



Minnesota BIRDING

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A Big Year in Washington County Part I

by Ben Douglas

Like many other birders, I had goals at the start of 2017: visit new locations, take a few out of town trips, and find more species in my local patch. By early May the central focus, though, was county lifer birds. I began dropping everything at the ping of my cell phone to chase down any rarity that had dropped into the county, even while working doubly hard to find new birds of my own to share with others.

Washington County has pine forest in the north and deciduous forests with numerous restored prairie tracts to the south. We are gifted with two very large and diverse state parks (Afton and William O'Brien), and a county park system that is robust and loaded with great habitat. Key SNAs like Grey Cloud Dunes and Falls Creek are legendary for bird quality. Privately held conservation properties of Carpenter Nature Center, the Belwin Conservancy, and the Lee & Rose Warner Nature Center offer a fine collection of natural areas sitting on the eastern edge of the state. Add the St. Croix River valley, and it could be argued we have an ideal setup for a strong migration and vagrancy every year.

Compared with nearby Dakota and Hennepin Counties, Washington County has been underbirded. This year has shown how amazing the birding can be in Washington County when dedicated efforts coincide with good fortune, advantageous weather, birding technology, and generous friends.

I started the year on New Years Day tracking down some Lapland Longspurs — till then still missing from my county list — on a chilly wind-swept dirt road near Cottage Grove. By the beginning of April I had a respectable 224 lifetime species for the county. Not bad. Then, on the evening of April 14, I was messaged by Peter Nichols that a Cinnamon Teal had been found in the Stillwater area by

Joanna Eckles. The spot was minutes from my home and one I had just visited the week before in an effort to scout some new locations. By 7:00 the next morning I was hiking to the reported location in a light mist and dark skies that threatened a downpour at any minute. The directions in Joanna's eBird list took me right to the teal. I lingered long enough to get a group of friends on the bird, as well as to snag some photos with my Nikon P900. Liz Harper, in the early stages of working on a big year for the state; a trio of Bobs (Janssen, Williams, Dunlap); and a number of other birders showed up to take advantage of seeing what was according to MOU only the second county record for Cinnamon Teal.*

A few weeks later, doing a solo big day on the 29th, I was able to set the MOU month record for the county with 112 species. My list was missing a bird I thought I would be able to get, even though it is a challenging one for the county — Black-crowned Night-Heron. One had been reported by



Black-crowned Night-Heron, 3M Marsh, by Ben Douglas

Larry Sirvio nearly a week earlier. Thanks to a ping from Pete Nichols on May 2, I learned that the bird was still present at a wetland on 100th St. just east of Jamaica Ave. So I made my fourth attempt at this county lifer and found it while viewing from the road. Seconds later a Great Egret with an attitude swooped in and chased the bird out of view.

Two days later I was alerted by Erik Collins to a group of Willets up near Hugo in the northern part of the county. Erik had been notified by long-time county birder Bill Litkey (291 county species), who had found the birds near a farm pond. I had missed my chance last year so I was soon on the road with Pete Nichols, and we had them in sight within 30 minutes. According to MOU, this was only the sixth report of Willet in the county dating back to 1984. Not wanting to waste a trip north, Pete and I headed over to scope out Forest Lake. Fortune was with us. We picked up a distant Red-necked Grebe—for me, another county lifer!

On May 5, less than 24 hours after seeing the Willet and Red-necked Grebe, my phone went off again. Pete had followed up on a report from Julian Sellers of a Northern Mockingbird at the Belwin Conservancy and was on site

*Northern Mockingbird, Belwin Nature Conservancy
by Ben Douglas*



viewing the bird with Tristan Mann. My wife and I had just finished eating in Woodbury so we raced over to Belwin and had the nearly silent bird within ten minutes.

Things began to quiet down a bit from the county-lifer standpoint, but I was keenly interested in adding more year and life birds, so I conversed online with Bob Dunlap about Ruffed Grouse, as well as with Erik Collins and Pete about other potential birds. I put in multiple hiking trips to Falls Creek SNA and William O'Brien State Park in hopes of finding a drumming grouse, but no luck. Until May 10, on a hike at Afton State Park along Trout Brook Loop. This loop has been good historically for Summer Tanager and Wood Thrush, and that was actually what I was looking for. But after just a few hundred yards I heard the tail end of a thumping that made me freeze in place. I listened intently while staring into the thick woods. Nothing. I chalked it up to wishful thinking and moved on. But seconds later, the distinct sound of a drumming grouse fired up again. I heard

the deep wing thumps a few more times and quickly tapped out a message to Pete Nichols. It was great bonus bird found while hiking a trail looking for completely different species.

After finding the grouse, I had one of my more challenging audio identifications. On May 17 I was hiking at Lake Elmo Regional Park (my favorite home patch), where I had found an American Bittern just a week before at Eagle Point Lake. While listening to marsh sounds I heard one I couldn't pin down. It was a very soft cooing that evoked some type of dove, but considering the direction it could only have been a marsh bird or some non-avian noise. My mind raced to the few marsh birds I didn't know off the top of my head. Least Bittern came to mind first, Common Gallinule a close second. I took a sound recording and sent it to Pete, asking what he thought for a Least Bittern ID. We agreed that we needed to do some study on xeno-canto.org. After going through 70 clips I finally came to one that sounded close. The segment went onto my Facebook wall, and I asked Bob Dunlap for help. Without hesitation he identified it as a Least Bittern. The next evening Pete and I met there again and we were immediately greeted with the standard chuckle calls of a Least Bittern. Larry and Yoli Sirvio came by and they too were able to hear the bird. Although I returned a number of times, I was never able to get a visual of this bird, but it was county lifer #231.

On May 21 Pete and I drove a circuit of some locations that had historically provided shorebird sightings. Our search yielded nothing, until we happened upon a retention pond in an industrial park. Pete noticed a lone Wilson's Phalarope circling at the far end. Since this was only the ninth or tenth report for the county since 1966, that would have been enough in itself. I headed home and settled in to a movie with my wife, but minutes later I was pinged by Pete. He had continued searching for more shorebird spots and was looking at a group of Dunlins just south of Highway 94. I asked my wife if we could pause and take the five-minute trip for some Dunlins. We hopped in the car and in short order we pulled up to the spot. The first bird I trained my scope on was not a Dunlin, though, but a Short-billed Dowitcher! Pete was floored. This was a county lifer for him. And it turned out this wasn't the only Dunlin this spring. We found them in four other locations as well, thanks to a nearly constant deluge of rain over a two-week period.

