early September. They take a more easterly route during fall migration, which takes them closer to the East Coast, whereas in the spring their path more closely follows the Mississippi River watershed. In both northbound and southbound migrations, they fly across the Gulf of Mexico and are very rarely seen in Central America. Among the strongest fliers of warblers, they are capable of multi-day nonstop flights across open ocean during migration.

Their movements through South America and their

nonbreeding range and behavior are very poorly understood. However, it appears that the bulk of their population move through the Amazon and end up in the "Gran Chaco" Region of Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and Argentina, where we know very little about them, other than that the entire population is there for the large portion of the year during our winter months.

### Life History

In Minnesota, Connecticut Warblers breed primarily in more mature black spruce/tamarack dominated bogs with poorly drained soils and well-developed understories. Interestingly, they will also use more dry, open habitat such as jack pine/blueberry barrens, as well as in mature aspen stands, especially in the more northern and western parts of their breeding range outside of Minnesota. They feed mostly on the ground in thick cover on insects and spiders as well as fruit and berries. They are difficult to see at any time of the year, and summer is no exception, although singing males can be somewhat more conspicuous when they perch 10-20 feet or so high in tree and belt out their song. That song consists of a distinctive, herky-jerky series of two- and/or three-part phrases repeated several times in a row. Like most birds, they sing primarily early in the morning, although I have personally heard of quite a few Connecticut Warblers actively singing during the night by a full moon. They nest on the ground in thick cover, and their nests are quite difficult to find. The first one was not documented until more than 70 years after the species was first described in 1812.

Birds arrive mostly in the latter half of May and begin to depart in late August. They can be found in a variety of habitats during migration, almost always in thick, tangly vegetation of some kind. They will sing during spring



*Connecticut Warbler, by Richard Gotz*

migration, sometimes quite actively, but are almost totally silent during the fall migratory period and are very hard to find. The same holds true for their nonbreeding grounds in South America, where detections of them are rare, making them very difficult to study.

### **Concerning Declines**

In the United States, the Connecticut Warbler was once a fairly well-distributed breeder across much of northern Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Sadly, their populations have decreased by around 60% across their breeding range, and the declines are particularly pronounced in the U.S. Connecticut Warblers have virtually disappeared as a breeding species from the state of Michigan, and in Wisconsin the picture is similarly bleak. The recently completed second *Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas* documented a 78% decrease in their occurrence as a “possible breeder” between the first *Atlas* (1995-2000) and the second (2015-2019) within survey blocks. This was the largest decline of

any breeding bird across the two atlases. Targeted follow-up surveys in 2022 found only three breeding pairs in the core of their range in northwest Wisconsin.

In Minnesota, numbers are better, but still show concerning signs of decline: long-term monitoring data conducted on National Forests show a significant decline of an average of 8.65% per year since 1995, and the species seems to be showing a similar pattern around the southern extent of its breeding range in Minnesota. The northwestern part of the state is the heart of the species range: it contains the highest densities of breeding Connecticut Warblers in Minnesota, likely due to the massive, contiguous “Big Bog” habitat there.

The cause of their decline remains elusive, much like the species itself. Habitat loss and degradation is likely a major factor, both on their breeding grounds with increasing non-compatible use of black spruce/tamarack bogs, and massive deforestation on their wintering grounds, where don’t have even basic information of their distribution/habitat use, etc. Climate change could also be a factor, both in making previously suitable habitat unsuitable, as well as with increased hazards during the migratory period, which can be particularly problematic for longer distance migrants like Connecticut Warblers. Connecticut Warblers are also extremely susceptible to collisions with human-made structures. Recent studies ranked them as the eighth most susceptible species to collide with buildings of any size, and one study estimated that approximately 1.2% of the entire population are killed by collisions with communication towers every year.

One thing is certain: If we don’t want to lose Connecticut Warblers from Minnesota, we are going to have to both protect the spruce-tamarack bog habitat that is essential for its survival and unravel some of the many mysteries that prevent us from effectively conserving this bird.

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

## **The MOU is seeking a volunteer to serve as Chair of the Conservation Committee**

The Conservation Committee is composed of its Chair and committee members who work together to develop advocacy at the local or state level, grow affiliate relationships, and bring conservation concerns as well as actionable opportunities to the attention of the board and MOU membership. This fulfilling position allows individuals to collaborate on a wide range of positive projects which impact our local communities and birds. Committee members are recruited and appointed by the Chair. The Committee is responsible to the Board of Directors.

# Birding with Bob

*Editor's note: In his article in the last newsletter on reaching 15000 birds, Ben Fritchman reminisced about meeting and birding with Bob Janssen. Bob touched the lives of many birders around the state, whether they had the privilege of actually birding with him or simply met him out in the field, and I'm sure others have stories and memories of birding with Bob as well. I thought it might be fun to record some of them, so I'm planning to run a "Birding with Bob" column over the few issues in which members can share those stories, memories, or other thoughts about Bob's impact on Minnesota birders. I'm grateful to Allan and Myrna, Richard, and Kim for responding to my invitation to get this started. Individual contributions can be short — a paragraph or two — and my intention include a few in each issue. Please contact me or send stories and reminiscences to me at [newsletter@moumn.org](mailto:newsletter@moumn.org).*

On April 4, 2013, I received a call from two strangers, Dave Cahlander and Bob Janssen, wondering if I might help them track down a reported Northern Cardinal and a small flock of Gray Partridge in Koochiching County. We spent the day together and did just that. Over lunch, I asked Bob how successful he was at chasing reported rarities and he answered an astounding, "70 to 80 percent."

During the next decade, Bob and I added more species to his Koochiching County goal of 225. They included Red-bellied and Black-backed Woodpeckers, Varied Thrush, and Northern Saw-whet and Great-horned Owls. Bob's total here eventually grew to 230, 24 more than mine, and I've lived here for fifty years!

My wife Myrna and I had Bob as a delightful dinner guest on several occasions. Once he told us that he was preparing to leave for our rendezvous at Big Falls, and his wife Suzanne told him, "Now, if they serve asparagus, remember to use a fork." He grinned at us over his plate and confessed to enjoying eating asparagus with his fingers. That that should have been her parting advice at 3 a.m. always makes us smile.

We got to meet and dine with Suzanne and Bob when they came up to attempt to find his 87<sup>th</sup> county Dickcissel in Lake of the Woods County. We succeeded on July 17, 2021. While we kept in touch, it was the last time we saw them. The best teachers impart enthusiasm in addition to knowledge. Bob did both widely across the state, and we are grateful to have been but two of many beneficiaries.

— Allan & Myrna Meadows, Rainy Lake

On May 15, 2021 there was a report of a Whimbrel on the mud flats at Rice Lake near the Richard T. Anderson Conservation Area. A Whimbrel would be a lifer for me, so Sid Stivland and I hurried down to the location, only to find Bob Janssen and Bob Williams already there with their



Bob Janssen, by Allan Meadows

scopes on the bird. So, since the lifer was "in the bag," Bob Janssen started telling stories. When he was a young lad, he and his dad visited this same area and there were thousands of ducks and shore birds galore, some almost eating out of his hand. After a multitude of similar stories, Bob slowly sauntered over to Bob Williams scope and glommed onto the tripod. Being quite taken aback by Bob's action, Bob Williams exclaimed, "What are you doing?" Bob Janssen said "I'm resting." The rest of us almost died laughing.

— Richard Gotz, Plymouth



Bob Janssen, resting, and Bob Williams, by Richard Gotz

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Bob Janssen was his longevity as a birder. Indeed, he remembers the spark that got him going was seeing a meadowlark — when he was just five years old. If you do the math, that would have been in 1937, and that amounts to a lifetime of birding in Minnesota that included no fewer than *ten decades*. And during those decades of experiences, Bob will be best remembered by many of us as a lister. Whether it was birds seen in his life, in the state, during each of the months, in all

87 counties (the list of all his lists goes on), he kept careful track of them all. His numbers are at or near the top in dozens of categories.

