



Minnesota BIRDING

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Conservation Column: Irruptive Winter Birds in Minnesota

by *Andy Forbes*

Some winters we look out our windows and see our feeders covered in hungry redpolls, grosbeaks, and siskins, adding flashes of color and sound to the white Minnesota landscape. Other winters you wonder if there are any birds out there at all, with nothing but branches blowing in the wind amid the silence of winter. Our first instinct when this happens may be to worry that the birds are in trouble. In reality, the opposite may be true, although the reasons for the huge variation in numbers of many of our “winter finches” and other irruptive species from year to year is quite complex and still not fully understood. Here’s a brief primer on the phenomenon, and the players involved.

Species

For the purposes of this article we’ll focus primarily on seed and fruit-eating species, although the behavior is certainly not limited to them (shrikes, owls, and many hawks display irruptive behavior too). In Minnesota, Pine Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches are probably the ones that you’re most likely to notice displaying this migratory pattern, since they can be found statewide and are generally common. However, there are quite a few more: Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings, Common and Hoary Redpolls, Red and White-

winged Crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and even chickadees and many woodpeckers can display similar irruptive behavior.



Pine Grosbeak, by Gerald Hoekstra

It’s all about food...

Irruptive movements are different from other migratory patterns, as they are more the result of millions of birds each making decisions on how to survive the winter months, as opposed to responding to the cues that other migrants use to travel along more predictable annual cycles. The interplay between seed-bearing trees and birds that eat seeds is in many ways a lot like predator/prey dynamics that we think of when we think about relationships like the one between Northern Goshawks and Ruffed Grouse. Winter finches are just as lethal to a seed as a hawk is to a rabbit.

The plants combat this by releasing super abundances of seeds during years when they can. In these years, there is way more food available than what is needed to survive, and thus the birds don't need to travel very far to survive the winter. These tough northern bird species have no trouble enduring the cold, as long as there is food. From the plants' standpoint, the "predators" aren't able to consume all the seeds; thus enough survive to germinate and grow into mature trees. It's in these years that you're likely to see fewer resident birds at your feeders too. Birds pretty much always prefer natural sources of food to artificial feeders and the additional exposure resulting from visiting them.

In years when conditions aren't favorable for enough seed production to offset consumption, the trees don't invest the energy in it. The birds must then move to find food, and with less food available in nature in general, feeders get slammed and our bird feeding budgets go through the roof.

...and climate

Anyone who has gardening experience knows that in some years the rain and temperature are perfect for "bumper crops," while others are not. This is true for seed and fruit producing trees as well, and is an obvious connection with resulting bird abundances. Fascinatingly, researchers have also found a kind of push/pull relationship between production in different regions of the continent. In other words, when production is good in one region, it tends to be poor in another, and vice versa. So these irruptive patterns may become more predictable in some cases than they were previously thought.

What is unknown, of course, is how large-scale changes in climate will impact this dynamic. If we see longer or more frequent disruptions in climate that result in "down" years at larger scales with more frequency, birds may have to move even farther on a regular basis, which could make survival more difficult.

Superflights

You can't have an article about irruptive birds without talking about those years where everything lines up and birds are everywhere. Minnesota can be one of the best states in the country to experience this, when one can potentially see all of the species listed above on a good



Pine Siskins, by Gerald Hoekstra

north country birding trip. It's years like this when bird feeders can really help give birds the boost they need to carry through. I have very fond memories of one such year when I was young, when I spent hours watching Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls at my backyard feeders. It was one of many experiences that built an appreciation for birds in me that has continued on through the decades.

Tracking the year-to-year variability at your feeder can be fun, and winter feeder watching can also be a great opportunity to help contribute to better understanding winter bird movements and range shifts as a whole. Project FeederWatch is a program that anyone can participate in, regardless of skill level, where your feeder sightings can be combined with those of others to help researchers at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology track annual movements and start to provide answers to questions that can help better conserve these species. You can find out more about the program and how to participate at feederwatch.org.

Andy Forbes is the coordinator for the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture. He is currently a member of the MOU Records Committee.



Common Redpolls, by Gerald Hoekstra

Message from the President

In summer 2017, Bob Dunlap asked to meet with me to discuss my participating in MOU activities. He had presented to the Minnetonka Bird Club that my wife Lois and I organize, and knew that I had recently retired from the University of Minnesota. Little did I know that I would subsequently become the MOU Vice-President, but I jumped in with enthusiasm and trepidation. I had been a medical geneticist involved in clinical medical and graduate education and research for nearly 40 years, and had contacts throughout the university. These became very useful in helping to organize the 2018 and 2019 Paper Session. Now I am the new President and am delighted and humbled for all the support I have received. Trepidation comes from the fact that I have been birding most of my life but never at the level demonstrated by many MOU members. I look forward to the year and hope that I represent the MOU well, and that I become a better and more informed birder.

I want to thank Bob Dunlap for everything he has done for the MOU for many years, and particularly for his excellent two years as President. He worked hard to keep all of the components of a large volunteer organization together with great success, and this has been a wonderful learning experience for me. Fortunately for all of us, he will continue to be active in a variety of MOU activities, so that we can continue to gain from his expertise.

This fall we were disheartened and alarmed by the dramatic decline in many North American bird populations (Rosenberg, K. V., et al. 2019. Decline of the North American avifauna. *Science* 366:120, and Axelson, G. 2019. Vanishing: More Than 1 in 4 Birds Has Disappeared in the Last 50 Years. *Living Bird* 38:44). Nearly all presenters in the MOU Paper Session in December indicated how their work related to the changing bird population dynamics. The keynote presentation by Ian Davies, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, on the power and breadth of eBird, one of the data sets used in the *Science* paper, set the stage. Alexis Grinde and Steve Kolbe, Natural Resources Research Institute, UMD, presented data on conserving Minnesota's birds, and habitat use during vulnerable periods. An important and careful study of imidacloprid, a commonly used agricultural neonicotinoid, on neurological abnormalities in a domestic chicken model was presented by Dana Franzen-Klein, a staff veterinarian for The Raptor Center, as was new data on the Red-headed Woodpecker Project at Cedar Creek by Elena West of UMN Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology.

