

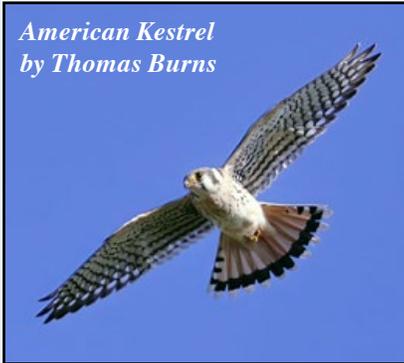


Minnesota BIRDING

January
February
2022
Volume 59
Number 1

Inside

American Kestrel
by Thomas Burns



- 1 President's Message
- 3 Conservation Column
- 5 2021 Awards and Certificates
- 9 Savaloga Grant Report
- 10 Savaloga Applications New Members
- 11 MOU Calender
- 16 Directors Minutes
- 17 Revised MOU By-laws
- 20 Membership Info

Message from the President

The start of a new year is a traditional time for looking ahead as well as reflecting on the past. I appreciate the opportunity to serve the MOU as its President and look forward to working with the Board, membership, and our partner organizations. The coming year holds exciting opportunities for growth, outreach, and conservation, as well as several excellent programs hosted by our partners. The MOU is pleased to support the Bell Museum's *Seeing Birds* exhibit, which will immerse visitors in the world of birds and flight. *Seeing Birds* will be a centerpiece of the museum's yearlong 150th anniversary celebration. Three Rivers Park District is also observing a "Big Year of Birds" across its park network. Between these celebrations, and the regular activities of the MOU, you can anticipate in 2022 a year full of bird-themed exhibits, talks, hikes, workshops, and other events.

The end of the year is also a time for review. During the business meeting held at the Paper Session on December 4, I recounted some of the activities of the MOU from the past year, and I would like to share those summary remarks here as well. For even though we have not been able to see a lot of each other in person these past two years, the MOU and its commit-

tees have remained active and busy — often having to come up with creative solutions to pandemic challenges. We were fortunate during these unprecedented times to have the leadership of Richard King. How fortuitous to have someone with a medical background as President. I want to thank him for his thoughtful guidance that kept the MOU safely moving forward, as well as for his dedication to equity and inclusion in our birding community.

The MOU has 14 standing committees, the chairs of which together with the five elected officers, journal and newsletter editors, and Past President make up the Board. During 2021 we also had one *ad hoc* committee, which was tasked with updating the MOU's By-Laws (see p. 17). This committee, chaired by Ann Kessen, reviewed the current by-laws and made revisions and updates in consultation with the Board. One of the things that was incorporated into the by-laws was the following mission statement:

The mission of the MOU is the observation, study, and conservation of birds and their natural habitats while supporting diversity and inclusion in its membership and in its leadership.

Reflecting on this mission and

looking back at the past year, I would like to highlight some of the ways in which the MOU has been working towards reaching a wider audience of birders so that we can share the science, conservation, and enjoyment of Minnesota's birds with a broader cross-section of Minnesotans.