Curiously, the one list he kept that I found especially interesting had no birds on it. That was his Town List: he consciously sought to visit every city / town / community in Minnesota. One source says there are 2,633 of these, and Bob eventually got to them all. As long as it was included on the MNDOT's county highway maps, it would count. These maps marked them with a small circle and the label "Est. Pop. 10," so Bob called them *Tenners*.

Bob was once part of a generation of birders that may be long gone. Now it seems the most active birders are all off chasing "stake-outs" – birds already reported online by others, often at places long familiar to us all. But there was a special time back in the 1960s and late '50s when those now-familiar sites and special birds had yet to be discovered, when a pioneering group named the Avifaunal Club became active. Besides Bob, its members included Ron Huber (possibly this group's unofficial ringleader?), Ron's brother Harding (a.k.a. Hap), Ray Glassel, Bill Pieper, Dick Oehlenschlager, Bro. Theodore Voelker, and others. To be a member, the only requirement was to have 250 species or

more on your Minnesota list. (There are now well over 100 of us with lists of 350-plus.)

It was Avifaunal Club members who first discovered Yellow Rails at the Waubun Marsh in 1959. (For years, this was the go-to place for this rarity, before Terry Savaloja discovered McGregor Marsh.) How did they do it? By getting lost while looking for prairie-chickens and turning down the wrong road, which dead-ended in a marsh on the Mahnommen-Becker county line. In 1960, they were looking for a way west between Highways 32 and 9 (i.e., *the Northwest Passage?*), when they serendipitously discovered Felton Prairie and its Chestnut-collared Longspurs. Then, while trying to relocate longspurs the following year, they additionally and unexpectedly found Sprague's Pipits skylarking overhead.

While Bob may not have been along during all of these pioneering field trips, it was this Avifaunal spirit of exploration and discovery that he and others shared over 60 years ago. Accordingly, as our listing numbers now approach or surpass those of Bob Janssen, let's pause and give credit to those who laid the groundwork for finding many of the birds and birding places that make our numbers possible

– Kim Eckert, Duluth

# The Binocular Bob Fund

by Sid Stivland

The headline "A New MOU Endowed Fund" appeared on page 11 of the March/April 2007 issue of *MN Birding*. In the article, *MN Birding* editor Barb Martin outlined a new program called the "Biology Bob Binocular Endowed Fund" developed and funded by MOU's "Father of Youth Birding," Dr. Robert Holtz. Since many of the newer members may not be familiar with this fund and its purpose, and many long-time members may have forgotten about it, we thought it worthwhile to bring to the attention of MOU members again.

Bob, as everyone knew him, had earned the moniker "Biology Bob" on campus at Concordia College (now Concordia University), where he taught biology for 36 years. Already, his passion for biology in general and birds in particular was well known and documented. Born in 1933, Bob earned a Bachelor of Science in 1955, an M.A. and Ph.D. by 1974. His list of contributions is too long to list here, but even while attending school he was a Scoutmaster and served in various educational capacities at his church. In short, he spent his entire career educating young people. He was known not only for his breadth of science knowledge but also as a role model and mentor to students of all ages.

Those of us who are currently active MOU members are deeply indebted to the commitment, passion, and investment of people like Bob Holtz and others who have led the way. Within Bob's active role in MOU, he was a member of the group responsible for organizing and nurturing MOU's Youth Mentorship Program. Barb Martin states in her 2007

article: "Bob Holtz, MOU Youth Mentorship Coordinator, has established an endowed fund which will provide binoculars each year to a few children in grades four through eight who have participated in at least one Youth Mentorship Program. The recipients are to be youths interested in birds and in learning more about birds."

Since its inception many children in Minnesota have received a pair of "binos" through this program. The "Binocular Bob" program was severely impacted by COVID-related shutdowns, as most public schools were closed and, although many outdoor activities continued, the number of group activities conducted by MOU's Youth Mentors was reduced, and nominations for binoculars disappeared.

The Biology Bob Binocular Program continues and seeks qualified (4th through 8th grade) students in the coming school year. If you know of someone who might qualify, feel free to call the Youth Mentor Coordinator, Bill Tefft (218-235-8078). If you are not sure who qualifies or how to nominate a recipient, contact him or me, Sid Stivland (763-229-9574), and we will be happy to discuss it.

Anyone who has an interest in working with kids can call Bill to find ways to aid in introducing kids to the world of birds. Follow the example of Bob and other MOU members in the worthwhile and rewarding activities feeding the enthusiasm of young birders.

(Editors' note: Sadly, as this issue of the newsletter was going to press, we learned of Bob's death.)

# MOU Calendar

## May / June 2024

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			<b>May 1</b> ACP: Bunker Hills	2	3 ACP: Rice Creek	4 CNC: MN Campus Birding & Birds and Brews FOSZB: Evening in the Bog SPAS: Katherine Abbott P.
5 ACM: Heron rookery MOU: Any Body Can Bird MRVAC: Rapids Lake SPAS: Cedar Ave. Bridge	6 ZVAS: Kutzky Park	7 ACP: Coon Rapids Dam SPAS: Snail Lake Park	8 FOSZB: Warbler Wed. ZVAS: Kutzky Park	9 ZVAS: Kutzky Park	10 ACP: Rice Creek	11 CNC: WI Campus Festival CMNWR: Spring Bird Walk FOSZB: Songbirds MGRP: Mississippi River MGRP: OUT Looking for Birds ZVAS: Big Birding Day
12 CNC: Warbler Walk MRVAC: MN Valley WR ZVAS: Hok-si-la Park	13 ZVAS: Kutzky Park	14 SPAS: Rachael Lilly Preserve	15 FOSZB: Warbler Wed. SPAS: Silverwood Park	16 MRVAC: Lake County Birding SPAS: Murphy-Hanrehan Park	17 ACP: Coon Rapids Dam CNC: MN Campus Biggest Day MRVAC: Lake County Birding	18 Bell Museum: Birding Walk & Open Birding FOSZB: Waffles & Warblers LNC: Bird Banding MOU: Ney Nature Center SPAS: Lebanon Hills Park
19 LNC: Raptors up close MOU: Stanley Eddie Park MRVAC: Bass Ponds SPAS: Swede Hollow Park	20 ACP: Rum River CRP LNC: Monday is for the Birds	21 SPAS: Maplewood Nature Center	22 ACP: Bunker Hills FOSZB: Warbler Wed.	23	24	25 FOSZB: Songbirds
26 ACM: Mobility Challenged Birding	27 LNC: Monday is for the Birds	28 SPAS: William O'Brien State Park	29 FOSZB: Warbler Wed.	30	31 CNC: MN Campus Bird Banding	<b>June 1</b> CNC: MN Campus Birding MOU: SE MN and Beaver Creek RBNC: Bagels & Birds ZVAS: Quarry Hill NC
2 ACM: Birding for Beginners MRVAC: Bass Ponds	3	4 SPAS: Afton State Park	5	6 SPAS: Afton State Park	7	8 CNC: WI Campus Birding ZVAS: Chester Woods
9 FOSZB: Creek Rd. Bog SPAS: Battle Creek Park	10	11 SPAS: Bobolinks at Battle Creek Park	12	13 MRVAC: Washington County Birding	14 MRVAC: Washington County Birding	15 LNC: Bird Banding
16 LNC: Raptors up close MOU: Lake Rebecca Park MRVAC: MN Valley WR SPAS: Carpenter Nature Center	17	18 SPAS: Sherwood Regional Park	19	20	21	22 SPAS: Phalen & Round Lakes
23 FOSZB: Sax Rd. Wetland	24	25 SPAS: Reservoir Woods	26	27	28	29 MRVAC: Cedar Ave. Bridge SPAS: Phalen & Round Lakes
30 FOSZB: Admiral Rd. Cedar Swamp						

# MOU Calendar

## May / June 2024

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

### ANOKA COUNTY PARKS

<https://www.anokacountyparks.com/>

#### May 1 & 22: Bunker Hills Regional Park

9–11 am. 550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover. Improve your bird identification skills during a leisurely hike in one of Anoka County's beautiful parks. Participants of all birding abilities are welcome. Sessions from April–May in various parks. For more information and to register please visit [the website here](#).