The afternoon session introduced Sushma Reddy, the newly appointed Breckenridge Chair of Ornithology, Bell Museum Curator of Birds, UMN who discussed how she will use the Bell collection to study changes in birds over time at the molecular level, and Keith Barker, UMN Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, presented his molecular work on global diversification of passerine birds. Important data from the BirdSafe project were discussed by Joanna Eckles, and Abigail Anderson, the Raptor Center, on bird strikes on buildings, and Michael Wells, US Fish & Wildlife



Yellow-rumped Warbler, by Kevin Manley

Services, presented amazing radar-generated migration patterns over the Great Lakes. Both were examples of solid data that can be used to develop bird-friendly policy for conservation. Another approach to bird conservation in Great Lakes Piping Plovers was discussed by Francesca Cuthbert, UMN Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation. An added benefit to the meeting was a presentation on a Savaloja grant-supported book on the origin of Ojibwe bird names by the author, Charles Grolla, Bois Forte band of Ojibwe. The quality of science throughout the day was excellent and highlighted the amazing expertise in Minnesota. All presenters and Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, the emcee, should be congratulated for their excellent work and enthusiasm. All of this is important in supporting Minnesota birds.

I look forward to the coming year and hope that the MOU grows and continues to support the Minnesota birding community through science and fellowship. Please send me any suggestions and concerns about our meeting and activities, as I am always open for new ideas and approaches. And thank you for giving me the opportunity to be President of the MOU.

– Richard King

MOU Survey

As the MOU enters the next decade, we want to make sure that the organization is both staying true to its mission and meeting the expectations of its membership. Please help us in determining what the MOU is currently doing well and what it could do better by completing this online survey:

<https://forms.gle/E2NqLPXeX6yZy3N48>

Thanks for your time!

My Favorite Home Patch: That Strange Little Lake

by *Garrett Wee*

Note from the editor: Do you have a favorite local spot for birding? I'd like to hear about it, and I'm sure other birders would too. Please send me a note at newsletter@moumn.org if you would like to write about your favorite local patch for this column. GH

It's a hot summer day in 2010 and my grandpa is driving me around the countryside near my hometown of Cottonwood, Minnesota. Meanwhile he's telling me about all of the places he used to hunt and fish. We drive over a small hill, and in front of me is a green, scummy-looking body of water. The smell is vile. Grandpa says, "That's Lone Tree Lake. I used to hunt ducks there all the time." I reply, "Oh, weird." As we approach, I can see that there are in fact quite a few ducks and geese tromping through the mud and goop. There are very few trees around, but there is a small patch of grass on the east end of the lake. There isn't much to this lake, and within two minutes it is in our rear view mirror, leaving me puzzled why *anything* would want to go there. I made a brief mental note of the place and essentially forgot about it, since there wasn't much good to remember. Nonetheless, here I sit ten years later, about to write about how amazing this strange little lake is.

Lone Tree Lake is a small prairie pothole located a mile and a half northwest of Cottonwood, Minnesota, one of the last of its kind in the middle of an agricultural haven. It's roughly 65 acres in size, and the WMA surrounding the lake may only be about twice that, yet it has earned itself a reputation of being migrant trap. It wasn't until a few years later that I began to actively bird watch in my free time. Lone Tree Lake quickly became one of my favorite places to find birds. Long before my time, it was also a very favored location for the long-time Minnesota birder and fellow Cottonwood native, Paul Egeland. He reflected on numerous instances when he found great birds, even sometimes when birding wasn't his main intent. One time in the 1970s he was hunting ducks on the lake, when a Peregrine Falcon swooped in to pursue a flock of Northern Shovelers. As I understand, finding a Peregrine in the 1970s was quite unusual. His list doesn't stop there. Paul went on to find LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrows, Western Sandpiper, King Rail, and multiple records of Least Tern. It was a place that he always checked and he was often rewarded with an exciting find. Paul doesn't live in the area any more, but it is still a place that Paul visits whenever he comes home. It doesn't appear to be anything special, yet I can relate to Paul when he said it's a place you always find yourself checking out. There's something about that lake that keeps you coming back.

It kept me coming back. I found myself checking it literally every day and having something to talk about,



*White-faced Ibises coming into Lone Tree Lake,
by Garrett Wee*

so why not check it every day? Something good was bound to show up eventually. This lake seems to offer a rare bird when you are least expecting it. It was June 22, 2015, a warm summer evening, and I was walking through the small grassy area on the east end of the lake, getting ready to survey shorebirds. An odd call rang out from one of the trees, it was a splattery "pit-rick" sound. I stopped immediately and listened. Again the odd call, and then a moment later out of the trees flew an absolute beacon of a bird. Bright yellow with contrasting black, the bird flew closer, and I could see its face: bright red, as if it had been dipped in red paint. My lifer Western Tanager! It flew to the opposite side of the lake, where it sang a few phrases and then was never seen again.

Fast forward almost an entire year, 363 days to be exact. Once again this lake presented an unusual bird in an unusual way. Driving home from work one day, I decided I would swing by and check it out quickly, since I was busy the rest of the evening. I was casually cruising down the dirt road like I had done hundreds of times before and I noticed a

sparrow running along the edge of the gravel and the grass. I thought it was unusual, since the resident Vesper Sparrows always fly as soon as a car is in sight. This bird was reluctant to fly; it kept running down the road. I finally decided to put the car in park and approach the bird on foot. Surveying the gravel, I could see a skittish bird that moved nervously out of view from my binoculars. It seemed large, and well built. I let the bird have its distance and I proceeded to grab my spotting scope. I took a few more steps, and the bird began to run again. Frustrated, I zoomed my scope in and waited for it to come into my view. When it finally did, I was surprised, yet also confused. I didn't immediately recognize the bird, so I took some photos and posted them on Facebook to the Minnesota Birding page. The photos were marginal, but others concluded that the bird was a Lark Bunting. I was a little skeptical, so I saved just enough time at dusk to go and search again. Finding nothing, I decided to play a Lark Bunting call. The bird appeared faster than I could process that the individual in front of me was in fact a Lark Bunting. The bird was perplexed by my calling and landed a mere 20 feet in front of me. I got much better photos this time and was left speechless. Lone Tree Lake has yielded another life bird!

A few years went by. Lone Tree Lake offered more rarities. A Black-necked Stilt in the spring of 2017 stayed for two weeks. White-faced Ibis became expected at some point during spring migration when they would work the shallow mudflats along the edge of the lake. Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were plentiful, and an American Avocet was a reliable find there. The lake quickly became a premier shorebird destination where 20+ species of shorebirds could be observed in a single outing. I remember one particularly noteworthy instance when it seemed like every species was present.

