

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
Savaloja Grant
Final Report
2015

Project Summary: Our nature centers had very poor binoculars that were easily broken and frustrating to use. Through this grant we were able to purchase a classroom set of binoculars that are easy for everyone to use. The binoculars have helped our programs tremendously. With hundreds of kids and adults using them in their first year, we expect the new set to last for many more years and provide a high-quality bird watching experience for thousands of children and adults.



Location Information: Our team of Three Rivers Park District naturalists, run nature-based programs at Kroening Interpretive Center in North Mississippi Regional Park in North Minneapolis and West Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park in Brooklyn Park, as well as in the community.

Audience: The students, schools, and public groups that we serve come from a very diverse background. The majority of the kids that used the new binoculars are in grades 4 – 8. The binoculars were a big hit at

family and adult programs where we were able to “hook” more people into birding. They were also used during the Urban Birding Festival in June, the Brooklyn Center Community Schools field trip, with Jenny Lind Elementary School, with Champlin Brooklyn Park Academy, during summer camps and the 4th grade Minneapolis Summer School bird class.



There were many memories made this past year with the new binoculars. Notably, one junior high school student told us that it was her first time using binoculars, she saw a bald eagle, and she had a great experience. Thank you, Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union, for this great opportunity!



Submitted by: Patty Maher, Outdoor Education Supervisor, 12/8/2015