#### May 3 & 10: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park

9–11 am. See description above. Cost: \$5.00. For more information and to register please visit [the website here](#).

#### May 7: Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

6–8 pm. 9750 Egret Boulevard, Coon Rapids. See description above. Cost: \$5.00. For more information and to register please visit [the website here](#).

#### May 17: Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park

9–11 am. 9750 Egret Boulevard, Coon Rapids. See description above. Cost: \$5.00. For more information and to register please visit [the website here](#).

#### May 20: Rum River Central Regional Park

9–11 am. 17955 Roanoke St. NW, Ramsey. See description above. Cost: \$5.00. For more information and to register please visit [the website here](#).



*Black-throated Blue Warbler, by Richard Gotz*

### AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

*Note: For full information on the following events, please go to the ACM website above.*

#### May 5: Heron Rookery

10–11:30 am. Marshall Terrace Park ([map](#)). On this outing, we will view heron nests, learn about their behavior, diet, and chicks. Bring tripod, binoculars, and cameras if you have them. Binoculars are available for those who need them. All are welcome; no experience required.

#### May 26: Birding for people with Mobility Challenges

10–11:30 am. Roberts Bird Sanctuary, 4124 Roseway Road, Minneapolis. Join us as we enjoy birdwatching on the new terrace and take a short (optional) walk into the sanctuary. [Advance registration](#) is required. Limited to 15 participants. This outing is appropriate for birders with a range of mobility challenges including birders who use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes, as well as those with difficulty walking, but all birders are welcome. We expect to see many species of birds at close range. All birders from beginner to experienced are welcome. Binoculars will be available for those who need them. Dress for the weather.

#### June 2: Birding for Beginners

10 am–12 pm. Veterans Park ([map](#)). This outing will be appropriate for persons new to birding or with limited experience, although all birders are welcome. We will start with a binoculars demonstration, a short introduction to bird ID, and will discuss strategies for finding birds and the many ways to enjoy the outdoors while birding. Bring your own binoculars and guidebooks; a limited supply of loaner binoculars will also be available. Individuals under 16 years must be accompanied by an adult.

### BELL MUSEUM

<https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/events/>

#### May 18: Guided Birding Walk with MOU

8:30–10 am. Join the MOU on a guided bird walk. Meet at the main entrance of the Bell Museum. The group will depart at 9:00 am. Dress for the weather and be prepared for challenging terrain. Bring a water bottle and snack if desired. Binoculars are available for those who do not have them, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they can. 15 participants. Note: Bell Museum admission is not included. Register [here](#).

### **May 18: Open Birding**

10 am–2 pm. All visitors can join the birding fun on the Bell Museum’s Learning Landscape. Join scientists, artists, and local birdwatchers to explore how birds capture our imaginations and shape our understanding of the world around us. This short, guided experience welcomes all experience levels, especially those who are new to bird-watching. Binoculars are available for check-out, and the group will remain on the flat, paved sidewalk just outside of the museum. No registration is required for open birding; you can drop in any time during the session. Please note: Bell Museum admission is not included. Event details [here](#).

### **CARPENTER NATURE CENTER**

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

### **Big Year Birding Challenge**

Join us for brand new program series and citizen science opportunity. Hosted in partnership with bird expert Ben Douglas, the Big Year Birding Challenge is designed to encourage everyone to learn more about birds and see how many different species they can identify at Carpenter Nature Center in a single year. This is a great opportunity for newcomers to get into birding, for experienced birders to work on their life list, and for the CNC to identify the different species that come through the Nature Center. We will be using [eBird](#), a site run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, to track our sightings. Information on how to sign up and to see the species list for the CNC can be found on the [event webpage](#). Questions? Contact Jennifer Vieth at (651)-437-4359 ext. 108 or [jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org](mailto:jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org).

### **May 4: MN Campus Bird Hike**

8–10 am. 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. 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 and students. Space is limited; pre-registration required. Please call CNC at 651-437-4359.

### **May 4: Birds & Brews: Spiral Taproom Takeover**

11:30 am–6 pm. Spiral Brewery 111 2<sup>nd</sup> Street East, Hastings. Join us in downtown Hastings at Spiral Brewery for birds and brews. Catch the spring migration with local birding experts and test your eagle eyes with spotting scopes and binoculars on the Brewery Rooftop. In the family-friendly taproom, learn more about CNC and get up close to some of Carpenter’s live raptor ambassadors. The best part is that a portion of every beverage sold will be donated back to Carpenter Nature Center! No registration required. Program fee: Free to get in the door.

### **May 11: WI Campus Wings of Spring Festival**

8 am–12 pm. 279 South Cove Road, Hudson WI. Join Carpenter Nature Center, [Tropical Wings](#), and the [St. Croix Valley Bird Club](#) for a morning of birding. Guided hikes for birders of all skill levels and bird banding demonstrations. Activities include birding 101, kid’s crafts, native planting for birds, preventing window strikes, and more. Sample and learn about bird-friendly coffee. Pre-registration is required for activities: See [event page](#) for details. Program fee: Some fees may apply to activities.

### **May 12: MN Campus Mother’s Day Warbler Walk**

9–11 am. 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings. Join us for a guided hike this Mother’s Day, as we focus on warblers and other species during spring migration. At least 31 different kinds of warblers can be found in Minnesota, and May is the best time to see them as most are headed north to their breeding grounds in northern Minnesota and Canada. The majority of the program will be outdoors. Dress for the weather. We recommend you bring binoculars; however, rentals are available at the Visitor Center. Pre-registration required; register [here](#). Program fee: Free.

### **May 17: MN Campus, Carpenter’s Biggest Day**

4 am–10 pm. 12805 St. Croix Trail South, Hastings. Join us for a day full of birding on what is estimated to be one of the busiest times of year for birds at the CNC. Drop by for a couple of hours or stay and help identify birds for the majority of the day. More details to come closer to the program date. This program will be outdoors. Please dress for the weather. We recommend you bring binoculars; however, rentals are available at the Visitor Center. Program fee: Free. Pre-registration required; register [here](#).

### **May 31: MN Campus Bird Banding**

8:30 am–12 pm. 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. See birds up close and watch the experts band birds. 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’s BBL. Program fee: Free.

### **June 1: MN Campus Bird Hike**

8–10 am. 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. Learn to identify birds with local experts. Binoculars and field guides available or bring your own. Program Fee: \$5 per person or free for “Friends of CNC,” SCVBC and students. Pre-registration required. Call 651-437-4359.

### **June 8: WI Campus Bird Hike**

8–10 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 person or FREE for “Friends of CNC,” SCVBC and students. Pre-registration required. Call 651-437-4359.

## CRANE MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows>

### May 11: Spring Bird Walk

8–10:30 am. Join us to see songbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds along the Platte River Trail. The walk begins at Sedge Meadow Classroom near the Refuge Maintenance shop. Wear your walking shoes and bring binoculars. All birding levels are welcome, no experience is necessary, and binoculars are available to borrow. Accessibility: Restrooms available. Expect to walk on a crushed granite surfaced trail. Free and open to the public. Please direct all requests for special accommodation to [Refuge Headquarters](mailto:RefugeHeadquarters@fws.gov): 763–389–3323, or email [cranemeadows@fws.gov](mailto:cranemeadows@fws.gov).

## FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG

<https://saxzim.org/>

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

### May 4: Things that go Buzz, Croak, Hoot, & Bump in the Night

6–10 pm. Meet at the Lois King Education Center. We start our Spring and Summer Field Trip Season with the longest running field trip we offer. Though it still may approach 30 degrees during the night, spring in the Bog is full of life; and dusk is a great time to see and hear some of the unique critters. On this evening field trip, we will listen for early-season frog species, American Bittern, Wilson’s Snipe, American Woodcock, and search for Great Gray Owls. Plan on bringing a head lamp or flashlight, as well as mud boots, for this field trip. Register for this field trip [here](#).

### May 8, 15, 22, & 29: Warbler Wednesdays

6 am–12 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center Parking Lot. Warblers are the target of this weekly field trip. We hope to see and hear flashy warblers, cryptic wetland species, and even prairie birds. Our trips are a good introduction to summer birding in the Sax-Zim Bog and routinely document 80–100 species during a morning of birding! Join us each Wednesday to see and learn about the diverse bird communities that make the greater Sax-Zim Bog area such an amazing and important collection of habitats.

Register for this field trip here:

[Warbler Wednesday #1 May 8](#)

Register for this field trip here:

[Warbler Wednesday #2 May 15](#)

Register for this field trip here:

[Warbler Wednesday #3 May 22](#)

Register for this field trip here:

[Warbler Wednesday #4 May 29](#)

### May 18: Waffles and Warblers Field Trip

6 am–12 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center Parking Lot. Who doesn’t like Warblers and better yet, who doesn’t like Waffles? Join us for this one-of-a-kind field trip, where we will be searching for warblers in the morning and then enjoying waffles in the afternoon! Waffle will be served as a potluck-details to be announced. Register [here](#).

### May 11 & 25: Songbird Saturdays

6 am–12 pm. Meet at Faith Lutheran Church 5697 Hwy 7, Culver. Expanding Warbler Wednesdays to Saturdays. At this new location we hope to see and hear flashy warblers, cryptic wetland species, but we will be visiting the south end of the greater Sax-Zim Bog ecosystem to do so. This field trip will be a great way to see more of the region and perhaps discover a few new locations for your birding forays to the region during the summer months. Note: This field trip will not be meeting at the Welcome Center. Register for this field trip here: [Songbird Saturday #1 May 11](#). Register here: [Songbird Saturday #2 May 25](#)

### June 9: Lesser Visited Sites Series: Creek Road Bog

10 am–3 pm. Meet at the Lois King Education Center. Join us for Part 1 of a 4 Part Field Trip series featuring lesser visited or sites not well known to most visitors to the greater Sax-Zim Bog! These field trips will feature bushwhacking, exploring little known landscapes, and will consider a wide range of species, especially those indicative of the sites. Our first trip features one a Head Naturalist Clinton’s favorite stretches of underexplored bog, the Creek Road Bog. This smaller section of bog is east of the Floodwood Bog and attached to the southernmost reaches of the Toivola Swamp. What will we find? Join us to find out! Register here: [Lesser Visited Sites Series: Creek Road Bog](#).

### June 23: Lesser Visited Sites Series: Sax Road Wetland Restoration

10 am–3 pm. Meet at the Lois King Education Center. Part 2 features a new-to-FOSZB location. As part of the large wetland bank purchase, Friends of Sax-Zim Bog was able to acquire a newly restored wetland complex, east of Sax Road. Uncommon wetland nesting birds like American Bittern and Marsh Wren have been utilizing this property, not to mention lots of waterfowl in migration. While there has been some investigation of this wetland, there is much more to discover. Register [here](#).

### June 30: Lesser Visited Sites Series: Admiral Road Cedar Swamp

10 am–3 pm. Meet at the Lois King Education Center. Part 3 features a lovely stand of Eastern White Cedar that most visitors see along Admiral Road, but very few step foot into. Eastern White-cedar ecosystems are much more common along the North Shore of Lake Superior, so while this habitat is not that uncommon in Northeastern Minnesota, it is not very common in the Sax-Zim Bog. Register [here](#).

## LOWRY NATURE CENTER- THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria.

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

### May 18 & June 15: Bird Banding

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

### May 19 & June 16: Raptors Up Close

2:30–4 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. Free. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

### May 20 & 27: Mondays are for the Birds

7–9 am. Join naturalist Kirk on this popular series of Monday morning hikes at the Lowry Nature Center to look for birds. All levels of birders welcome. Beginners will learn a lot from more experienced birders on the hike and everyone will learn along the way. If you need binoculars, you will be able to borrow a pair from the nature center. This is a great opportunity to learn the trails and find out where various species are seen in the park.

## MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

<https://moumn.org/>

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

### May 5: Any Body Can Bird

7:30 am. An early May field trip through Otsego County Park (Wright County) and Woodland Trails Regional Park (Sherburne County). Mike Lehrke, who uses a wheelchair to get around, will be leading the group, but you'll soon find that this doesn't stop him from enjoying birds and their habitats. As a local, Mike knows the resident birds of these two locations well, and we will no doubt encounter many migrants along the way. Registration required. For more information and registration, visit the [registration page](#).

### May 18: Ney Nature Center

7:30 am. Join us as we explore this under-birded area of the Minnesota River valley. The Center has a variety of habitats: wooded ravines, a mix of mature hardwoods and conifers, open fields/grasslands, Minnesota River valley bluffs and nearby wetlands. This should provide us with a respectable list in mid-May. The group will meet at the Education Building & Office parking area. Registration required. Leader: William Marengo. For more information and registration, visit the [registration page](#).

### May 19: Warbler Walk at Stanley Eddie Park

7 am. Join Tony Lau for a morning hike through the deciduous woods at Stanley Eddy Park Reserve (South Unit, at the trailhead off of Rhoades Ave. NW aka CR2). During this time of year, we can expect to find many breeding species for this site, most notably Cerulean Warbler, but migrants will also be passing through. Registration required. For more information and registration, visit the [registration page](#).

### June 1: SE Minnesota & Beaver Creek Valley SP

6 am. The beautiful river bluffs of Southeast Minnesota are home to not only to astounding views, but rich in birding opportunities. Such specialties of this part of the state include Cerulean, Prothonotary, Yellow-Throated, Hooded (rare), and Blue-Winged Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Acadian Flycatcher, Ruffed Grouse, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmouse and much more. Registration required. For more information and registration, visit the [registration page](#).

### June 16: Lake Rebecca Park Reserve

6:30 am. Join us for a walk through the remnant Big Woods and wetlands of Lake Rebecca Park Reserve. This location is a known summering site for Cerulean and Blue-Winged Warbler, Ovenbird, Clay-Colored Sparrow, both cuckoos, and Orchard Oriole. Common Ravens have also taken up residence here and in nearby areas. Registration required. For more event information and registration, visit the [registration page](#).

## MN RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER

[www.mrvac.org](http://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](mailto:EgretCMan@msn.com).*



*Golden-Crowned Kinglet, by Lon Baumgart*

**May 5: Rapids Lake Unit Visitor Center**

8–10:30 am. Meet at 15865 Rapids Lake Road, Carver. May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds to study. We'll observe some warblers that stop at the Refuge during their spring migration, along with some species that nest there. Bring your binoculars and a field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website [here](#).

**May 19 & June 2: Bass Ponds Trailhead**

8–10:30 am. Meet at 2501 E 86th., Bloomington. May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds to study. We will be searching for birds that visit the Refuge during spring migration. With luck we'll observe some warblers that stop at the Refuge, along with some species that nest there. Bring your binoculars and a field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website [here](#).

**May 12 & June 16: MCNWR Visitor Center**

8–10:30 am. Meet at 23815 American Blvd E., Bloomington. May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds to study. We will be searching warblers that stop at the Refuge during spring migration, along with some species that nest there. Bring your binoculars and a field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website [here](#).