Little did I know that this strange little lake would yield one of the most legendary days of shore-birding in Minnesota history. It was a breezy day in May 2018. I didn't intend to stay very long; just a quick look and then I'd leave. When I arrived, though, I realized I needed to spend more than just a few minutes. The entire south shore of the lake was flooded with shorebirds—at least several thousand. I was overwhelmed, but I decided to get my spotting scope and start scanning across the lake. Before I had even grabbed it, though, I scanned the lake through my binoculars. I saw something a little out of place. I couldn't see it that well, but the bird was dark, uniformly dark. I grabbed my scope and quickly got on it. It felt like everything inside of me dropped. A sweeping rush of adrenaline came over me, and then goose bumps. The bird was sleeping, but it was uniformly cinnamon/rust-colored in front, with a scaly wing pattern. I was pretty sure I knew what it was, but its bill was tucked, so I didn't want to jump to conclusions. I waited what seemed like an eternity for the bird to wake up. When it finally did, it revealed a dark, curved bill. I started jumping up and down with excitement and shouting. It would have been a comical sight for a non-birder! The bird was a Curlew Sandpiper, Minnesota's fourth record of the species. And it was right there in front of me, at the same old lake where I always birded.

I contacted as many people as I could, all the while trying to document the species and take photos. Only 15 minutes had gone by when the first observers showed up. Soon more arrived, and after an hour and a half we had close to a dozen birders, all of whom had abruptly dropped everything they were doing to come see this ABA code 3 bird. It was an amazing experience, for me as well as for everyone who had come to see it. The Curlew Sandpiper stayed long enough for everyone to observe it who came that day and the following morning. In addition to a Eurasian sandpiper roaming the mudflats, there were also 19 other species of shorebirds recorded that day, one of which was a bonus White-faced Ibis, a rare-regular species for Minnesota. A few days later the lake was virtually empty.

Once again, this strange, stinky little lake had proven it was much more than what I had originally thought almost a decade ago. The lake has recorded nearly 30 species of shorebirds to date and over 20 species of ducks and swans, along with a respectable list of songbirds. The full list can be accessed on eBird.com under the following link:

<https://ebird.org/barchart?r=L368445&yr=all&m=>

Lone tree Lake is a short drive from Cottonwood, Minnesota, at the very northern border of Lyon County. Most of the birding can be done from the road from 290th Ave.

So when will you visit Lone Tree Lake? Maybe I'll see you out there! Have questions? Shoot me a text or call me at 507-829-8187. I'd be glad to answer them.

New MOU Members

Joshua Bauer, *Odessa, MN*
Christine Bedor, *Minneapolis, MN*
Robert Daves, *Bloomington, MN*
John Howe, *Eden Prairie, MN*
Shaymus McLaughlin, *Minneapolis, MN*
Sara Meyer, *Minneapolis, MN*
Nancy Nielson, *Lake City, MN*
Leanne Phinney, *St. Paul, MN*
Kathryn & James Rudd, *Eagan, MN*
James Stout, *St. Paul, MN*
William Vavra, *Maple Plain, MN*
Jane Wachutka, *Chisago City, MN*
Patricia Wollesky, *Eagan, MN*
Amy and Marc Gunby, *Minnetonka, MN*
Michael Koutnik, *Eagan, MN*
Jim Lahner, *Chaska, MN*
Claudia Nanninga, *Minneapolis, MN*
James Robey, *Stewartville, MN*
Linda & Micheal Schwegman, *Wayzata, MN*

2019 MOU Certificate of Appreciation Recipients

This year the MOU Awards Committee issued more Certificates of Appreciation than in any other year to date. Certificates of Appreciation are awarded to individuals, businesses, or others with a “rare” bird on their property who provide access for visiting birders. A complimentary MOU membership is included with a certificate for non-MOU members (but not for current members). Some of the criteria considered by the Awards Committee when a proposed certificate is discussed and voted on are: 1) How significant or unusual of the bird was (Rare-regular species or Regular species out of range or out of season, along with Casual or Accidental species, can be considered), 2) Whether access to the property was open to all birders, and 3) Whether any restrictions or conditions for visiting birders were reasonable given the location (quiet neighborhood or urban area), number of visitors, the time of day to visit, etc.

Please contact Susan Elliott (honeywarbler@gmail.com) or any member of the Awards Committee (Susan, Liz Harper, Paul Egeland, Ben Douglas and Bob Dunlap) if you would like to nominate someone for a Certificate of Appreciation. Thank you to our 2019 Certificate of Appreciation Recipients!

- Beau and Jackie Shroyer: Brambling, Callaway, 2019
- Brian Smith: Bullock’s Oriole, Sleepy Eye, 2019
- Jim and Jill Gordon: Lazuli Bunting, Dassel, 2019
- Pam Solis: Western Tanager, Coon Rapids, 2019
- Dave and Lucy Barta: Lazuli Bunting, New Prague, 2019
- Randy Frederickson: Bullock’s Oriole, Willmar, 2019
- Kathryn and James Rudd: Rufous Hummingbird, Eagan, 2019



Western Tanager, by Alex Sundvall

- Steve and Marilyn Emerson: Spotted Towhee, Little Falls, 2019
- Brad Bjerken: Chestnut-collared Longspur (and many prairie birds over many years), Felton Prairie, Felton, 2019
- Crookston Sewage Ponds: Many birds over many years, Crookston, 2019
- Thief River Falls Sewage Ponds: Many birds over many years, Thief River Falls, 2019



Bullock's Oriole, by Alex Sundvall



Brambling, by John Jonas

Savaloja Grant Applications Due

by Steve Wilson, Chair, MOU Savaloja Committee

Terry Savaloja was a well-known Minnesota birder and T.S. Roberts Award recipient who died in 1992. Since then, the MOU has awarded annual small grants from the Savaloja Memorial Fund.

Grants are 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 include those currently underrepresented in Minnesota's birding community are welcome as a means of broadening public support for birds and their habitat.

The good news is that \$13,500 is available for Savaloja grants in 2020. The bad news? That's \$5,500 less than the

record amount awarded last year. You, our members, make the difference in whether we can support the amazing proposals received each year. If you'd like to become a supporter of Savaloja projects that benefit birds in 2021, please go to <http://moumn.org/signup.html>, click on the Donate link and contribute what you can. Just be sure to put "Savaloja Donation" in the "Add Special Instructions to Seller" box.

Details on past projects and how to apply can be found at <https://moumn.org/grants.php>. The deadline for receipt of grant applications is January 20, 2020. Grant recipients will be notified by April 1, 2020.

Savaloja Grant Report MOU Grant Results in Window Collision Studies

by Bill Tefft, Ely Field Naturalist

Ely School District acquired funds to replace the windows in Washington Elementary School in 2018. The new windows have a much larger glass surface, and the new surfaces are darker and more reflective. During the fall of 2018, the students, teachers, and staff observed an increase in the number of birds hitting the new windows.