Pete soon locked on a single Ruddy Turnstone as well, adding a third county life bird. It was the fourth or fifth county record for Ruddy Turnstone; there was a cluster of sightings in 2014 but before that none since 1978 and 1956. Then we spotted a White-rumped Sandpiper (only my second ever in the county), supplementing an already above-average shorebird total for the county. In the past I had always been forced to take trips to Lake Byllesby, Old Cedar Ave bridge, or a much further flung county to the west for these shorebird species. My county life total had now swelled to 234.

Driving to work the next day I considered taking the day off to search for more birds. But then I figured chalking up ten county birds since mid-April was already pretty great and that I probably shouldn't expect much more. Then, mid-morning Bob Dunlap pinged Pete and me. He was at the dowitcher spot and now had a Stilt Sandpiper. Immediately after work I drove home, changed, and made a beeline for the Stilt. This was the first spring record for the county! After viewing the Stilt, I decided to do some hunting on my own and visited a few spots north of I-94, but I soon got word from Erik Collins announcing a group of American Avocets and a Hudsonian Godwit up in the Forest Lake



American Avocets, Forest Lake, by Ben Douglas

area. They were in a field that had been tiled, but when a lot of rain comes in a short period of time, you still get a nice shorebird spot for a narrow window of time. I motored up to Forest Lake via Manning Trail and pulled in behind Erik, who was still scouring the site, and got on the birds. These six avocets account for only the third report of the species in the MOU database and the first in 21 years. The godwit was the sixth. Several other birders soon appeared and were also able to add these challenging birds to their county life lists. Unfortunately, they were gone the following day. Only the Hudsonian Godwit remained. My life list for the county had now grown to 237. My luck had surely reached its zenith!

That was true for only about 48 hours. While I was out hunting old locations for Bell's Vireo I happened upon my lowest hanging fruit for the county — Tufted Titmouse — calling from a yard as I passed by a farmhouse just south of Afton State Park. These do occur every year in the county, but not in numbers that would justify considering them easy. For me it was another test of my listening skills. Earlier in my birding life I would scarcely have recognized the “Peter, Peter, Peter” of the Tufted Titmouse, but by this point I'd gone to Frontenac Cemetery in Goodhue County often enough to recognize it.

The next day, May 26, Erik Collins contacted me again, saying that Bill Litkey had found a Snowy Egret in the same ag pond where we had seen the American Avocets. I jumped into the car again, but a few minutes later I was notified that the bird had left the area. Pete Nichols joined Bill and a few others and began providing me with updates while searching the nearby area to the north. Good news came soon. They spotted the bird from another street that bordered a

farm. It was hanging out with a Great Egret. I was about 25 minutes away. Fortunately, Pete is the kind of guy that has as much fun helping others get a lifer as getting one himself. He waited there by himself while I drove over and he had me on it with his scope seconds after I jumped out of the car. Without the help of Bill, Erik, and Pete, adding this one to my list would have been pretty tough. It turned out to be a one-day wonder of a bird. There were no further sightings after the 26th.

As the weekend rolled around again I was looking forward to moving on from chasing rarities to trying to find new birds myself. Kevin Manley and I started out early at William O'Brien State Park, finding quality birds like Prothonotary Warbler and Veery, but not our target Cerulean Warbler or Yellow-billed Cuckoo, despite being in what were historically good locations. We moved on to Falls Creek SNA, again finding good birds, and I picked my FOY Acadian Flycatcher. Finally, at our third spot, the newly opened Crystal Springs SNA, which had already been well scouted by Liz Harper, Kevin found the toughest Cerulean—a silent female—working over a tree in full leaf. I was able to get photos of the bird, which pushed me to 239. I later realized that the county now had yet another spot for breeding Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Pine Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler.

While Kevin and I were eating lunch in Scandia, Pete Nichols messaged that he had a lead from Michael Mann on a Western Kingbird at Afton State Park. It had originally



Ben Douglas (pointing), with Tony Lau, Pete Nichols, and Greg Jahner. Photo by Julie Winter Zempel

been reported by the Albin family while hiking in one of the north prairies. The chase was on again. This time I decided to wait till the next day, though. I had just finished birding with Kevin seven hours straight. The next morning I headed out before 7:00, hoping to beat the heat. Following information on the Albin eBird report and using my own knowledge of the north prairie I guessed at what would be the most likely location for the bird. I found it within seconds of

stepping into the target zone. (Kevin Smith later reported two Western Kingbirds at this spot.) On my way out I ran into Larry Sirvio studying a trail map, so I turned around to get him on the bird. Part of the fun of this crazy run of birds in the county was running into birding friends and acquaintances and helping them get on a bird I had helped find.

On the 29th I woke up to my birthday and was planning to spend a quiet day with my wife. That ended quickly when Bob Dunlap pinged me early in the morning to say that he and Erik Collins had found a Sanderling with some other sandpipers in a flooded field near Lake Elmo Airport. Melissa and I postponed breakfast for a quick chase, and we quickly found the bird for a birthday county life bird (#241). We then had our breakfast and returned home to relax and figure out what else to do to celebrate my birthday. I hadn't sat down for more than five minutes when I got a ping from Pete saying that Kevin Manley had photos of a Yellow-breasted Chat at Afton State Park. This was only the third county record. My wife smiled with resignation, It's your birthday, you can go birding. I was in the car in minutes and on my way to Afton State Park, where I joined others already there. We dipped on a two-hour search, and I returned home thinking it was the first dip of the year. None of us could let it go, though. We returned that evening and about 8 o'clock we finally got a vocalization and a quick flight display as the chat disappeared into a thicket.

That is how May ended for me: 20 county life birds. Pete Nichols and I soon realized that we had just blown past his 2016 eBird record of 220 species in a single year before June. The hunt was on to find out how many more we could get before the end of the year.