**June 29: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge Trailhead**

8–10:30 am. Meet at 9500 Old Cedar Ave. S. Bloomington. May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds to study. We will be searching warblers that stop at the Refuge during spring migration, along with some species that nest there. Bring your binoculars and a field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Registration is required on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website [here](#).

**May 16 & 17: Lake County Birding Days**

6 am. On this trip we will spend time looking for migrants along the shores of Lake Superior in Lake County. Some of the locations we may bird include George Crosby Manitou, Tettegouche, and Gooseberry Falls State Parks, Beaver Bay and Castle Danger Sewage ponds, Black Beach and Bay side parks, Iona's Beach SNA, and a number of birding locations in and around Two Harbors. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members. Please contact Craig Mandel to register: 952-240-7647.

**June 13 & 14: Washington County Birding Days**

7 am. Join us as we explore Washington County. We'll be searching for specialty birds that nest in the county. Some of the locations may include Lake Elmo Regional Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, Afton & William O'Brien State Park, Grey Cloud Dune, Crystal Spring, and Falls Creek SNA. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members. Contact Craig Mandel to register: 952-240-7647.



*Fox Sparrow, by Allan Meadows*

### MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK — THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

10368 W River Rd, Brooklyn Park

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

**May 11: Early Morning Bird Walk**

6–8 am. Search for birds and the insects they might be eating on this gentle walk along the Mississippi River. We will look and listen for migratory warblers and other songbirds while visiting the dam, forest edge, and marsh. Binoculars provided. All levels of interest welcome. Reservations required by two days prior [here](#). Fee: \$6.00

**May 11: OUT Looking for Birds**

9–11 am. Happy Bird Day! Build relationships and community with birds and other queer folks. All levels of interest are welcome on this walk to look for and listen to birds. Binoculars provided. This is an intergenerational program designed to create space for queer individuals and families to connect. For more information go [here](#).

**RIVER BEND NATURE CENTER**

1000 Rustad Rd., Faribault.

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

**June 1: Bagels & Birds**

10–11 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/>

*Note: For complete details of these events, go to the SPAS website above.*

### May 4: Beginning Birding, Katherine Abbott Park

8:30–10:30 am. 1000 Lincolntown Ave, Mahtomedi. Meet in front of the Katherine Abbott Park Building adjacent to the parking lot. Varied habitat includes two small ponds, a mixture of oak and pine forest, and a section of prairie, making it a good location for a variety of birds. Several overlooks allow for long distance viewing of shorebirds and ducks. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised. No registration needed. Leaders Greg Burnes [gburnes@comcast.net](mailto:gburnes@comcast.net) and Neil Carlson, [ngcarlson0@gmail.com](mailto:ngcarlson0@gmail.com) 763-245-3556.

### May 5: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge

7:30–11 am. 9500 Old Cedar Ave S., Bloomington. One of the very best birding locales in the state. We'll check the area between Old Cedar Avenue and the Bass Ponds. The Minnesota River flyway makes this a great spot for migrating passerines and waterfowl. Approximately two miles on gravel, dirt, or paved trails and wooden boardwalk, with some small, gradual hills. No registration needed. Leader: Paul Spreitzer 651-808-2147 or [paul.spreitzer@gmail.com](mailto:paul.spreitzer@gmail.com)

### May 7: Snail Lake Regional Park

8–10 am. 4191 Snail Lake Blvd, Shoreview. Wetlands and woodlands with lots of edges make this a good birding site. Meet in the parking lot at Snail Lake picnic area/boat launch/beach parking lot; second entrance, past Mackubin Street intersection. No registration needed. Approximately 1.5 miles on paved trails with small, gradual hills. Leaders: Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 and Terri Walls.



*Golden-winged Warbler, by Richard Gotz*

### May 14: Rachel Lilly Preserve

7–9 am. Dodge Nature Center, 656 MN-110, Mendota Heights. Don't miss this gem. Many possible sightings await you at this little-known preserve. Distance up to two miles on grass trails with small, gradual hills. No facilities. Enter from Hwy 110; bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn. No registration needed. Leader: Linda Whyte 651-815-7045.

### May 15: Beginning Birding, Silverwood Park

2–4 pm. Meet at the doors leading into the Visitor Center from the parking lot. 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 also be introduced to basic birding techniques and tools, including digital resources. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars; a few extra pairs will be available. No registration needed. Will range from 1-1.5 miles. Leaders: Jen Miller [birdingjen@gmail.com](mailto:birdingjen@gmail.com) and Liz Richards.

### May 16: Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

7–10 am. 15501 Murphy Lake Blvd, Savage. One of the best birding areas in Twin Cities Metro. Focus is on songs and calls of nesting birds in a hardwood forest as well as spring migrants. Hooded Warbler is a target species. Head south from Minneapolis on 35W, take Exit 2 for Burnsville Pkwy, turn L on Burnsville Pkwy., go 2.1 miles. Turn right on Burnsville Pkwy W., go 1.6 miles. Continue straight ahead on Hanrehan Lake Blvd., go 1.1 miles. At the traffic circle take second exit onto Murphy Lake Blvd., go 0.1 mile. Turn left into park. Meet in parking lot. No registration needed. Bill Stjern, [norskestar@comcast.net](mailto:norskestar@comcast.net) 651- 458-1542.

### May 18: Lebanon Hills Regional Park

7:30–11 am. Join friendly birders seeking the sounds and colors of springtime in a section of this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. We will walk maintained woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. Meet in parking lot at the Holland Lake entrance of the park. From St. Paul follow 35E South to exit 97A for Pilot Knob Rd. Turn right on Pilot Knob, go 2.8 miles. Turn L on Cliff Rd., go 1 mile. Turn R onto Lexington Ave S., go 0.2 miles into parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Drinking water and bug dope advised. Registration not needed. Approximately 3-4 miles on maintained dirt and grass trails with moderate to steep hills. Accessible restrooms and drinking fountain at shelter. Strenuous, due to distance and hilly terrain. Leader: Paul Spreitzer 651-808-2147 [paul.spreitzer@gmail.com](mailto:paul.spreitzer@gmail.com)

**May 19: Swede Hollow Park**

7–9 am. St. Paul Audubon Society joins with [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) and [Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) to offer this great spring birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what spring migrants might be passing through the Hollow. Those who do not want to walk the route can bring a folding chair and join Kiki Sonnen for a “bird sit” opportunity at the meeting spot. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow. Meet at the entrance to Drewry Tunnel at Swede Hollow Park across from 622 Beaumont St. East, St. Paul. 1.5 miles on rolling paved paths. Mostly flat, with a short, moderate decline at the start and incline at the end. No toilet on site. Leaders: Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 [kesid@aol.com](mailto:kesid@aol.com) and Chase Davies [Rockybirder@gmail.com](mailto:Rockybirder@gmail.com)

**May 21: Maplewood Nature Center**

7–9 am. This is an opportunity to experience the trails, sights, and sounds of Ramsey County’s Maplewood Nature Center. 2659 E. 7th St., Maplewood. On Century Avenue, look for the Nature Center sign, and turn west onto East 7th St. Meet in parking lot. Registration not needed. Approximately 0.7–1.0 mile. Mostly flat, packed dirt trails, and possibly composite boardwalk. Porta-potty near parking lot. Leader: Neil Carlson [ngcarlson0@gmail.com](mailto:ngcarlson0@gmail.com) 763-245-3556.

**May 28: William O’Brien State Park**

7–9 am. We will follow the grass trails along the forest’s edge, move along the trail through the walk-in stop at the Beaver Pond. We may hear Wood Thrush sing, and then search for wrens and flycatchers. 16821 O’Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix. Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot. Follow Hwy. 95 North of Marine St. Croix and turn left into the park entrance. The visitor center is the first left and right after entering the park; follow the signs. Note: Annual or daily MN State Park pass required; if you don’t have one, please arrive early so you can use the self-serve kiosk. Email leader if you need to borrow a pair of binoculars. Grass trails with one short but steep climb and decent. 1.5 – 2 miles. Restrooms in the Visitor Center. Greg Burnes [gburnes@comcast.net](mailto:gburnes@comcast.net) 612-205-3071.