Teachers reported the observations to the Ely Field Naturalists (EFN) and wanted to answer student questions about the cause of the birds being injured or killed by the collisions with windows. Those observations and questions led to EFN meeting with teachers, visiting classes, and writing a Savaloja Grant Application. The grant was to support education about birds, bird migrations, and risks to birds from window collisions.

The grant provided also funds to acquire bird guides, bird activity books, information on window collisions, Minnesota bird checklists, and materials for marking windows. Teachers reported birds hitting windows, and the school and EFN volunteers collected birds for identification.

A spring program was presented to the elementary school during Spring International Migratory Day 2019 with posters provided by the Kawishiwi District of the Superior National Forest. Individual classes participated in outdoor student activities to explore spring behavior and phenology of common bird species.

EFN volunteers conducted daily building checks for birds during the 2019 spring migration, the 2019 breeding season, and the 2019 fall migration. During fall migration volunteers visited classes of various grades to enable students to review the observations, look at the species collected, discuss the causes, and explore alternatives that

might reduce collisions.

This project contributed to a number of outcomes. Students were involved in scientific investigation and problem solving. School administrators and architects were engaged in discussions for planning future building design and window replacements. Community members benefited from information from EFN about the project when looking at the incidence of window collisions at other community buildings and homes.

More presentations are being proposed to explore ways to reduce the risk of bird collisions and provide workable methods for property owners. The Ely Field Naturalists would like to thank the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union for supporting our students and communities in learning more about human-avian interactions in our area.



American Tree Sparrow, by Jean Brisance

David Cahlander Volunteer of the Year

Written by John Jonas, presented at the MOU Paper Session by Ben Douglas



Lisa Keitel, by Curt Rawn

I am honored today to present the MOU's first Volunteer of the Year Award, and to announce that the Award has been named after MOU volunteer extraordinaire, David Cahlander! Dave is THE reason why the MOU has such a phenomenal website and database. Not only has Dave contributed his remarkable computer skills and spent countless hours creating and maintaining the website, but he has also won the Roberts Award AND the Voelker Award. A big thank-you to Dave for everything that you've done for the MOU!

Our nominee for the inaugural David A Cahlander Volunteer of the Year Award, while working through cancer treatments in 2014, found that watching birds at her feeders was an enjoyable way to lessen stress. She decided to share this marvelous activity with others, especially those needing a break from life's difficulties.

She started with the Minnesota Independence College and Community. MICC is a life skills and vocational pro-

gram for young adults with learning differences and on the autism spectrum in Richfield MN. MICC teaches and supports these young adults in daily life skills, and they value and promote an active, healthy lifestyle – including finding ways to manage stress. Our nominee wanted to teach these adults about birds and birding, but faced a challenge: MICC did not have binoculars.

She contacted the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter and submitted and received a grant in coordination with MICC. With that grant, she was able to purchase eight pairs of binoculars, field guides, and field bags. With MICC's support, our nominee organized a bird club and led MICC bird hikes this past summer. She then created an elective, evening "Bird Club" class. Students in Bird Club class are responsible for weekly attendance at the Club and also the bi-weekly bird hikes led by our nominee.

Our nominee also volunteers in the cancer support world, as she is acutely aware of the impact that a cancer diagnosis and treatments can have on the patient and their families. With the support of Gilda's Club Twin Cities, our nominee submitted a grant application to the MOU's Savajola Grant Committee for the purchase of feeders, binoculars and field guides for Gilda's Club. The grant request was approved, and the feeder was installed at the Minnetonka Gilda's Club location at the end of May. Our nominee assists with weekly feeder maintenance and filling, volunteers for birding programming with Gilda's once a month, and has created a wonderful birding experience for cancer patients and their families.

Thank you to John Jonas for nominating our first ever David A. Cahlander Volunteer of the Year Award Winner: **LISA KEITEL!**



Rusty Blackbird, by Kevin Manley

Young Birder of the Year Award

Written and presented at the MOU Paper Session by Ezra Hosch

Our recipient graduated from Bemidji State University in 2016 with a degree in Wildlife Biology and minors in Geographic Information Systems and Wetlands Ecology. Since she graduated, she has had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. These have included working as a nest-monitoring technician with Piping Plovers in North Dakota as well as with grassland birds in Kansas and North Dakota. Her love for birds began when backyard birding with her mom and grandma. She became interested in a career working with birds after taking ornithology at BSU and while studying the previously mentioned Piping Plovers at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. Our recipient is interested in the behavior of avian species and hopes to study that aspect as part of a Master's program in the future.

Last May, she traveled to Braddock Bay Bird Observatory in New York and took their Bird Banding Course to

gain passerine banding experience. When time permits, she volunteers at Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, Minnesota during their bird banding events to gain more experience in handling and extracting passerines from mist nets. She just completed a count traineeship at Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth, Minnesota, where I had the pleasure of first becoming acquainted with her.

The hours I have spent in the field with our recipient made it obvious that she is both a talented and careful observer. While scanning for raptors, her ability to pick up on minute details and unwillingness to shoot from the hip, both of which are traits that are not universal in young birders, greatly contribute to the fact that our recipient is a rising star in the birding community. Please give a round of applause for the recipient of the 2019 MOU's Young Birder of the Year Award: **BREANNA WAGNER!**

Brother Theodore Voelker Award

Written and presented at the MOU Paper Session by Ezra Hosch

Brother Theodore Voelker Award recipient this year has earned the reputation of being one of the finest field birders in Minnesota, and his extraordinary find of yet another first state record has only solidified the esteem for him among those in the birding community.

Although our recipient is being recognized for his

achievement in field ornithology in 2019, it would be amiss to not acknowledge the numerous rarities this man has documented over the years. In 2000, our recipient discovered a fifth state record Black-throated Gray Warbler. In 2004, he found and documented a third state record Black Vulture. In 2005, he located a third state record Common Ground Dove, and two years later a first state record Inca Dove! In 2015, he found a fourth state record Brewer's Sparrow, which was also the first record in Minnesota of this species that was supported by physical evidence. Some of his exception co-finds have included Accidental species such as Tricolored Heron and Curlew Sandpiper. Obviously, this man has a knack for finding extraordinary vagrants!

Last, but not least, our recipient discovered a first state record Cassin's Sparrow in Two Harbors, Lake County, on 29 September of this year. As his fellow eBird reviewer, I must say that his detailed writeup and numerous photos were as appreciated as his amazing find! Also, to the delight of his fellow North Shore birders, he quickly got the word out about his sighting, which he hopes makes up for any shortcomings in this area when he found that pesky Brewer's Sparrow four years ago.