[NB: The story of Ben's amazing Washington County year will continue in the March/April issue.]

*All citations of records here derive from the MOU database. Since some MOU records do not record details concerning location, it is not always clear whether successive sightings refer to the same or different birds. In the case of the Wilson's Phalarope records mentioned later in this article, for instance, I know the details of the two birds reported on 5/21 and 5/22. They account for eight line items in the MOU database, including double entries on both dates for Peter Nichols. I know that Pete eBirds with locations and also does his own county level submit direct to MOU with no extra location detail, so both records end up in MOU data.

Ben Douglas is a contributor to the MOU's Social Media Committee, posting content for the MOU Facebook page. He volunteers for birding events as a guide and presenter on technology in birding. With a Bachelor's of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, he works full time on Windows server compliance for industry standards.

Message from the President

Greetings, MOU members,

Ever since I joined the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union 20 years ago (in the seventh grade!), the organization has been an important part of my life. I am humbled to take on the role now as MOU President. I appreciate the MOU's rich history, and I look forward to leading it to new heights and introducing the next generation of birders to the organization that is the very foundation of ornithology and birding in Minnesota.

Every organization—including the MOU—must grow to survive, and growth is only possible if we embrace change. The birding world has changed significantly (even within my lifetime), and we must adapt. To quote Catherine McIntyre of *Maclean's Magazine*, "Data-savvy 20-somethings and braying 'birder bros' are quickly gamifying a pastime once defined by notebooks and Tilley hats." Or, closer to home, to quote our own Bob Janssen: "I didn't know that the word 'bird' was spelled with an 'e' in front."

Just as the birding world has changed, so has our culture. Within that culture the role of science has become more important than ever in guiding the decisions we make. As President of the MOU—a scientific organization—I see as one of my most important goals ensuring that our science is available to those who seek it and that barriers to seeking it are minimized.

At the same time, the Minnesota birding community has become a very social group. I don't believe that any of us would be birding if we didn't find it fun. In this light, there is much to be gained by embracing the social aspects of the hobby and understanding their contributions to the field of ornithology. Let's all continue to share our birds, enlighten each other, and volunteer our time so that others have the opportunity to enjoy birds and birding as much as we do.

I plan to work toward ensuring that the MOU continues to promote science and scientific understanding, that it remains relevant in a changing world, and that it continues to serve all birders, from novices to committed county birders. As 2018 commences I look forward to a strong future for the MOU, not only in this year and the next but for decades and generations of birders yet to come. With your help, I have no doubt that we have very bright days ahead.

Humbly yours,

Bob Dunlap, MOU President

The Red Crossbill Irruption of 2017

by Josh Wallestad

As an administrator of the Facebook group Minnesota Border States Rare Bird Alert, I monitor various reporting outlets for neighboring states and occasionally post exceptional sightings that might tempt a Minnesota birder to give chase. This past June a few sightings from Iowa caught my eye but did not warrant alerting Minnesota birders: Red Crossbills had been reported in several locations. This was interesting but not terribly surprising, since the species is known to be nomadic. Then, not long after the Iowa sightings, a lone Red Crossbill was photographed by Jerome McKenna at a feeder in rural Meeker County. Was this just another random sighting of a wandering species, or was there something larger at play?

August revealed the answer. On August 11 Kim Eckert reported that his MBW group had come upon a group of five Red Crossbills at Pine Ridge County Park in Grant County. Minnesota birders hardly had a chance to digest the significance of that find when Kim reported yet another group of Red Crossbills two days later in Morris. Something was definitely going on, and it was happening in western Minnesota. I was not the only one with this thought: Herb Dingmann made a stop in Pope County on August 14 to look for Red Crossbills, having just come from viewing the Stevens County crossbills in Morris. He was successful. This irruption, still in its infancy, seemed to be coming from the west.

I then learned from Barb and Denny Martin that they were simultaneously picking up Red Crossbills in several other western counties. After finding them in one county, they would immediately head to the next and find them there, and then in another, all in one day. Joel Schmidt, Jason Frank, and Michael Oetken added to the Red Crossbill sightings on August 16 by seeking out and finding the birds in Swift, Lac qui Parle, and Brown Counties respectively. These birds were not just anomalies, then; this was a genuine irruption.

The time for ticking Red Crossbills was now, and every serious county lister was making the bird a priority. Search tips started to be exchanged: bird at cemeteries with a number of spruce trees, find the white spruces with small, one-inch cones, check the tops of the trees carefully—feeding crossbills are silent and hide easily in the abundant cone crop.



*Red Crossbill, Willmar, Ridgewater College,
by Josh Wallestad*

Those of us who regularly bird Kandiyohi County were now on the alert as well. After all, the species had eluded the Kandiyohi lists of Randy Frederickson and Ron Erpelding their entire lives. Randy Frederickson and I kept the tips in mind as we drove around Kandiyohi County hoping to finally get our county on the board. We knew it was only a matter of time. Then on August 18 Joel Schmidt made the find with a flyover flock in New London. Red Crossbills had officially arrived in our county. However, the rest of us had yet to find one. Our efforts were temporarily put on hold on August 19, when a surprising county-record Blue Grosbeak made an appearance. The next day, though, we were back at it. Concentrating on cemeteries and other spruce plantations on the western side of the county, Randy finally broke his Red Crossbill curse when he found several at a golf course in Raymond. He patiently sat by the birds until Ron Erpelding and I could arrive. The three of us then enjoyed our second new Kandiyohi bird together in as many days.

Red Crossbills continued to turn up in counties farther east and south in the days that followed. By this time the wave had spread throughout west-central Minnesota, and the birds kept turning up in more and more places. One day I even spied a flock at the top of a spruce tree while traveling at highway speeds. Another day while standing in my own yard I heard the distinctive *kip! kip! kip!* of Red Crossbills flying over my house. The impossible county bird had turned into a mere yard bird in a matter of days.

