



January 20, 2015

### Savaloja Grant Report

The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter and the Staring Lake Nature Center would like to thank the MOU for its grant of \$594 in 2014. With this grant and matching funds from MRVAC we were able to purchase 12 pair of Kingbird 6.5x32 Binoculars from Eagle Optics of Middleton, WI. They in turn matched that purchase with an additional 12 pair under their educational discount program. We then donated these binoculars to Staring Lake Nature Center in Eden Prairie.

<http://www.edenprairie.org/city-government/departments/parks-and-recreation/outdoor-center/group-outings-for-kids>



Stan Tekiela, pictured below, gave us the following report on how these binoculars are being used:

We have over 4,000 participants in our programs each year... They range in age from preschoolers to seniors. Many of our programs involved taking children and adults out to look at birds. The binoculars are being used by over 300 participants per year. Most of these are children who don't own binoculars. We use the binoculars nearly every week during the summer in camps to take the children for nature walks and see the birds. Our summer camps are for children ages 5 to 12 and serve the population of Eden Prairie.



Again, we'd like to thank the MOU for their grant. This is the second time that we've partnered with you to purchase binoculars for local nature centers. As long as Eagle Optics continues to offer their educational program of matching grants as well, we think this is a great way to help young people in our area to learn more about nature in general and birds in particular.

### **About MRVAC**

The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter (MRVAC) of the National Audubon Society was first organized on March 2, 1967. Currently MRVAC has about 1,300 members. Our membership area spans the Minnesota River valley from Bloomington to Henderson, just to the south and west of Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Our mission is to provide leadership in promoting environmental awareness, education and advocacy action, especially relating to the wildlife and habitats of the Minnesota River Valley.

[Mrvac.org](http://Mrvac.org)