May I offer a hearty congratulations to the 2019 Brother Theodore Voelker award for special achievement in field ornithology, birder extraordinaire **JIM LIND!**



Wood Duck, by Richard Gotz

Thomas S. Roberts Memorial Award

Written and presented at the MOU Paper Session by Ezra Hosch

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Articles of Incorporation states that "The purpose of this corporation shall be the promotion of a broad program of conservation and natural history study, primarily in the field of ornithology. To achieve this objective the union urges and promotes interest in field studies and observation of birds by individual members and affiliated Bird Clubs." Few have contributed so faithfully to the organization's goal as our 2019 Thomas S. Roberts Memorial Award Winner for lifetime achievement.

Our nominee grew up in Detroit, Michigan, and attended the University of Michigan as an undergraduate, majoring in Mathematics and graduating in 1977. He then went to graduate school at UC Berkeley, again majoring in mathematics. After graduating, our nominee moved to Minneapolis, where he started his famous gull studies on Lakes Harriet and Calhoun.

Our nominee has been a member of the Seasonal Report editing team since 1995 and has chaired the committee since 2008. His extraordinary contributions to this publication have resulted in Minnesota birders having a better understanding of the timing and routes of avian migration in our region. Not only has his careful editing led to accurate and reliable species accounts, but the forwards that he writes to the Season are always engaging and a joy to read!

Besides his 24 years of work with the Seasonal Report, our nominee has served as an associate editor of *The Loon* since 2008, served a term on the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union Records Committee through 2007, as well as volunteering as sub-regional editor for Minnesota for *North American Birds* since 2008. His volunteer time is in high demand due to his unique insights on Minnesota's avifauna.

One of his most important achievements with our organization was his role in helping shuttle in the digital era of the MOU. He served as the first chair of the Electronic Communications Committee from 1998 to 2002, and he continues to serve on this committee at the present time. This was the time period when the MOU started its first website and launched the listserv, which was Minnesota's first online medium for reporting rarities and discussing bird identification.

He has also done a significant amount of work behind the scenes on the MOU website, such as calculating the median arrival and departure dates for species in both the northern and southern halves of the state, which has become an invaluable resource to MOU members. It is hard to even begin to imagine how many more hours eBird Regional Editors would have to spend on their filter editing process if it were not for our nominee's time devoted to his work.

Our nominee has not slowed down in recent years, as his 2013 paper on *Plegadis* ibis greatly increased our knowledge on their status and distribution in the state. One of the results of his research was the publication of the first account of a Glossy x White-faced Ibis hybrid for Minnesota.

Despite all of the serious scientific contributions our nominee has made to Minnesota ornithology, he is also as guilty as the rest of us for being a serious lister. One significant example of this is his ability to run a competitive big day, and to date he has completed more record setting county big days than any other birder in the state!

According to his friend Doug, one of the keys to success behind a big day is driving fast and being able to talk your way out of a speeding ticket, which our nominee once had to do in Chisago County, although he was not quite so fortunate in Roseau County.

Once while scouting for a Hennepin County big day, he discovered a first county record and fourth state record Neotropic Cormorant, proving that having a strong knowledge of your local birding patches can pay big dividends. The Hennepin County fun did not end there, as our nominee's team discovered a Yellow Rail the morning of the big day, and were briefly joined a Hennepin County Sheriff's deputy, who wondered why people would be celebrating at a marsh in the middle of the night.

Our nominee's friends recall the many good memories made along the way while conducting these fast-paced big days. In Wright County, their group was wading through a marsh to get a look at a drawn down Smith Lake, when a sudden thunderstorm appeared. The group was rewarded by a Red Knot at the lake but wasn't sure it was such a good idea to be sloshing through the marsh carrying metal tripods in a lightning storm. Another thunderstorm in Hubbard County had them seeking shelter in the local bowling alley, where a few beers helped fortify them for the remainder of the day.

When he is not doing big days, or working on his Hennepin County list, he is traveling to the corners of the continent to chase ABA rarities such as Antillean Palm-swifts.

Last but certainly not least, our nominee has been an incredible mentor to myself as a young birder. He has consistently provided constructive feedback on how to review records. Thanks to his guidance, many have been inspired to delve into the data and learn more about birds.

Although he is in Washington D.C. and unable to be present today, please give a warm round of applause to **PAUL BUDDE**, our 2019 Thomas S. Roberts Memorial Award winner!

~ MINNESOTA BIRDING WEEKENDS & WEEKS ~
APRIL 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021 • <http://www.mbwbirds.com> • OUR 35th SEASON

Complete descriptions of all MBWs, summaries of previous MBWs, registration information, and more will be posted on the MBWbirds website ([mbwbirds.com](http://www.mbwbirds.com)) on **DECEMBER 31, 2019**.

PLEASE NOTE – The opening of registrations for 2020-21 will be at **NOON** on **JANUARY 1, 2020**.

~ APRIL 2020 - JANUARY 2021 MBWEEKENDS ~

See mbwbirds.com/mbweekends.html for complete information on each MBWeekend.

All MBWeekends fees are \$20/day pre-paid; fees paid later when a MBW meets are \$25/day.

Note that changes in this schedule are possible – including a scheduled MBWeekend that may have been canceled, or a new MBWeekend added – and updates on these will appear on mbwbirds.com.

- April 3 pre-MBW ~ Fillmore County
- April 4-5, 2020 ~ Houston County

- May 8 pre-MBW ~ Murray County
- May 9-10, 2020 ~ Lyon & Lincoln Counties

- May 22 pre-MBW ~ Big Stone County
- May 23-24-25, 2020 ~ Lac Qui Parle

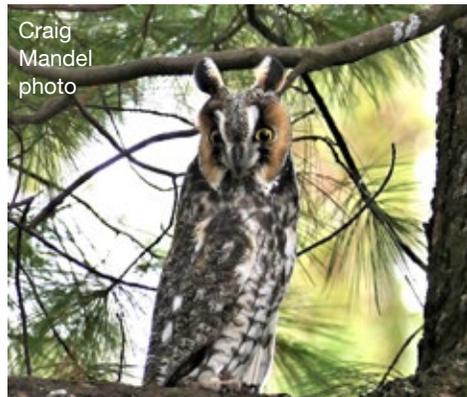
- July 17 pre-MBW ~ N. Ottawa Impoundment
- July 18-19, 2020 ~ Otter Tail County

- September 4 pre-MBW ~ Kittson County
- September 5-6-7, 2020 ~ Northwestern Minn.