The search for Red Crossbills was an exciting adventure for some of us but also made for incredibly easy birding. In the prairies and farm fields of the western part of the state, spruce “islands” like cemeteries, farm groves, and golf courses stood out to birds and birders alike in the vast agricultural countryside, since they offered these birds the only places to feed. It helped that there was a bumper crop of cones this year: the tops of spruce trees were dripping with hundreds, even thousands, of cones each. Many tops looked brown at a distance from the abundance of cones. This plentiful cone supply contributed to repeat sightings at various locations, since there was enough food to hold the birds for days.

This Red Crossbill outbreak created a unique but exciting workload for Bob Dunlap and Cornell’s Matt Young, who were both actively monitoring the unfolding developments. Birders from all over Minnesota were submitting audio recordings of their Red Crossbill finds to Bob and Matt so they could analyze the sonograms to determine which types of Red Crossbills were turning up in Minnesota. According to Bob, of the ten call-types of Red Crossbills, Types 2, 3, 4, and 5 have all been recorded in the state since mid-August. (For an explanation of call types, see ebird.org/content/ebird/news/crossbills-of-north-america-species-and-red-crossbill-call-types/.) While Types 2 and 10 are most likely the ones typically encountered in Minnesota, the others are much rarer. The last time Type 3 showed up in Minnesota was in 2012 during the last significant irruption of this species. This fall they were found throughout the northern two-thirds of the state. Types 4 and 5 made their debut in Minnesota with the current irruption. While Type 4 was encountered in the western third of the state and now probably occurs statewide, there has been just one record of Type 5—a few birds found by Barb and Denny Martin at Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park in Lincoln County.

So what caused an irruption that would bring large numbers of Red Crossbills to Minnesota of so many types? Apparently there was a scarce cone crop in western North America this year. In addition, wildfires in the west may have contributed to the movement of these birds. It is understandable, then, why the phenomenon we experienced in Minnesota began in the western part of the state and blitzed eastward. Our cone-laden trees must have been a welcome respite for these wanderers.

I noted above that a significant irruption of Red Crossbills occurred in 2012 as well. That was, of



*Red Crossbills, Willmar, MinnWest Technology Campus
by Josh Wallestad*

course, not the only earlier one we experienced here in Minnesota. Birders with a longer memory may recall one in 2006, when the species was reported in ten northern counties. MOU records also show a lesser invasion in 1996 and a major one in 1984, when the bird was reported in 33 counties throughout the state. (My thanks to Anthony Hertzell providing this historical information from the MOU records.)

By late fall Red Crossbill reports had tapered off. Perhaps many of the birds had moved on, or more likely, birders may have stopped targeting them, having already found them at desired locations. After Christmas Bird Counts take place and as people start working on their 2018 bird lists, we will probably have a better idea of whether Red Crossbills are still out there in large numbers like they were last summer. Here in Willmar as of this writing we still have a small group hanging out at the local community college, and we hope they will be around yet for our CBC. No matter what happens with CBCs, though, Red Crossbills are likely still lurking, and the continued search for them will be a bright spot for many Minnesota birders this winter.

Josh Wallestad is a high school math teacher who lives in Willmar and therefore does most of his birding in Kandiyohi County. You can read all about his birding adventures on his blog, www.aboywhocriedheron.com.

Update on Wastewater Stabilization Pond Access for Birders

by George Vania

At the December 2016 MOU Paper Session I presented plans for an initiative to increase access for birders to Minnesota wastewater stabilization ponds. There are approximately 400 such facilities—also known as wastewater treatment plants (WTPs)—in Minnesota. They attract many shorebirds, gulls, and waterfowl, and over the years have occasionally hosted uncommon species such as Cinnamon Teal, Eurasian Widgeon, Black-necked Stilt, Red Knot, Ruff, Western Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Sabine's Gull, Little Gull, and Least Tern, as well. Having these sites more accessible would be great for the Minnesota birding community.

A group of five MOU members calling itself the MOU Wastewater Stabilization Pond Access Working Group (Bob Dunlap, Kim Eckert, Carrol Henderson, Steve Stucker, and George Vania) joined together to work on an initiative to gain access to WTPs for birders. Over the past 12 months the team has looked into issues of accessibility and has met with various officials. We have learned a great deal.

Many communities believe there is a risk in allowing birders access to their WTPs, so they post No Trespassing signs on their fences and lock the gates to deter access for the public. Their principal concerns are, of course, safety and liability.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), in its 2013 document *Operation, Maintenance, and Management of Wastewater Treatment Facilities*, understandably, does prohibit recreational use. Their concerns are that: 1) “even though efficiency of bacterial removal is very high, infection from pathogenic organisms is possible,” and 2) “even though most stabilization ponds attain a depth of only six feet, it is still deep enough for a person to drown.”

Ultimately, though, whether or not to allow access to a WTP is determined by the community, not the MPCA. In fact, there are some communities in Minnesota, and around the country, that promote birding at their facilities.

One such community is Thief River Falls, whose WTP is advertised as a site on the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail. The Thief River Falls WTP even offers an elevated observation platform from which to view its 350 acres of ponds. More than 100 species have been identified there over the years. The superintendent considers it a very successful arrangement, and the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau recognizes that it brings visitors to the city.

At the December 2016 MOU Paper Session I proposed that the MOU Wastewater Stabilization Birding Access Team: 1) meet with regulatory agencies to determine if bird-

ing is a reasonable use of WTPs; 2) develop a process for gaining access for Minnesota birders; and 3) propose to the regulatory agencies that WTPs be accessible along the certain proposed birding routes.

On May 1 we met with MPCA and DNR management teams to promote our ideas and listen to their concerns. The MPCA agreed to allow teams of MOU members and city administrators to propose on a case-by-case basis memoranda of understanding for allowing full access to birders at stabilization ponds. At a meeting on September 18, Regional Managers responsible for the operations and maintenance of treatment facilities in their respective regions agreed to accept our request to make a presentation to the MPCA's 91st Annual Wastewater Operations 2018 Conference in March. MPCA also suggested that we make presentations at local or regional meetings of rural Minnesota water operators.

MOU Members Challenge

The MOU Wastewater Stabilization Pond Access Working Group believes that the best way to work toward our goal will be on a case-by-case basis. We solicit your help in identifying cities and WTP managers that might be receptive to our initiative. If you have a WTP for which you would like to see birders gain access, let us know. If you know a WTP manager personally, please let us know that too. We may be able to help you gain access to your favorite WTP!