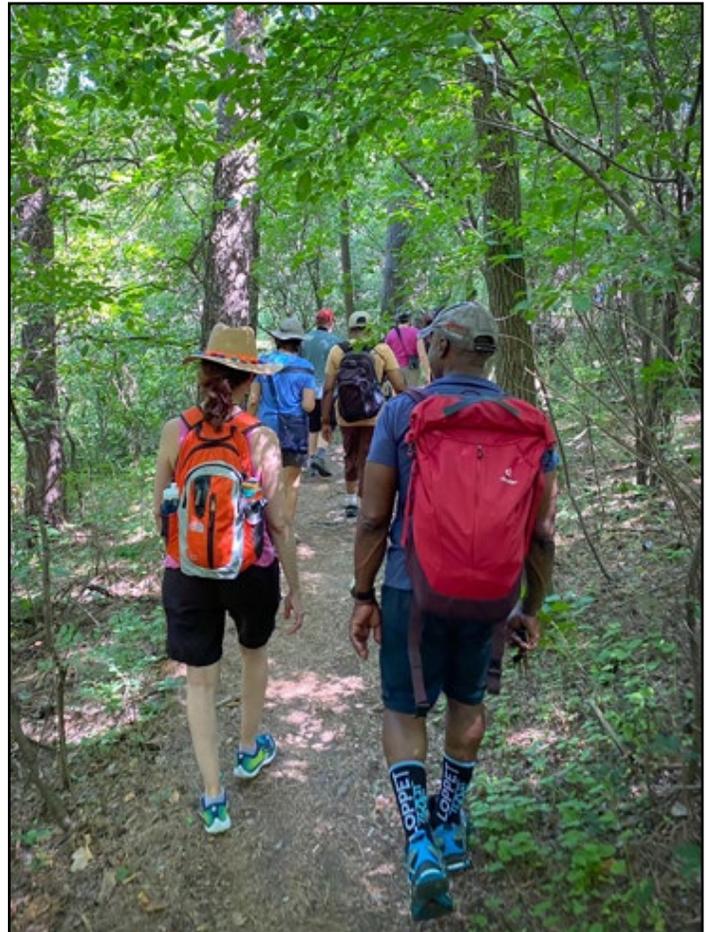
The pandemic has brought some unanticipated perks. One is the way in which we have learned to embrace virtual meetings and presentations. After having had to cancel the 2020 Spring Primer, the Education Committee organized a very successful online event that included an excellent lineup of speakers and was attended by over 200 birders. After both this event and last year's virtual Paper Session, we heard from out-state birders and those for whom in-person attendance is difficult how welcome the increased accessibility of a virtual platform is. To that end, this year's Paper Session presentations were recorded and are now available on the MOU's YouTube channel, and we will continue to look for ways to make our events accessible to a wider audience.

Having to pivot and create new ways of doing things was also a boon for youth birding. The MOU has long been a partner in the Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Celebration, which is typically an in-person event; but during the last two years, due to COVID, this event consisted solely of the Youth Birding Competition, which encouraged teams of young birders to watch birds at home or locally. In 2021, 35 teams participated in the competition, and the MOU recognized the achievements of these young birders by providing certificates for free memberships to teams in each age category.

The pandemic also led to an increase in people taking up outdoor activities, including birding. In 2021 the MOU welcomed a new Field Trip committee chair, Garrett Wee. Garrett organized a series of walks, which included one specifically for beginner birders, as well as others targeted at specific habitats, species, or families of birds. Hikes were held in 16 different counties, and birders of all ages and skill levels participated. Many were new to birding and the MOU. The MOU also partnered in 2021 with Melanin in Motion to organize two "Beginning Bird Watching for BIPOC" walks, the first of which was held at Theodore Wirth Park during Black Birders Week, and another held at Clifton French Regional Park. The MOU provided leaders and binoculars for these walks.

If you follow the MOU on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MNornithU) or Instagram ([mou_birds](https://www.instagram.com/mou_birds)), you may have noticed the Social Media Committee's increased regular activity, with many posts geared to new birders, particularly the "Fledgling Birder Friday" and "Bird Word" series. Over the past year, the MOU Facebook page has gained almost 500 new audience members (a 30% increase) and will soon reach nearly 2,000 followers.