- October 9 pre-MBW ~ Dodge County
- October 10-11, 2020 ~ Steele & Waseca Counties

- November 5-6, 2020 ~ North Shore I
- November 7-8, 2020 ~ North Shore II

- January 8 pre-MBW ~ Duluth I
- January 9-10, 2021 ~ Duluth II



Craig Mandel photo

- Registrations only accepted by e-mail
- Limit 1 MBWeekend (incl pre-MBW) or MBWeek registration per day
- Limit 1 person (or couple) per registration
- Registrations open at NOON each day, beginning JANUARY 1, 2020
- No MBW fees included with registrations
- Questions? Contact Kim R Eckert • eckertkr@gmail.com • 218 349 5953

~ APRIL 2020 - FEBRUARY 2021 MBWEEKS ~

See mbwbirds.com/mbweeks.html for complete information on each MBWeek, including the estimated shared trip expenses. Note that changes in this schedule are possible – including MBWeeks that may have been canceled or added – and updates on these will appear on mbwbirds.com.



KRE photo

- April 18 - 26, 2020 ~ High Island & Hill Country, TX
- May 26 - June 2, 2020 ~ Black Hills & W. Dakotas I
- June 6 - 13, 2020 ~ Black Hills & W. Dakotas II
- January 16 - 23, 2021 ~ Southern California
- January 24 - 31, 2021 ~ Southeast Arizona
- February 20 - 28, 2021 ~ South Texas

January / February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			January 1 Whitewater River Valley CBC, DNR First-day Hike & CBC, Afton SP, DNR	2	3	4 Swans by Snowshoe, Wild River SP, DNR Monthly Bird Walk, ZVAS
5 Bird Language, MRVAC	6 Bass Ponds Bird Walk, MRVAC	7	8	9	10	11 WI Campus Bird Hike, CNC Golden Eagle Program, Whitewater SP, DNR Owl Prowl, intl. Owl Ctr
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Bass Ponds Bird Walk, MRVAC Bird Banding, Eastman Nat Ctr., 3RPD Bird Banding, Lowry Nat Ctr., 3RPD
19	20	21	22 "Birding in Costa Rica," MN Global Birders	23 NE Minn. Birding Days (Jan. 23-24), MRVAC	24 Bird Banding, CNC MN Campus Owl Prowl, CNC	25
26 Bass Ponds Bird Walk, MRVAC	27	28 ZVAS Monthly Program, ZVAS	29	30	31	February 1 Bass Ponds Bird Walk, MRVAC Monthly Bird Walk, ZVAS
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 WI Campus Bird Hike, CNC Owl Prowl, intl. Owl Ctr
9	10	11	12 MN Global Birders	13	14	15 Bird Banding, Lowry Nat Ctr., 3RPD
16	17	18	19	20	21 MN Campus Owl Prowl, CNC	22 Wilkie Unit Bird Walk, MRVAC
23 Bass Ponds Bird Walk, MRVAC	24	25 ZVAS Monthly Program, ZVAS	26	27	28 Bird Banding, CNC	29 "Masters of the Sky," CNC



MOU Calendar

January / February 2020



CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Minnesota Campus:

12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN

Wisconsin Campus:

300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI

Jan. 11: WI Campus Bird Hike

Details: 9–11 am. Join the St. Croix Valley Bird Club on a morning hike on our beautiful WI campus. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Program fee: \$6.00 or free for “Friends of CNC”, Hastings Environmental Protectors, Hastings High School students, and St. Croix Valley Bird Club members. Please RSVP at 651-437-4359 and let us know you are coming. Location: Wisconsin Campus

Jan. 24: Public Bird Banding

Details: 8:30 am–12 pm. Join CNC’s expert bird banders every month as they catch, band and release songbirds on our Minnesota campus. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go at any time. Donations of birdseed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee. Location: Minnesota Campus

Jan. 24: MN Campus Owl Prowl

Details: 6–8 pm. 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 register. Location: Minnesota Campus

Feb. 8: WI Campus Bird Hike

Details: 9–11 am. Join the St. Croix Valley Bird Club on a morning hike on our beautiful WI campus. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Program fee: \$6.00 or free for “Friends of CNC”, Hastings Environmental Protectors, Hastings High School students, and St. Croix Valley Bird Club members. RSVP at 651-437-4359 and let us know you are coming. Location: Wisconsin Campus

Feb. 21: MN Campus Owl Prowl

Details: 6–8 pm. 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 register. Location: Minnesota Campus

Feb. 28: Public Bird Banding

Details: 8:30 am–12 pm. Join CNC’s expert bird banders every month as they catch, band and release songbirds on our Minnesota campus. Banding runs continuously and visitors may come and go at any time. Donations of birdseed or suet are greatly appreciated in lieu of a program fee. Location: Minnesota Campus

Feb. 29: Masters of the Sky

Details: 11 am–4 pm. The World Bird Sanctuary staff from St. Louis, Missouri, will be coming to CNC to present a captivating program about birds of prey. Visitors will learn about raptors from around the world. Experience live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, and other birds up close and in free flight. The presenters will introduce methods to help protect raptors and their habitats. Event fee: \$10.00, or \$7.00 for “Friends of CNC.” **RSVP and non-refundable payment required.** Location: Minnesota Campus

DNR

(See www.dnr.state.mn.us for directions to locations)

Jan. 1: Annual Whitewater River Valley Christmas Bird Count

Details: 8 am–12 pm. Kick off the New Year at Whitewater State Park by helping with the Annual Whitewater River Valley Christmas Bird Count! Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Participants will be assigned teams with a route leader and will cover various sections of the valley by vehicle and on foot. We will meet back at the visitor center for hot beverages and treats by the fire. To sign up, call 507-312-2308 or email sara.holger@state.mn.us. Location: Whitewater State Park

Jan. 1: First-day Hike and Christmas Bird Count, Afton State Park

Details: 8:30–11:30 am. This nationwide walk at Afton State Park is a great way to start off the new year. Join the park naturalist on this walk while counting birds for the Christmas Bird Count. For more information call 651-231-6968 or send email to Linda.Radimecky@state.mn.us.

Jan. 4: Swans by Snowshoe, Wild River State Park

Details: 11 am–12:30 pm. Swans gather on the St. Croix River during the winter months on open water they find. The song of a Trumpeter, unfortunately, sounds like a grade school band warming up. Join the naturalist on a hike to Nevers Dam overlook where swans and geese flock together at the park. Canceled if wind chill or temp is below –15.