Please contact Bob Dunlap (bob.dunlap@state.mn.us) or George Vania (gjvanial@gmail.com) with any questions or recommendations you may have.

George Vania is a retired professional environmental engineer and a member the Stillwater Water Board and Brown's Creek Watershed Citizen Advisory Committee.

Aerial view Thief River Falls WTP



Reports from Savaloja Grant Recipients

East Side Neighborhood Services

In September the East Side Neighborhood Services Youth Department brought back a special tradition through the support of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter: Bovey Family Camp. Unlike past trips long ago, ESNS added an extra emphasis on getting the whole family involved this year. And not just involved at the experiential level, taking advantage of the soul-healing effects of the Camp Bovey campground in Gordon, Wis, but also at the educational level.

Our trip was the kick-off of a two-month series of experiential education events for students and adult caregivers alike. Our September trip began at Hawk Ridge in Duluth watching the migration of hawks. Some of us even got to hold a wild hawk and release it after it had been banded. We were also able to touch, and ask questions about, real bird wings, bones, skulls, and talons. Parents, ESNS staff, and youth alike felt the magic of being in the northern end of such a special migration, and the staff of Hawk Ridge welcomed us warmly. They "banded" the youth with their current 'wingspan,' shared binoculars and chairs with our senior participants, and showed us how dragonflies grow from nymphs to winged flying creatures that take part in their own migration.

But this was just the beginning. In October the Luxton Learners began a four-week study of bird anatomy, physiology, and migration patterns. Artist-naturalists from Silver-

wood Park of the Three Rivers Park District used art as a medium for engaging youth in the science of winged creatures, and then the Luxton Learners got to visit Silverwood for an all-day field trip to observe birds on the pond and play nature learning games.

As a finale, we brought our two community-based programs together (Mulberry Junction and Luxton Learners). The Luxton kids performed an interpretive migration dance wearing the masks and bird costumes they had created. Mulberry Junction kids stepped in to fill the spots of youth who couldn't make it to the event. Families from Mulberry Junction and Luxton shared the celebration of learning and new experiences together with feasting, play, and music.

James Taborda-Whitt, Youth Program Manager | East Side Neighbor Services Youth Department

Fond du Lac Ojibwe School

In May 2017, Fond du Lac Ojibwe School 7th graders, with support from a Savaloja Grant, visited the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, MN, to learn about bird identification, bird adaptations and bird banding. They had a wonderful experience and had the opportunity to band and release several birds, including a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Finch, and White-throated Sparrow. They are continuing their bird project now as 8th graders.

Shannon Judd, Environmental Education Outreach Coordinator, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa



East Side Neighborhood Services youth performing an interpretive migration dance.



Fond du Lac Ojibwe 7th graders at Audubon Center of the North Woods

Minnesota Birder Bio Interview:

Kevin Manley



Kevin Manley, photo by Kevin Manley

Introduce yourself.

I was born in San Francisco, California, and developed my interests in birds and everything outdoors in the Greater Bay Area. My life path took me to Illinois, Wisconsin, Montana, and Minnesota. For the last 30+ years Nancy and I have made our home in Mendota Heights.

Occupation:

Horticultural Buyer and Wholesale Sales Rep at Gertens.

Favorite birds:

Raptors, especially the falcons of North America.

When did you start birding?

I have been passionate about birds my whole life and into serious listing since 2013.

Favorite places to bird inside or outside Minnesota?

I enjoy birding statewide, but local SNAs like Grey Cloud Dunes, Falls Creek and Crystal Springs would top my list for native habitat, birds, and my botanical interests. My extended family continues to call California home, and while out there visiting I enjoy birding Monterey County, especially for its migrating shorebirds and western coastal species. On my next visit I'm planning to do my first pelagic off the Monterey Peninsula to see albatrosses, shearwaters and the awesome birds of the open ocean.

Favorite birding style (i.e., by yourself, with others, etc.):

I like both. I find that when I'm alone I slow down and

become a better observer and listener. But I also enjoy the camaraderie of a small group and the opportunity to share bird identification and other interests like wildflowers, dragonflies etc.

Any advice on how to be a better birder?

I have taken the advice of another experienced birder and made family groups my annual ID goal. 2017 was the Year of the Sparrow, and in 2018 I'm going to tackle the Gull family. That may take a lot longer than a year! I have found focusing on a family group allows for better appreciation and understanding of specific habitat needs, seasonal plumages, arrival/departure dates, and vocalizations.

Second, become a better listener. I'm currently reading Donald Kroodsma's book *The Singing Life of Birds* and learning to "hear with my eyes."

Any other interests or hobbies when you're not birding?

We are going to be empty nesters next year, so travelling with my wife, enjoying our four granddaughters, continuing to volunteer at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory (my wife says that's still birding, Oops!) and removing invasive species from our woods and restoring it to a mostly native wildlife sanctuary.

What new bird would you most like to see?

If I had my choice, it wouldn't be a new bird, but I'd like to spend time admiring the grace, power, and behavior of the Gyrfalcon. Just can't get enough of our largest falcon. Maybe a trip to the edges of the arctic is in the future!

