



January / February 2014
Volume 51, Number 1

Inside this Issue

- 1** Conservation Column
- 2** Savaloja Grants Program New Members
- 3** MOU Calendar
- 4** MOU Membership Information



Sharp-tailed Grouse by John Sikkila

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union
 J. F. Bell Museum of Natural History
 University of Minnesota
 10 Church Street SE
 Minneapolis, MN 55455
 Email: mou@moumn.org
 Web: <http://moumn.org>
MN Birding is published bi-monthly
 Interim Editors: Anthony Hertzelt &
 Thomas Benjamin Hertzelt
 Designer: Thomas Benjamin Hertzelt

© 2013 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Minnesota Birding

Bird vs... Wait, What? Our Children & Grandchildren?

by *Don Arnosti*

The Superior National Forest Important Bird Area (IBA) is well-known as a hotspot of breeding for neotropical birds such as the Black-throated Blue, Canada, and Connecticut warblers. Boreal Owls and Northern Goshawks depend upon the mature forests of the area for their nesting and foraging. We think of most of this land as protected and well-managed by federal, state, and local natural resource agencies... right?

Current public forest management is guided by many laws and regulations that have been put in place over decades to protect the public interest in, as Aldo Leopold put it, "saving all the parts." This means that timber harvests and other forest management should not be directed solely at harvesting wood for area paper mills, but must consider and protect habitats for rare plants and animals, and sustain older forests upon which cavity-nesters like the Boreal Owl depend.

However, recent actions by the Minnesota legislature and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have underscored "revenue generation" as the primary objective for 2.5 million acres of forests, bogs, and remnant prairies scattered across northern Minnesota, trumping other statutes. Under legislative orders, the DNR is identifying which School Trust lands can generate revenue through sale, mining, increased logging, or lake-shore development. In addition, DNR is dropping regulations that protect older forests across all state managed forest lands, because it is "too costly" to have two sets of forest management regulations: one for Trust Lands and

another for those lands without this obligation to generate a profit.

What are School Trust Lands?

When Minnesota was first designated a territory, two sections of every township were set aside "in trust" to generate income to educate school children. Over the years, most of these parcels dotting our state have been sold for agriculture or development. Proceeds were deposited in a "Permanent School Trust Account" — a permanent endowment which currently provides less than 1% of our annual school funding. Lands that were not sold in the early years of statehood are concentrated in our northeastern forests and bogs and are managed by the DNR for timber, mining, wildlife, and recreation. These lands continue to generate funds for deposit — last year more than \$30 million — but some people want more.

These School Trust Lands comprise 2.5 million acres, including about half of our state forest lands, some designated old-growth forest, and many Wildlife Management and Scientific and Natural Areas. Several critical IBAs have large acreages in School Trust status: Superior National Forest, Sax-Zim Bog, and the Chippewa Plains each have more than 12% of their area in Trust. More than 86,000 acres of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness are School Trust Lands, as well.

A conflict can exist between sustainable natural resource management of this land, and the legal responsibility of trustees to generate maximum revenue for the school trust. Mining,

for example, is inherently destructive of nearly all other uses for the land, and is not sustainable by nature. Shoreland sold for property development would lose value as bird and wildlife habitat. Last year, the legislature and this administration made clear that generating maximum revenue trumps environmental conservation on these lands.

Over decades, Audubon Minnesota and our allies in bird conservation have fought hard to improve forest habitats for Northern Goshawks, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and many other species. We are working right now to improve habitats in northwestern Minnesota for Sharp-tailed Grouse and Upland Sandpiper found on remnant prairies threatened by gravel mining under these new policies. This destruction has got to stop!!

Our children and grandchildren need both an education AND a world full of birds and healthy habitats. Development and exploitation of school trust lands as a reliable revenue stream

to fund education is an outdated and unsustainable notion. We should agree to buy out the school trust interest in our public lands by making a deposit in the Permanent School Fund, and then manage the land sustainably — so our kids can have an education and an environment.

If you'd like more information on School Trust Lands, visit <http://mn.audubon.org/>. To join Audubon and our partners in our collective effort to protect these lands, please contact Don Arnosti, Audubon Minnesota Policy Director, for the latest update and to join others in speaking for the birds. Don can be reached at: darnosti@audubon.org or 612-718-3626.

Don Arnosti is Audubon Minnesota's Policy Director. He describes "Policy" as the work to connect one's beliefs with one's actions, individually and collectively. He has been doing so for over 25 years in Minnesota, working for Audubon and several other conservation organizations through the years.