**Jan. 11: Live Golden Eagle Program,
Whitewater State Park**

Details: 10:30–11:30 am. Find out about golden eagles in the blufflands from the man who knows them best. Scott Mehus, National Eagle Center Education Director and Golden Eagle Project Co-coordinator, will share his years of experience observing Golden Eagles in southeast Minnesota and Wisconsin. You'll learn how to identify Golden Eagles in the wild and some of the best places to look for these elusive raptors. For more information, call 507-312-2300.

INTERNATIONAL OWL CENTER

Jan. 11 and Feb. 8: Expert-led Owl Prowls

Details: 6–9 pm. Owls live all around us but are very good at evading detection. Come learn how to identify our local owls by size, shape, silhouette and sound with the Owl Center's human and owl staff. Following the indoor portion of the program participants will carpool to known owl territories in and around Houston to call and listen for Eastern Screech-Owls, Barred Owls, and Great Horned Owls. Dress for the weather, and try to wear clothes that don't make noise when you move. Calling will be done from the side of the road, so very little walking is required. Children are welcome, but must be able to stand quietly for at least 10 minutes at a time. Meet at the International Owl Center at the listed time and expect to return roughly 2.5–3 hours later. Plan to spend the first 45 minutes indoors learning to identify owls by sound before going outdoors.

You must RSVP for the program you plan to attend (send an email to karla@internationalowlcenter.org) but pay when you arrive. Group size is limited. Cost is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. Programs will be canceled in case of significant wind, rain, severe road conditions, or low enrollment. Participants who have reserved a space will be notified of cancellations. Location: International Owl Center, 126 E. Cedar St., Houston, MN

MINN. RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER

Jan. 5. MRVAC Program: Bird Language

Details: 9:15 am–1 pm. Want to learn more about birds and their behavior? Wonder what they're chipping about, or why they suddenly fall silent? Join Volunteer Refuge Naturalist Jonathon Poppele and Donnie Phyllaier for this special workshop series to learn more. Workshop begins indoors for discussion and will head outside for observations and more learning. Bring a notebook, pencil, and something to sit on outdoors. Be sure to dress for the weather. Free. Registration encouraged online at www.MNtracking.org.

Location: MVNWR Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington



Broad-winged Hawk, by Kevin Manley

MRVAC Field Trips:

MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Bird Watching

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, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather as we search for these and other overwintering species of birds on the Refuge. Registration is not required for these refuge tours. All hikes are from 8:00-10:30 am and led by Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647.

Bass Ponds, Trailhead.

2501 86th Street E., Bloomington
Monday, Jan. 6, 8–10:30 am
Saturday, Jan. 18, 8–10:30 am
Sunday, Jan. 26, 8–10:30 am
Saturday, Feb. 1, 8–10:30 am
Sunday, Feb. 23, 8–10:30 am

Wilkie Unit, Trailhead.

7701 County Road 101 E, Shakopee
Saturday, Feb. 22, 8–10:30 am

Jan. 23–24. NE Minnesota Birding Days

Details: We will search for Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls along with winter finches in the Sax-Zim Bog on Thursday. On Friday we will again start in Duluth and possibly bird in Duluth, Two Harbors, or make our way up to Lake and/or Aitkin County depending on what is being seen. This trip should get your 2020 birding checklist off to a great start. Please contact Craig Mandel at 952-240-7647 to register for this trip.

MINNESOTA GLOBAL BIRDERS

This informal group meets monthly at the Walker Library in Minneapolis. Anyone interested is welcome. We prefer to monitor the number of attendees, so please register (see below) or RSVP via email to Gregg Severson at Gregg.Severson@gmail.com.

Wed., Jan. 22. Birding in Costa Rica

Details: 6 pm – 8 pm. Gerald Hoekstra will give a presentation on birding in Costa Rica (and how to do a trip like that with a non-birding spouse, partner, or friend). For details and to register (so we can monitor attendance for our 50 seats), go to tinyurl.com/globalbirding26. Free. Location: Walker Library, 2880 Hennepin Avenue S (at Lagoon), Minneapolis

Wed., Feb. 12. Program TBD

Details: 6 pm – 8 pm. Presenter and topic TBD. For details and to register, go to tinyurl.com/globalbirding27. Free. Location: Walker Library, 2880 Hennepin Avenue S (at Lagoon), Minneapolis



Barred Owl, by Richard Gotz

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Jan 18: Bird Banding

Details: 9 am –12 pm. See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied and tagged with numbered rings. Bring a camera. Drop in anytime. Free. Location: Eastman Nature Center, 13341 Elm Creek Rd, Osseo, MN

Jan 18: 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. Location: Carver Park Reserve – Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria, MN

Feb 15: 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. Location: Carver Park Reserve – Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr, Victoria, MN

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Jan 4: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

Details: 9–10 am. Join Terry and Joyce Grier on a casual walk through Quarry Hill Park. Free and open to the public; no registration required. Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester

Jan 28: ZVAS Monthly Program. To be announced

Details: 7–8 pm.
Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester

Feb 1: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

Details: 9–10 am. Join Terry and Joyce Grier on a casual walk through Quarry Hill Park. Free and open to the public; no registration required. Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester

Feb 25: ZVAS Monthly Program. To be announced

Details: 7–8 pm.
Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester

Birder Bio: Janet Majerus



Janet with Craig Mandel, by Nancy Henke

Tell us about yourself.

I was born on Flag Day in 1938 and raised on a farm in Bellechester, a few miles southeast of Goodhue, MN. After going to grade school at the parochial school in Bellechester, I attended high school at the Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato, as an aspirant to the religious life. While serving as a School Sister of Notre Dame, I earned a bachelor's degree at Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, WI. In 1969 I left the convent and took a job teaching sixth grade (mostly science and math) in Farmington, MN for the the next 30 years. During that time I earned a master's degree from Bemidji State University.

Prior to my divorce in 1998 and retirement in 1999, I moved to a great neighborhood in Rosemount, MN and then started another phase of my life. I began traveling and along the way decided to explore all seven continents. Looking back, my greatest regret was that I was not a birder at that time. I was just not aware of all the birds I was missing! However, you can't be on a safari in Africa or cruising the islands in Antarctica without seeing birds. I have birded in Panama, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Costa Rica, the Galapagos, and Ecuador. In this country I've birded in Texas, Arizona, California, Montana, and Washington. In May 2018 I fulfilled an item on my bucket list by going on a birding trip to southern England, Ireland, and Scotland, with a day of birding in France as well. On that trip I was able to get my life list to 1001. As Craig Mandel always says, you need to have that extra one to be "genuinely bona fide."

When did you start birding?