Papers Session Input Requested

If you attended the 2017 MOU Papers Session at the MN Landscape Arboretum, the MOU Board would like your feedback. Please tell us what you liked or disliked about this venue, whether you would recommend that we hold the Papers Session there again, etc. Please email your comments to: membership@moumn.org or mail them to:

Cindy Smith
19885 Lillehei Avenue
Hastings, MN 55033



JANUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Whitewater River Valley CBC, Whitewater State Pk (DNR)	2	3	4	5 Sax-Zim Bog BRRRRdathon (Fri-Sat)	6 ZVAS Bird Walk, Quarry Hill Nature Ctr MN Campus Bird Hike, Carpenter Nature Ctr "Bird Language" & "Tech Nature," MVNWR MRVAC Bird Walk, Bass Ponds
7	8 Birds & Nature of Madagascar, MN Global Birding	9	10	11	12	13 Sax-Zim Bog Winter Finches Field Trip Sax-Zim Bog Northern Owls Evening Program
14	15	16 MiN Campus Owl Prowl, Carpenter Nature Ctr	17	18 MRVAC Northern Minnesota & Sax-Zim Bog Field Trip	19 MRVAC Northern Minnesota & Sax-Zim Bog Field Trip	20 Bird Banding, Eastman Nat. Ctr, Osseo (TRPD) Bird Banding, Lowry Nat. Ctr, Victoria (TRPD) ZVAS Annual Wintering Golden Eagle Survey, White-water SP
21 Sax-Zim Bog Boreal Wings Gala, Springbok Nature Center, Fridley	22 MRVAC Bird Walk, Bass Ponds	23 ZVAS, "Owls & their Calls," Quarry Hills Nature Center	24	25	26 Bird Banding, Carpenter Nature Ctr	27 Moonlit Owl Prowl, Whitewater SP (DNR) SPAS Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip, National Eagle Center
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 "Bird Language," Minn. Valley NWR ZVAS Bird Walk, Quarry Hill Nature Ctr MRVAC Bird Walk, Bass Ponds
4	5	6 "Owls vs. Hawks," Audubon Chap. of Mpls.	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Bird Banding, Lowry Nature Ctr, Victoria (TRPD) Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip, National Eagle Center
18	19	20 Birds & Beers--St. Paul	21	22	23	24 "Tech Nature," Minn. Valley NWR Winter Birding for Beginners, Ft. Snelling State Pk (DNR) Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip, National Eagle Center
25 "All About Bluebirds," Ft. Snelling State Pk (DNR)	26	27 "Hummingbirds in Ecuador," ZVAS, Quarry Hill Nature Ctr	28			



MOU Calendar

January / February 2018



AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS KINGFISHER DIVISION

Feb. 6: Owls vs. Hawks

Details: 7 pm. Presentation by John Arthur Anderson comparing Great Horned Owls and Cooper's Hawks, focusing on a range of characteristics and behaviors, such as reproductive cycle, habitat, and eating habits. Anderson is an avid nature photographer and is known best for his owl photography, which spans the past 10 years. He has created a longitudinal record of the annual reproductive cycle of a handful of owl families in the metro Twin Cities area. Beth El Synagogue, 5225 Barry St. W, St. Louis Park, MN.

BIRDS & BEERS

Feb. 20: Birds & Beers—St. Paul

Details: 6–9 pm. Gather with other birders for drinks and bird talk. Everyone welcome! Moscow on the Hill, 371 Selby Ave, St Paul.

CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Jan. 6: Carpenter Nature Center Bird Hike

Details: 2–4 pm. Join bird expert Kevin Smith on a hike around the nature center. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Field guides and binoculars available to use or bring your own. Program fee: \$6.00 or free for Friends of CNC, Hastings Environmental Protectors and St. Croix Valley Bird Club members. Please RSVP at 651-437-4359 and let us know you are coming. CNC, 12805 St Croix Trail S, Hastings, MN.

Jan. 16: Carpenter Nature Center Owl Prowl

Details: 7–9 pm. At this time of the year, many of the Midwest's 12 owl species are vocalizing to attract mates. Explore CNC on a guided night hike to look and listen for these owls. If there is enough snow cover snowshoes will be provided, or you may bring your own. Program fee: \$6.00 per person or \$4.00 for Friends of CNC. Please call 651-437-4359 to register. CNC, 12805 St Croix Trail S, Hastings, MN.

Jan. 26: Bird Banding

Details: 8:30 am–12 pm. Our bird banders welcome you to see songbirds up close and learn about the birds who share our ecosystem. Banding runs continuously for the full 3½ hours, but visitors may come and go at any time. Please call ahead so we know you are coming. Donations of bird seed or suet will be greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee. CNC, 12805 St Croix Trail S, Hastings, MN.

DNR

Jan. 1: Whitewater River Valley Christmas Bird Count, Whitewater State Park

Details: 8 am–12 pm. Participants will explore the area winter wonderland on foot for short walks and/or by car as they document wintering birds. Anyone with an interest in birds, regardless of birding experience, is invited to participate. Counters will meet at the Whitewater Valley Visitor Center in Whitewater State Park at 8 am. To sign up, email sara.holger@state.mn.us or call 507-312-2308.

Jan. 27: Moonlit Owl Prowl, Whitewater State Park

Details: 6–8 pm. We often hear them calling in the dark, but most of us are unfamiliar with the elusive creatures known as owls. After the presentation, we will go “prowling” for owls using our newly learned owling skills. If there is enough snow, we will snowshoe. Bring your own snowshoes or borrow ours. For information call 507-312-2308.

Feb. 24: Winter Birding for Beginners, Fort Snelling State Park

Details: 1–2 pm. Join the naturalist for this winter birding hike and learn about the basic techniques of bird identification. Binoculars and bird guides will be available. Dress for the weather and meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. Space is limited and registration required. To register call 612-725-2724. Free, but a state park permit is required on each vehicle.

Feb. 25: All About Bluebirds, Fort Snelling State Park

Details: 1–2 pm. Learn about the life history of bluebirds and how you can help restore their populations. Meet at the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center. No registration required. Free, but a state park permit is required on each vehicle.

MN GLOBAL BIRDERS

Jan. 8: Birds and Nature of Madagascar

Details: 6–8 pm. Steve Greenfield will give a presentation on a recent trip to Madagascar. Its long separation from Africa and Asia has led to a staggering “adaptive radiation” of bird life. Half of its bird species, as well as six bird families, and even two avian orders, are endemic to just this island. Free, but register at www.eventbrite.com/e/global-birding-january-2018-birds-and-nature-of-madagascar-tickets-41130830421. Uptown Plumbing Community Space, 3554 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis.

MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Bird Watching Field Trips

Saturday, Jan. 6, 8 am, Bass Ponds

Monday, Jan. 22, 8 am, Bass Ponds

Saturday, Feb. 3, 8 am, Bass Ponds

Details: Join us for a winter season bird walk. Trumpeter Swans, a mix of ducks, Rough-legged Hawks, Bald Eagles and Northern Shrikes are a few of the species that have overwintered on the Refuge. Bring your binoculars and favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather as we search for these and other overwintering species. Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist, 952-240-7647.