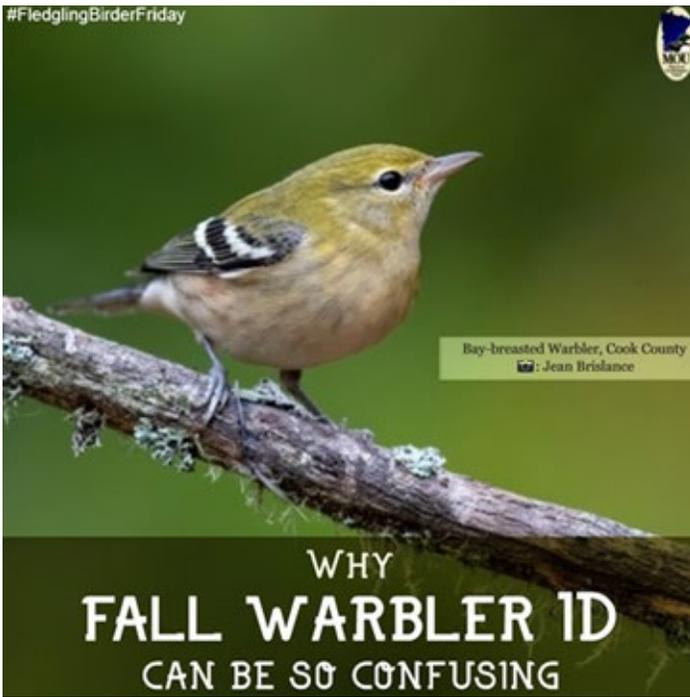
Also shared via social media are reports from our Savaloja Grant awardees. Each year, the MOU seeks grant



Beginning Bird Watching for BIPOC, by Michelle Terrell

applications from individuals or organizations undertaking projects in Minnesota that increase our understanding of birds, promote preservation of birds and their natural habitats, or increase public interest in birds, including in minorities currently underrepresented in Minnesota's birding community. In 2021 more than \$13,000 was granted to eight projects. Although many projects receive funding each year, we are not able to fund them all and our resources to do so are limited. This fall, thanks to generous donors who offered a matching grant up to \$5,000, we raised over \$12,000 for the Savaloja Grant fund. We also had a matching gift opportunity on Give to the Max Day that raised over \$2,000 for our general budget. Thank you to all who gave generously to both campaigns. Your support will help us fund additional grants as well as further the MOU's mission in other ways.

For example, in 2021 we worked with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to launch the MOU-sponsored Minnesota eBird portal (<https://ebird.org/mn>). This regional portal allows us to showcase Minnesota's birding opportunities to a rapidly growing eBird audience of both in-state birders and those planning visits to our state. Through the portal we also recognize the work of our partner organizations who are promoting the science, conservation, and public appreciation of Minnesota's birds. The portal features a section



Fledgling Birder Friday Post Example, Social Media Committee

devoted to “Minnesota Birding Resources” that will continue to grow, as well as a “Recent News” segment where we share content from eBird, the MOU, and our partners.

There is perhaps no place, though, that the MOU interacts with a wider cross-section of Minnesotans and non-birders than at the Minnesota State Fair, and we were

pleased to be able to meet once again with fair-goers under our “Ask Us About Birds” banner. Each year the Education Committee teams with the Publications Committee to produce handouts for the Fair. New for this year was a simplified Minnesota backyard bird checklist designed specifically for inexperienced birders, with the species sorted first by generalized habitat preference, then alphabetically, rather than taxonomically. New bookmarks for 2021 also included two multilingual designs. One featuring the word “bird” in Minnesota’s most spoken languages, which were translated on the back, and the other a Spanish language Osprey bookmark.

I would be remiss if I did not mention another MOU publication, the Daily Birding Planner, which has been incredibly popular and includes a wealth of birding information, including migration dates, checklists, and maps, and other useful information on Minnesota’s birds. The 2022 planner is available to order through <https://www.lulu.com/> (search “MOU”).

The planner and all the work of the MOU would not be possible without the contributions of volunteers. I would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to the MOU during 2021. Each year more than a hundred people give of their time and resources to the MOU, whether as committee members, bird walk leaders, speakers, State Fair booth staffers, writers of articles, donors, and in a multitude of other capacities big and small. The MOU truly runs on the commitment of volunteers to Minnesota’s birds. Thank you!