The M.O.U. Welcomes Its New Members

Bradley Abendroth, *Savage MN*
Thomas Altman, *Shoreview MN*
Lois M Anderson, *Shoreview MN*
Kenneth Brennen, *Zimmerman MN*
John Bujan, *Minneapolis MN*
Judy Chucker, *St Louis Park MN*
Jerry & Carol Dirks, *Sauk Rapids MN*
John Eddleston, *Minneapolis MN*
Kate Maley, *Saint Paul MN*
Jane Moline, *Inver Grove Heights, MN*
Skip Mott, *North Oaks MN*
Edward Mullaney, *New Brighton MN*
Deborah Reynolds, *Minneapolis MN*
Paul Slotsve, *Maple Grove MN*
Sharon Soderlund, *Edina MN*
Brett Stembridge, *Blaine MN*
Molly Tuma, *Northfield MN*
Dan Unruh, *Duluth MN*
Tessa Whitmarsh, *Forest Lake MN*

Savaloja Small Grants Program

Every year the MOU supports several bird-related projects through the Savaloja Grants Program. This year grants ranged from \$700 to \$1400. Projects funded in 2013 included a native plant restoration of T.S Roberts Bird Sanctuary, color banding and blood analysis of nestling Peregrine Falcons, field guides and binoculars for a Young Naturalist Program, bird banding equipment for research banding at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center, and sterilizing equipment to make owl pellets safe for student dissections.

For 2014, MOU has up to \$8000 available to fund projects, including \$3000 from a donation to support projects that diversify Minnesota's birding community by recruiting or involving minorities and people of color. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to submit grant applications to the MOU for Minnesota projects that increase our understanding of birds, promote preservation of birds and their natural habitats, or increase public interest in birds, including in populations currently underrepresented in Minnesota's birding community.

Application information may be obtained by emailing grants@moumn.org, or going to http://moumn.org/grantinfo_2014.pdf.

The deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 31, 2014. Grant recipients will be notified by April 1, 2014.



Northern Cardinal, by Mary Graves

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			CBCs: Afton, ¹ Hibbing, Long Prairie, Mountain Lake, Philbrook, Windom, Pillager, Whitewater	²	³	MBW: Duluth; ⁴ CBCs: Alexan- dria, Isabella, Fredenberg, Wright County, Wabasha
CBCs: Eagle's ⁵ Nest Lakes	⁶	⁷	⁸	St. Paul ⁹ Audubon Monthly Chapter Meeting	Sax-Zim Bog ¹⁰ Birdathon	Sax-Zim Bog ¹¹ Birdathon
¹²	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵	MRVAC Trip: ¹⁶ Northeast Minnesota	MRVAC Trip: ¹⁷ Northeast Minnesota	¹⁸
Upper Mis- ¹⁹ sissippi River Winter Golden Eagle Survey	MRVAC Trip: ²⁰ Minnesota Valley NWR, Wilkie Unit	²¹	²¹	²³	²⁴	²⁵
²⁶	²⁷	Zumbro ²⁸ Valley Audubon Society Monthly Program	²⁹	³⁰	³¹	

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹
²	MRVAC Trip: ³ Minnesota Valley NWR, Wilkie Unit	⁴	⁵	⁶	⁷	⁸
⁹	¹⁰	¹¹	¹²	St. Paul ¹³ Audubon Monthly Chapter Meeting	Sax-Zim Bog ¹⁴ Birding Festival	Sax-Zim Bog ¹⁵ Birding Festival
Sax-Zim Bog ¹⁶ Birding Festival	¹⁷	¹⁸	¹⁹	MRVAC Trip: ²⁰ Southeast Minnesota	MRVAC Trip: ²¹ Southeast Minnesota	²²
²³	MRVAC Trip: ²⁴ Minnesota Valley NWR, Wilkie Unit	Zumbro ²⁵ Valley Audubon Society Monthly Program	²⁶	²⁷	²⁸	



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Bell Museum of Natural History
10 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 90155
Twin Cities, MN

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

Roy Zimmerman, President
Bob Bossert, Vice President
Tamara Holmer, Recording Secretary
Elizabeth Bell, Membership
Mark Lystig, Treasurer
Carl Greiner, Immediate Past President

Birding Hotlines

Statewide: 763-780-8890
Toll Free: 800-657-3700
North Shore: 218-834-2858
Northwest: 800-433-1888

MOU Contacts

Web site: <http://moumn.org>
President: president@moumn.org
Vice President: vicepresident@moumn.org
Membership Secretary: membership@moumn.org
Treasurer: treasurer@moumn.org
Recording Secretary: secretary@moumn.org
The Loon editor: editor@moumn.org
Minnesota Birding: newsletter@moumn.org
CBC compiler: cbc@moumn.org
Statewide RBA compiler: rba@moumn.org
Duluth RBA compiler: duluthrba@moumn.org
MOU Records Committee: mourc@moumn.org
Conservation Chair: conservation@moumn.org
Grants: grants@moumn.org
Youth Mentorship: mentorship@moumn.org
Field Trips: fieldtrips@moumn.org
All other MOU functions: mou@moumn.org

MOU Membership: New/Renewal

Name _____

E-mail address _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

County _____

Membership Categories

- Youth (under 18) \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Foreign (including Canada) U.S. \$35.00
- Family \$35.00
- Supporting \$75.00
- Corporate \$100.00
- Life, single \$500.00
- Life, joint \$700.00

Send to: Elizabeth Bell, MOU Membership Secretary
5868 Pioneer Road South
Saint Paul Park MN 55071-1143

Please make a contribution to the Savaloja Fund

The Savaloja Fund 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 include your contribution on your membership check. Amount: \$ _____