**June 4: Afton State Park**

7–9 am. A rich variety of habitats. The target bird for this trip is the Dickcissel. Trip starts at the 50<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot. Take I-94 west from St. Paul to exit 253 (MN-95 S/ Manning Ave S). Travel south for 3.9 mi. Turn left (east) on 40<sup>th</sup> Street S. Go 2.4 mi to Trading Post Trail S. Go 1 mi. Turn left onto 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Go 0.9 mi. Afton State Park parking lot on right. No registration needed. 1.3 miles on grass and dirt trails. Some gradual small hills. Porta-potty available at parking lot. Leader: Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 [mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com)

**June 9: Beginning Birding, Battle Creek Park**

8–10 am. Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. St. Paul Audubon is collaborating with the [St. Paul Library](#) and the [Urban Birding Collective](#) to offer this beginning birding field trip. 2350 Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood. From McKnight Rd turn east onto Upper Afton Rd., drive 0.2 mi, turn right, destination will be on the right. Meet at the parking lot next to the off-leash dog park. Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat, water, sunblock, and bug dope. Loaner binoculars will be available. Approximately 0.7–1 mile on paved and maintained grass surfaces with small gradual hills. Porta potty is available at dog park. Restrooms available at Park Pavilion across Upper Afton Road. Required registration and limited to 15 participants. Note: Registration link available on SPAS website after June 1. Leader: Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 [mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com)

**June 11: Bobolinks at Battle Creek Park**

7–9:30 am. A critical nesting area, which we have been working to preserve. It is next to Battle Creek Park, managed by Corrections, with restricted public access. Contingent on Corrections approval, we will carpool from the park into a restricted area where we hope to hear and see Bobolinks, Henslow’s Sparrows, and other grassland birds. 2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood. Meet in the South Battle Creek parking lot. From I-94 E take exit 246B for McKnight Rd S., go 0.2 mi. Merge onto McKnight Rd S, go 1.2 mi. Turn left (east) onto Lower Afton, go 0.2 mile, turn left into the South Battle Creek parking lot. Note: Details for this trip may change. Check SPAS website before attending. For further information on this venue, go to this [website](#). Leader: John Zakelj [jzakelj@yahoo.com](mailto:jzakelj@yahoo.com)

**June 16: Carpenter Nature Center**

8–10 am. Carpenter is a beautiful nature park on a bluff overlooking the St. Croix River. We will explore a variety of habitats looking for late migratory warblers and summer residents and adapt our route based on conditions and what is being seen in the park. 12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings. From St Paul, take US-10 E/US-61 S to 120th St S in Cottage Grove. Turn left onto 120th St S, go .7 mi, 120th St S turns right and becomes Morgan Ave S, go 0.2 mi. Turn left onto 122nd St S, go 1.5 mi. Turn right onto St Croix Scenic Byway/St Croix Trail S, go 0.5 mi. Turn left, go 0.2 mi. Meet at the Visitor Center. Please bring your binoculars and bird book. If you need binoculars, email Greg before the trip and he will bring an extra pair for you. No registration needed. Paths either pavement or wood chip, with moderate hills. About 1.5 miles. Leader: Greg Burnes [gburnes@comcast.net](mailto:gburnes@comcast.net) 612-205-3071.

### June 18: Silverwood Regional Park

7–9 am. 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. 2500 Cty. Rd. E, St. Anthony. From 35W, take Cty. Rd. D/37th Ave. west, turn north (right) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on Cty. Rd E. for ~1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the large main parking lot. No registration needed. Approximately 1.5 miles on paved and gravel trails with small, gradual hills or on a level grassy area. Benches available. Indoor restrooms, water, and café on site. Leader: Mark Gilbertson.

### June 22: Phalen & Round Lakes

8–10 am. Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. St. Paul Audubon is collaborating with the [St. Paul Library](#) and the [Urban Birding Collective](#) to offer this beginning birding field trip. 1980 E. Shore Drive, Maplewood. Exit MN-36 onto US-61 South. Go 1.2 miles to Frost Ave. Turn left onto Frost. Go 0.6 miles to traffic circle. Take first exit onto E. Shore Drive. Go 0.2 miles. Turn right to stay on E. Shore Drive. Go 500 ft to Boat Ramp parking lot. Meet in parking lot. Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat and water; sunblock and bug dope advised. Loaner binoculars will be available. Required registration and limited to 15 participants. Registration link available on SPAS website after June. 1.5-mile asphalt route includes low gradual slopes, Porta Potty at parking lot. Leader: Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 [mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com)

### June 25: Reservoir Woods, Roseville

7–9 am. Summer birding is more relaxed and presents possibilities for observing behaviors different from other times of year. Now they are briefly settled on family territories. Birders have opportunities for lingering identifications and group observations at a summer-time relaxed pace. This slower pace is also ideal for beginning birders to learn and experience the basics to locate, describe, and identify birds. Meet at the Roseville Woodview Off-Leash Dog Area parking lot, between Rice and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. Park snugly in the small parking lot or street park on Mackubin St. directly across Larpenteur from the dog area parking lot. Registration not needed. Approximately 1.2-1.7 miles on paved paths. Porta potty at the parking area. Leaders: Neil Carlson [ngcarlson0@gmail.com](mailto:ngcarlson0@gmail.com) 763-245-3556 and Mark Gilbertson.



### June 29: Phalen and Round Lakes

8–10 am. St. Paul Audubon Society joins with [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) and [Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) to offer this opportunity to explore the NW corner of Phalen Park including Round Lake. Along the way we'll look for both woodland and water birds. Beginners are most welcome. 1980 E. Shore Drive, Maplewood. Exit MN-36 onto US-61 South. Go 1.2 miles to Frost Ave. Turn left on to Frost. Go 0.6 miles to traffic circle. Take first exit onto E. Shore Drive. Go 0.2 miles. Turn right to stay on E. Shore Drive. Go 500 ft to boat ramp parking lot. Meet in parking lot. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised. No registration needed. 1.5-mile asphalt route includes low gradual slopes, Porta potty at parking lot. Leaders: Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 [Kesid@aol.com](mailto:Kesid@aol.com) and Cathy Croghan.



*Mourning Warbler, by Richard Gotz*

## ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

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

### May 6 & 9: Kutzky Park

Noon–1 pm. Near downtown Rochester this park comes alive with migrating warblers, vireos, orioles, and more every Spring. Join us for a walk at the peak of migration. Arrive and leave as your schedule requires. Walks start near the picnic shelter. Later arrivals can locate the group along the creek between 11th and 16th Ave NW. Additional dates and times will likely be added as migration starts. Leader: Lance Vrieze.

### May 8 & 13: Birding at Kutzky Park

6:30–7:45 am. Near downtown Rochester this park comes alive with migrating warblers, vireos, orioles, and more every spring. Join us for a walk at the peak of migration. Arrive and leave as your schedule requires. Walks start near the picnic shelter. Later arrivals can locate the group along the creek between 11th and 16th Ave NW. Additional dates & times will likely be added as migration starts. Leader: Mike Degerstrom.

### May 11: BIG Birding Day

6:30 am–4:30 pm. This year's event takes place at the peak of spring migration so we should see a wide variety of birds. We'll survey several local habitats that include marshy wetlands, lake shore, woods, and prairies. - No pre-registration needed. To participate check out the day's schedule on the ZVA website [here](#) and simply show up at one of the locations listed. Bring binoculars, water, your own lunch/snacks, and insect repellent if desired. Be prepared to hike over uneven ground. Leaders: Lance Vrieze, Mike Degerstrom, Brendan Lanpher, Dave Gross, & Sandy Hokanson.