Jan. 18-19: Northern Minnesota & Sax-Zim Bog Birding Days

Details: On Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 am we will meet in Duluth and travel to one of the best birding spots in the nation—the Sax-Zim Bog. Possible sightings of Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls, along with numerous other species, should get your 2018 birding checklist off to a great start. On Friday we will again start in Duluth and bird Duluth and Two Harbors and then make our way up to Lake County, or head to Aitkin County, depending on what is being seen. Please contact Craig Mandel 952-240-7647 to register for this trip. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members.

MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Jan. 6 or Feb. 24 (2 dates): Tech Nature

Details: 1–3 pm. Join a national park ranger to learn more about how to find and identify wildlife, report your sightings, and even take pictures and video, all with the amazing smartphone in your pocket. Bring your phones and unlock some of the secret powers it offers to give you a great day outdoors. The program will start with a brief presentation and then move to testing out photography at the feeders. Free, no registration needed. Class provided by Mississippi National River and Recreation Area & Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. MVNWR Visitor Center (Classroom A), 3815 American Blvd. E, Bloomington, MN.

Jan. 6 or Feb. 3 (2 dates): Bird Language

Details: 9 am–1 pm. Join us as we gather on the slopes of the Minnesota River Valley to explore what the birds are telling us about our surroundings. We will split the time between the classroom and outdoors. Bring a notebook, pencils, and something to sit on outdoors. Led by Jonathon Poppele and Donnie Phyllaier, Volunteer Refuge Naturalists. To register, visit www.mntracking.org/. MVNWR Visitor Center, 3815 American Blvd. E, Bloomington, MN.

NATIONAL EAGLE CENTER

Jan. 27 or Feb. 10 or Feb. 24 (3 dates): Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip

Details: 1–5 pm, National Eagle Center, 50 Pembroke Ave, Wabasha, MN. Join Golden Eagle experts for guided Golden Eagle viewing field trips. Go to Golden Eagle hotspots and gain tips for spotting these often elusive raptors. Learn about their habitat and how to distinguish these winter residents from juvenile Bald Eagles. Golden Eagles are only here for the winter months, so don't miss this opportunity to see these spectacular birds! Seating is limited. \$30 for members, \$40 for non-members. Make reservations at www.nationaleaglecenter.org/golden-eagle-project/golden-eagle-field-trips/

Field trips begin at 1 pm with a brief classroom program, followed by a tour via coach bus to prime Bald or Golden Eagle viewing locations. Participants should dress for the weather and bring binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras if desired. Children are welcome on field trips, especially those who are keenly interested in birds and nature. However, our field trips may not be well suited for very young children. Little walking is required—simply step off the bus for a great view! Field trips return to the National Eagle Center for light refreshments and a chance to share photos and stories from the day.

ST. PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Jan. 27: Golden Eagle Viewing Field Trip

Details: All day, National Eagle Center. For information, see National Eagle Center event listed below. If interested in carpooling on Jan. 27, email Louise Eidsmoe at eidsmoel@comcast.net.



Golden Eagle
Ivars J. Krafts

SAX-ZIM BOG

Jan. 5-6: BRRRRdathon: Northeastern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin

Details: The BRRRRdathon may be the world's coldest birdathon but it can also be the most exhilarating, with the possibility of finding many boreal specialties in the North Woods. Imagine tallying the likes of Great Gray Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Bohemian Waxwing, Hoary Redpoll, Gyrfalcon and Northern Hawk Owl in a two-day birding spree! And raise money for Friends of Sax-Zim Bog in the process. The two-day event requires some serious strategizing to maximize your species list; and the playing field is large—all of northeastern Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. Most species tallied in the two-days wins. We also have a One-day BRRRRdathon category, and for the hardy (or just plain foolhardy) a Wintergreen event where all birding must be done via non-motorized travel modes (dogsled? snowshoe? bicycle?). All participants are invited to an awards and compilation dinner on Saturday evening, where great food and surprising prizes are awarded. Winning teams and photographers get the honor of having their name memorialized on "Gary the Great Gray Owl," a solid granite sculpture by Minnesota artist Keith Raivo. Cost: \$25 per person per event. This entry fee includes a one-year Friends of Sax-Zim Bog membership (including free field trips for one year!) Also, each participant will receive a free calendar for participating.

Jan. 13: Winter Finches Field Trip

Details: 9 am–2 pm. Many visitors to the Sax-Zim Bog in the winter season come to find the elusive Great Gray Owl. Others come for the more readily seen bright and vocal finches. Join us on a field trip looking for some of the bright winter visitors, such as Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Common Redpoll, and crossbills. We will also introduce the natural history of these boreal wanderers. Please RSVP to Head Naturalist Clinton Nienhaus via email at naturalist@saxzim.org. Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center, 8793 Owl Avenue, Toivola, MN.

Jan. 13: Northern Owls Evening Program

Details: 4–9 pm. Meeting at the Sax-Zim Bog Welcome Center, 8793 Owl Avenue, Toivola, MN, with Owl trip following until 9 pm. Most visitors to Sax-Zim Bog are looking for owls, but do you really know "hoo" owls are? Come and learn a little about some of the owls that can sometimes be found in the Bog and the surrounding area. Following a short talk, we will caravan looking for some owls at dusk. Please RSVP naturalist@saxzim.org. Space at the program will be limited to 25.

Jan. 21: Boreal Wings Gala (Fundraiser for the Sax-Zim Bog)

Details: 2–4:30 pm. Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley,

MN. Silent auction with tons of fun bird-related items, bird-themed appetizers, Sax-Zim Bog merchandise, great conversation, an update from Executive Director Sparky, and a World Premiere of another "Clinton's Critters" video.