I started birding in Minnesota in 2008 when I was 70. Jim and Laura Mattsson took me under their wing (no pun intended). Jim was my mentor until his untimely death. Jim and Laura introduced me to the Lebanon Park System and other places in Dakota County. I discovered that I could bird the park by myself without getting lost. It probably has the best-marked trails in Minnesota. That gave me courage to bird on my own.

How did your interest expand after that first experience?

After birding a few times in the same car with Craig Mandel and Susan and Ken Schumacher, I learned the value and fun of county birding. I returned the favor by influencing some of my birding friends to become county birders. What fun to see them go sometimes from 0 to 100 birds in a county in one day. I started aiming for 25 species in each county, then 50, 75, and now 101. I have 11 counties to go, with Isanti being my lowest at 79. Most are in the 90s. When I reach that goal I will also have over 10,000 tics. It took a village to get me to this point. I am grateful to all my birding friends that made sure I saw a county bird when I needed it.

I am also working on increasing my number of birds seen in all 87 counties. One weekend a few years ago I put on 1000 miles to finish getting to three birds in every county. I drove to every county in which I still needed Red-winged Blackbird, Rock Pigeon, and Mourning Dove. My neatest adventure of the weekend was riding a golf cart to the fifth hole of the Superior National at Lutsen Golf Course to get a Red-winged Blackbird for Cook County. At this point, I have 10 species in all 87 counties and aiming for 20. I am working on four more that I am close to getting in every county.

My winter project last year was to get a Mallard and Canada Goose every day of the year (to Kim Eckert's amusement). I now have six species every day of the year and will try this winter to get to 10. Most of the birds I need I can get at the observation deck at the Minnesota Zoo. I volunteer there on Thursdays, so I have free access to the zoo.

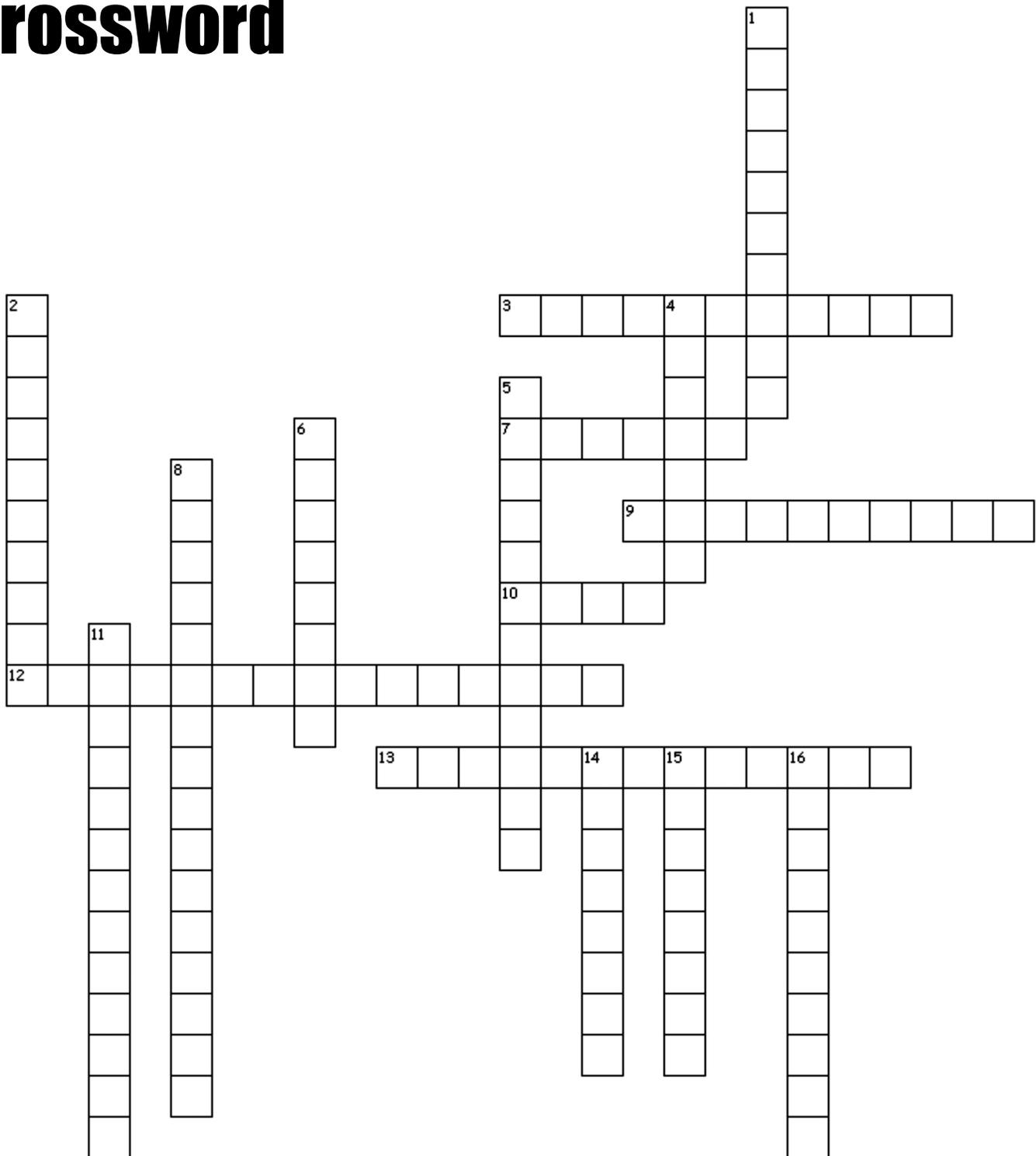
What is the main attraction of birding for you?

The main attraction of birding is getting out in nature and exploring the many varied habitats of Minnesota. It is a beautiful and diversified state, and to do that with so many amazing birders while making lifelong friends is a win-win experience.

What new bird would you most like to see?

I really want to see my first Long-eared Owl.

Crossword



Across

3. The state bird of Colorado
7. The only species in its genus and family
9. "The little one of the sand"
10. A medium sized rail
12. The goose hawk of the north
13. The state bird of Wisconsin

Down

1. A regular species that did not appear in Minnesota until 1971
2. Has been found nesting in Minnesota in every month of the year
4. A popular backyard bird
5. Introduced into Minnesota in 1875
6. The Skunk Blackbird
8. The "Lead-colored Greenlet"
11. Clutches in Minnesota average 12–20 eggs
14. Both a bird and a religious title
15. Minnesota has two species of this small tree climbing bird
16. The "spirit duck"



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

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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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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: \$ _____