### May 12: Hok-si-la Park

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

### June 1: Quarry Hill Nature Center

9 am. Join leaders Terry & Joyce Grier 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. Walks usually last 60-90 minutes. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

### June 8: Bird Song Walk at Chester Woods

6:45–9 am. With the Spring migration over, birds are busily defending territories, nesting, and raising young birds. The birds are difficult to see but very vocal. This trip will focus on learning many of the songs and calls of the local breeding birds. Meet in the boat landing parking lot at [Chester Woods Park](#). Leaders: Mike Degerstrom & Dave Gross.



*Fox Sparrow, by Les Gunderson*

## New MOU Members

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

Laura Baxley, *Minneapolis, MN*  
Brittany Caffey, *New Hope, MN*  
Robert Fox, *St. Paul, MN*  
Patti Grgic, *Elkhart Lake, WI*  
Thomas Higley, *Swall Meadows, CA*  
Mary and Jim Johnston, *Woodbury, MN*  
Sandy Kurkowski, *Lino Lakes, MN*  
Ray Mielke, *Minneapolis, MN*  
Paul and Brigitte Norstad, *Plymouth, MN*  
Linda Seifert, *Emily, MN*  
Karen Voz, *St. Stephen, MN*  
Steve Winslow, *Elk River, MN*

# Birder Bio: Kathrynne Baumtrog



## **Tell us about yourself.**

Hello! My name is Kathrynne Baumtrog, and I am from Minneapolis. I currently work for the Minneapolis Fire Department and Hennepin County Medical Center. Birding helps me deal with stress from work and gets me outside, dosing up on Vitamin N — as in Nature. I look forward to retirement. Then I can go birding more often!

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

I have always loved the outdoors and birds. My husband Paul and I got serious about birding sometime in 2017, and now we are quite devoted.

## **What is the main attraction of birding for you?**

I believe that we need good qualitative and quantitative data for habitat and species preservation. Birds are such an important part of life here on earth — a sort of meter for environmental health and awareness. The added bonus of beautiful songs, splendid colors, and interesting behaviors is always appreciated too.

## **How did you originally become acquainted with the MOU?**

I was introduced to the MOU by other birders. My husband and I love the MBW trips and from these were learned more. We discovered the Paper Session and the Spring Primer and all the great information these events bring forward into awareness. I also like the sheer amount of data in the records. Bob Janssen's work *Birds in Minnesota* really helps both new and seasoned birders.

## **Where are your favorite places to bird inside or outside Minnesota?**

We are fortunate that we have seen and birded all of Minnesota's 87 counties. Now our goal is to see 100 species in all 87, just to keep us out and about. What an incredible state! The MBW trips with Kim Eckert are excellent! We also prioritize our regular bird hikes with Craig Mandel at the MN Valley NWR. Such an excellent way to begin a day.

## **What is your favorite birding style (i.e., by yourself, with others, etc.)?**

Well, I like birding with others, because more eyes raise the odds of seeing the birds. I have also learned so much from all of those that I have met through birding. Birders are very friendly people in my experience and love to offer helpful tips and knowledgeable advice. Although sometimes it is nice to be out — just Paul and I — and find some magical space with great birds or cool bird behavior.

## **What is your favorite bird or bird family?**

Chickadees are perhaps one of my favorites. They are here year-round, eat at the feeders but are conservative in how much they take, warn every other bird of danger and then face the threat, sing cheery songs regardless of the weather. Just cool little balls of fluff!

## **Do you have any advice on how to be a better birder?**

Just get out there and give it a go. Group birding is where lessons are learned and experience is gained.

Then you can go out solo and test your skills. I am always amazed at how my confidence can greatly waiver when I am unsupervised. I like having someone else confirm or question a sighting.

## **What new bird would you most like to see?**

Well, I don't "chase," so just getting the number of species increased on my local lake is a main goal. A new bird for the lake is a win for me.

# MOU Board Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2024 (abridged)

by Darcy Pinotti, Recording Secretary

Note: Pending approval by the Board, abridged for the newsletter (ed.). Meeting held via Zoom.

Present: Justin Watts (president), Tom Tustison (records), Ann Kessen (treasurer), Michelle Terrell (past president), Anthony Hertzell (publications), Darcy Pinotti (recording secretary), Jennifer Vieth (education), Mark Lystig (finance), Gerald Hoekstra (newsletter editor), Cindy Smith (membership secretary), Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus (Savaloja grants), Liz Harper (awards), David Cahlander (website), Absent: Rob Daves, Kara Snow, Kate Kelnberger, Trey Weaver

## I. Old Business

- MOU finances: Justin and Michelle reported on exploration of Give to the Max, Giving Tuesday, or possible fund raiser for meeting existing obligations and expanding ability to support projects.
- Cindy will develop a report tracking when new members join to correlate our actions with member recruitment.
- Michelle: UMN archivist follow-up is in progress; update soon.
- Justin and Michelle are developing diversity and equity initiatives with Steve and Mary Wilson.

## II. Reports

### A. Treasurer's Report (Ann Kessen)

#### 1. MOU budget

- Income is as expected with membership on par with recent years, Paper Session \$500 more than expected. Donations half what we hoped for. Miscellaneous income: received a check for \$1800 for the Daily Birding Planner, bringing the planner close to its budget goal.
- Expenditures mostly as projected. The Paper Session \$600 over budget. Other expenses are as expected.
- Restricted funds
  - Savaloja Fund has taken in \$4030 so far this year in donations; book sale proceeds \$830.
  - Paid out Savaloja monies for previous years.
- Investments are up about \$20,000 since the last report.
- Acceptance of Treasurer's Report moved and approved

#### 2. Annual non-profit renewal

- We need to register with the attorney general's office annually in order to solicit and accept donations.
- Motion: "The Board of Directors certifies that it has assumed, and will continue to assume, responsibility for determining matters of policy, and have supervised, and will continue to supervise, the operations and finances of the organization. We further state that the information supplied is true, correct and complete to the best of our knowledge." Seconded and approved.

#### 3. MOU Field Trip leader reimbursement

Trey and Ann settled on \$100 per year to help cover the cost of gas for field trip leaders. Trey will dispense to field trip leaders at his discretion and will submit for reimbursement.

Motion: Add \$100 a year to the annual budget for this purpose. Seconded and approved.



Purple Finch, by Les Gunderson

#### 4. Managing Ameriprise Financial Accounts

- Appointing new officers to have access to the MOU Ameriprise accounts.

**Motion** (Mark Lystig): “Resolved that the following Board Members of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union (MOU): President, Past President, Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance Committee, be and are hereby authorized, directed and designated as Trustees to administer and manage the funds entrusted to them within Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. account with Client ID [redacted]. Further resolved that the (1) Treasurer or the (2) Chair of the Finance Committee are authorized to transfer funds from the Ameriprise account(s) to the business checking account of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union (currently with Wells Fargo, account [redacted]). Further Resolved that any transaction, other than disbursements authorized by the Treasurer or the Chair of the Finance Committee as above, involving changes in the investment of funds on behalf of MOU with Ameriprise Financial Service, Inc. must be in writing and signed by two of the Trustees identified in the previous paragraph; Further Resolved that specimen signatures will be provided to Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.”

- Mark will send signature copies to officers and to Darcy for her signature and then will then send it all to Ameriprise.



*Northern Flicker, by Thomas Burns*

#### B. Membership Report (Cindy Smith, Membership Secretary)

- MOU membership up by ten members since year’s end, including five life members. This brings us to a total of 802 members paying annual dues and 970 total paid members. Peak recent membership was in 2021 with 831 members paying annual dues and 996 total paid members.
- Web vs printed *Loon*: 897 members were eligible for a printed copy; 22% have elected paperless delivery.
- Ann asked about the postage due for returned copies of *The Loon*, which was discussed in the last board meeting. We mailed two issues of *The Loon* this fiscal year, and so far, return postage has cost \$17. This is much less than last year. Cindy follows up by email on the first return and phone call on the second return, sometimes resulting in corrections. A mailing error last year accounted for a large number of the returns. This does not appear to be a significant ongoing issue.