Keynote speaker: Al Batt of Hartland, Minnesota, writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. Al writes humor and nature columns for many newspapers and does regular radio shows about nature. He writes a number of popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally and is author of the book, *A Life Gone to the Birds*. He is a columnist for "Bird Watcher's Digest" and writes for a number of magazines and books. He is a trustee of the American Bald Eagle Foundation in Haines, Alaska. Al hosted TV shows for many years and speaks at various festivals, conferences and conventions all over the world. He has received the Ed Franey Conservation Media Award from the Izaak Walton League, the Thomas Sadler Roberts Award from the MOU for lifetime contributions to birding, and was recognized by Bluebirds Across Nebraska for outstanding contributions to wildlife conservation. Tickets on sale on the Sax-Zim Bog website. Advance registration: \$35 per person (17 & under free); at the door: \$40. See the schedule for the Gala for more details about this event at <http://saxzim.org/events/>

Feb. 16-18: Sax-Zim Bog Birding Festival

Details: See the Sax-Zim Bog web site for the daily schedule and registration information: www.saxzimbirdingfestival.com/

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Jan. 20: Bird Banding

Details: 9 am–12 pm. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied and tagged with numbered rings. Groups of 10 or more, please call 763-694-7700 to reserve a time slot. Bring a camera. Drop in anytime. Free. Eastman Nature Center, 13351 Elm Creek Rd., Osseo, MN

Jan. 20 and Feb. 17: Bird Banding

Details: 9 am–12 pm. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied and tagged with numbered rings. Groups of 10 or more, please call 763-694-7650 to reserve a time slot. Bring a camera. Drop in anytime. Free. Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria, MN

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Jan. 6: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

Details: 9–10 am. Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester. Join Terry and Joyce Grier on a casual walk through Quarry Hill Park. Bring binoculars if you have them; some are available to borrow from the Nature Center. Dress for the weather. Families and children are welcome. Stay for any length of time. Walks usually last about one hour. Free and open to the public—no registration required.

Jan. 20: Annual Wintering Golden Eagle Survey—Whitewater State Park

Details: 10 am–12 pm. This count is part of a study being done by the National Audubon Society, Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs and the National Eagle Center to better understand the golden eagles that winter in southeastern Minnesota and southwestern Wisconsin. After a short introduction at Whitewater State Park's visitor center, groups of participants will visit sites that golden eagles have frequented in past years. Binoculars, spotting scopes and brochures will be available. Volunteers are encouraged to attend the Golden Eagle Survey Training event on January 6. To sign up to assist with the Whitewater Valley survey, contact sara.holger@state.mn.us or call 507-312-2308.

Jan. 23: Owls and Their Calls

Details: 7–8 pm. Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester. Presented by Sara Holger from Whitewater State Park. We often hear them calling in the dark of night, but most of us are unfamiliar with the elusive creatures known as owls. At this program, you will learn how to identify the owls of SE Minnesota by their calls as well as by their appearance and habitat needs. After the presentation, we may step outside to call for owls near the nature center using our new owling skills. For all ages!



Great Gray Owl
by Cathy Gagliardi

Feb. 3: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

Details: 9–10 am. Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester. Join Terry and Joyce Grier on a casual walk thru Quarry Hill Park. Bring binoculars if you have them, some are available to borrow from the Nature Center. Dress for the weather. Families and children are welcome. Stay for any length of time. Walks usually last about one hour. Free and open to the public. No registration required.

Feb. 27: ZVAS Monthly Bird Program: Hummingbirds in Ecuador

Details: 7–8 pm. Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester. A recent trip to Ecuador provided Mike Henry the opportunity to polish his skills in photographing hummingbirds. Ecuador is home to over 100 species of hummingbirds. Over two weeks he was able to see and photograph 36 different species, including the Sword-billed and Booted Racket-tailed Hummingbirds. This evening's talk will demonstrate techniques for obtaining good images of birds in general, along with the special techniques used in high-speed flash photography.

Savaloja Grant Applications Sought

*by Steve Wilson,
Chair, MOU Savaloja Committee*

There is still time to submit a proposal for a 2018 bird-related project to be funded from the Savaloja Memorial Fund. Grants can be awarded for projects that increase our understanding of birds, promote preservation of birds and their natural habitats, or increase public interest in birds. Proposals that engage populations currently underrepresented in Minnesota's birding community are welcome as a means of broadening public support for birds and their habitat.

Awards typically range from a few hundred dollars up to as much as \$4000. In 2017, eight organizations received a total of \$17,000 from MOU for a diverse array of education and research projects (further details on these and past projects can be found at <http://moumn.org/grants.html>).

For 2018 the MOU Board made \$14,000 available for grants. Most of it has been raised through the generosity of MOU members and supporters who already donated to the Savaloja Fund in 2017. You can help us have that full amount "in the bank" when we award grants in March by going to the MOU home page (<http://moumn.org/>) and clicking on "Donate" in the upper-right corner. Just add "Savaloja Fund" under "Special Instructions to Seller" and you'll become a supporter of a new batch of projects helping Minnesota's birds and birders.

Application information is available at the above "grants" link. The deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 31, 2018. Grant recipients will be notified by April 1, 2018.

New MOU Members

Cole Bauer, *Minneapolis, MN*
Mary Brainerd, *Mahtomedi, MN*
Robert Crabb, *Backus, MN*
David Felker, *Bloomington, MN*
Lynn Hanske, *Baxter, MN*
Jeanne Kant, *Minneapolis, MN*
Adam Roesch, *Brooklyn Park, MN*
Jessica Muller, *Thief River Falls, MN*

ATTENTION!

Don't miss out on a chance to share the MOU with the next generation.

Don't be an old crow.
Give a gift that can
really make a
difference for an
aspiring young birder.



YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS
AVAILABLE

Memberships can be
purchased any month.

\$17 Youth (ages 1-17)



Promotion by the MOU Youth Mentor Program

MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mailing address: C/O Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center
12805 Saint Croix Trail South, Hastings, MN 55033

<http://moumn.org/join.html>



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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Email: mou@moumn.org
Web: <http://moumn.org>

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The Mission of the M.O.U.

We foster the study and conservation of birds by amateurs and professionals. We promote the conservation of birds and their natural habitats. We support these aims primarily by publishing and sharing information, by serving as a repository for records, by conducting field trips, by awarding grants for research, and by supporting programs that educate members and the public about birds.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18)	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00
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<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: \$ _____