#### C. Committee Reports

##### 1. Education Committee (Jen Vieth, Co-chair)

- Spring Primer, April 6. Draft of flyer was sent to the Board.
- MN State Fair application submitted, pending MnDNR decision. Raptor Release booth is on schedule.
- MOU is co-hosting Hastings Area Birding Festival April 19.
- Junior Birder is also on the committee.
- Bell Museum partnership: Science night has a tentative volunteer. Justin has the bird hike coordination with six dates and volunteers.

##### 2. Savaloja Grant Committee (Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus, Chair):

- (Jen Vieth recused herself from discussion and vote.)
- Nine applications were received for consideration, requesting a total of \$22,420.89 in funds. Recommend funding for seven of the nine proposals, totaling \$11,999.70.
  - Carpenter Nature Center: Wood Thrush research; recommended \$2000 to nanotag WOTH

Springbrook Nature Center: 30 binoculars and field guides for kids; recommend \$2189.70  
My Bird Club: free and inclusive guided field trips for families; recommend \$1080  
National Loon Center/Northern Waters Land Trust: loon education program; recommend \$1700 partial funding.  
Pierz School District: Flying Free for children's education with multiple schools, including Raptor Center visits; recommend \$1300  
Urban Bird Collective: organizing Chimney Swift roost monitoring and LGBTQ+, BIPOC citizen science involvement; recommend \$1900  
Nature Connection/Headwaters Science Center: free raptor education; recommend \$1830

– Two proposals not recommending:

Bill Longley Historical Data Digitization Project. We couldn't make the minimum they need.

Brian Hiller/Bemidji State U: Purple Martin nest parasite research due to proposal concerns, not the subject.

– Discussion:

Is the Biology Bob Fund available for the Springbrook binocular request? No, this fund is intended for giving binoculars to students to keep.

Michelle disclosed that she is a walk leader for the Urban Bird Collective but not involved in this proposal.

Long-term, repeat applicants may be a consideration in funding recommendations, balanced by the benefit of the work they are doing.

Motion to accept the recommendation to fund seven programs at \$11,999.70 as requested by the committee seconded and approved.

## 2. Publications Committee (Anthony Hertz, Chair)

– Tony shared a report recommending printing of *The Loon* be split into color and black-and-white sections to save printing costs. The press can print color or b&w in 8-page sections. This will bring down to about \$4100 for printing per issue, four times a year.

– *The Loon* paper: It is printed on 100% recycled paper and environmentally friendly ink.

## III. Other Business

### A. Potential cost savings

– At the end of last year, the proposed budget was \$700 in the red, so we are looking at ways to help improve the budget and fund future development actions going forward.

– MOURC checklist printing

- The official Minnesota checklist, printed every five years, is a primary benefit of membership; no costs are incurred in other years. Reformatting the checklist to reduce the number of pages would reduce costs. Tony explained the checklist pages must be in multiple of four and has been using 32 pages; he has already reduced it to 28 pages and possibly could get it down to 24 without losing any content. If the cost is about \$1200, expect to save about \$200.

Action: Tony will change to a 28-page format for the MOURC checklist for future printings.

- Historic MOURC Annotated Checklists: the current checklist is available online, but if you don't have the hard copies, you don't have access to the history. Recommend putting past copies of the official annotated checklists online. Michelle knows someone who had been collecting prior versions. This is seen as a nice added value for members.

Action: Tom will organize available historic copies of prior MOURC checklists; Dave to add an archive folder on the website to make pdf versions available for reference.

### B. Paperless delivery of *The Loon* as default

– Printing and publication costs for *The Loon* were at about 58% of membership dues in 2021 and 94% in 2023. Printing costs are increasing, and we want to get back to the more sustainable 60%. We are doing this by reducing color printing in *The Loon*, increasing paperless adoption and increasing annual dues.

Motion: All new members signing up online be defaulted to paperless for all MOU publications and provided the option to opt-in for printed copy.

Discussion:

- The email notifying members of availability of *The Loon* offers the option to elect paperless or mailed delivery for future deliveries. This email automatically sets the paperless election. Members do not have a way to elect paperless for the first issue.

- Paperless adoption: 22% of membership receives digital delivery

- There are only 75-85 new members per year. Should we spend more effort increasing paperless adoption by current members for a larger impact?
  - Some members may not be aware of the paperless option; education may increase adoption.
  - Mail-in membership applications would not default to paperless but could still offer the option to choose their delivery preference. This accounts for those who do not have access to computer/internet, since their enrollment will be a paper application.
- Related action decision: David will make the email messages providing notification of new issues of *The Loon* similar to those announcing new issues of the newsletter — i.e., they will contain an icon with the cover that will allow for download of a pdf of that issue.



*Great Horned Owl, Richard Gotz*

#### C. Increase annual dues

- It has been 23 years since dues were increased. If we raise dues \$5, annual printing/mailing of *The Loon* will be back to 59% of dues. No concern was voiced with the increase for the Paper Session. Dues could be increased any time, providing the PayPal interface updates can be resolved. Justin proposes we track membership paperless elections to have a metrics-based solution to our increase in dues.

#### D. MOU website

Add paperless election to the account management on the “MOU My Account” page. There are challenges to investigate with tying paperless election an email address vs. a member ID. We do not have account IDs, and the paperless option is currently set by email address. Email addresses can change. This goes back to the website update.

#### E. Partnership updates

- Bell Museum activities: volunteer day, monthly walks, spotlight on bird event in May.
  - Hastings Earth Day Birding Festival: April 22.
  - Salt Lake Birding Weekend: 63 signups with four guides; Jason Frank is looking to recruit two additional guides for next year to avoid signup cap. He is printing checklists for the event and paying out of pocket.
- Motion to reimburse Jason Frank up to \$50 for the Salt Lake Birding event checklists seconded and passed.

### IV. Items for future business and other discussion:

- Next steps re dues increase? We want to address this before the August 3 meeting. Amount? \$5 is not receiving any negative feedback. Is there a need for advance notice? It was mentioned in the paper session, and \$5 should not be onerous for most members.
- Possible tiered membership? Consider adding a Green Membership Tier for paperless delivery and a second tier with higher dues to elect paper copies of *The Loon*. This will depend on working through the PayPal setup. Action: Justin and David will talk about resolving the membership to MOU database mapping on a call to more fully support paperless elections. Action: Cindy and Justin need to settle PayPal questions to improve for long term management: updates of old contact info and how to edit membership options and fees.
- Question of whether to sell MOU merch as a way to increase income. Michelle said the primary issue was understanding tax implications. Annual book donation and sales have several boxes of books each year that are donated and could be sold as merch. Action: Ann will research tax implications with Jen.

Next meeting: **Saturday, August 3, 2024**, 10:00 a.m.–noon.



# Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

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**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.

### MOU Officers

Justin Watts, *President*  
Rob Daves, *Vice President*  
Darcy Pinotti, *Recording Secretary*  
Cindy Smith, *Membership Secretary*  
Ann Kessen, *Treasurer*  
Michelle Terrell, *Past President*

### Editor of *MN Birding*

Gerald Hoekstra  
Gene Bauer, *Calendar Editor*

### Designer of *MN Birding*

Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

### Birding Hotline

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

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

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

## MOU Membership: New / Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

County \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories

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

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

### Please make a contribution to the Savaloja Grants

The Savaloja Grants supports research and other projects selected by the MOU for special attention. Your contributions help fund a better future for birds in Minnesota. You can add a contribution to your membership check.

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