— **Michelle Terrell, MOU President**

Conservation Column

Out of Place Birds — Avian Vagrancy

by Andy Forbes

The recent appearance of a Ross’s Gull in Minnesota (pending MOURC acceptance) likely has led to many questions among birders about how it and other vagrant or accidental species get here. As is usually the case in nature, there is no single explanation but many possible ones for birds ending up so far out their normal range. This topic has fascinated both amateur and professional ornithologists for a long time. Below are the most common and likely reasons for this phenomenon.

Weather

Perhaps the most common reason that a bird gets off course is because a weather system blew it off track. This usually happens during migratory periods, when there are more birds moving around in general, but not always. Rarity hunters know this, and smartly time their birding trips to coincide with the time right before or after a major storm

system moves through the state. Storm systems — and/or strong winds — from the west can blow in birds that typically have more westerly migration routes in western Minnesota. Likewise, a strong east wind during fall migration could push birds migrating over Lake Superior closer to shore than normal. Young birds seem more susceptible to this than older birds, since they likely are making more mistakes on average, both in timing and direction.

Tropical storm systems moving over the ocean are another major driver of vagrancy, since these sometimes huge, powerful storms can sweep up large numbers of seabirds on the wing, driving them far inland as the storm system tracks its path over land. Watching the skies right before the remnants of a hurricane arrive can be a good time to find a really unusual species like a frigatebird in the Midwest.

Weather can also contribute to birds overshooting their intended destinations. This is likely often the case with va-

grant austral migrants, which are birds from South America that migrate north in the winter instead of south like “our” birds. Fork-tailed Flycatchers are perhaps the poster child for overshoot vagrants; normally they winter in northern South America and Central America, but have occurred as far north as Canada.

Internal Differences — a reversed “compass”?

For some reason, a small number of individuals in every population seem to have their internal compasses set a different direction than normal, or even possibly reversed completely. This results in a bird migrating along a very different course than most other members of its species. The Duluth Golden-crowned Sparrow that spent more than one winter in our state (vs. the Pacific coast, as is normal) is likely an example of this.

While this often doesn’t work out well for individual birds, there are exceptions to every rule. Rufous Hummingbirds are a common western species that have their primary wintering ground in western Mexico. However, in recent years they have become an increasingly regular winter resident along the Gulf Coast of the United States. While conditions may not have been historically favorable for them there, warmer winters and more suburban gardens and hummingbird feeders have helped change this species range over time. It will be very interesting to watch this unfold over the years.

Post-breeding dispersal

After they fledge in late summer, young birds of some species — especially colonial waterbirds — separate from their parents and disperse from their nest sites, and some seem to simply wander around without any particular objective or direction in mind. As a result, July and August can be good times to find a Wood Stork, Little Blue Heron, or even a Brown Pelican in Minnesota. These southeastern species likely wandered up the Mississippi River floodplain from



Cattle Egret, 140th St. Marsh, 2018, by Gerald Hoekstra

their nesting areas down south. They rarely stay very long in one place. I have particularly fond memories of looking out at a Roseate Spoonbill on the Minnesota River a few years ago, a bright pink wader that stuck out like a sore thumb on a Minnesota marsh. A rare treat, for sure.

Vagrancy and Bird Populations

While the prognosis for out of place birds is usually not good, vagrancy can sometimes lead to a range expansion or different migratory pathway for a species over time. In our part of the world, a good example of this is the Cattle Egret. While rare in Minnesota (for now), this bird, once primarily an African species, has now expanded across much of world. Perhaps most fascinating is that it got to the New World without any direct help from humans, likely by riding the trade winds across the Atlantic Ocean. While these strong winds may have helped them get there in a matter of days, the feat still boggles the imagination for a bird that is not built for long-distance migration. Cattle Egrets were first recorded in northern South America in the late 1870s. From there, the species rapidly colonized South and North America (undoubtedly aided by forest clearing for cattle). In the U.S., Cattle Egrets were first seen in Florida in 1941. By 1962, they had colonized much of the country, and were breeding in Canada.

While a natural pattern of bird movement (and population expansion), vagrancy could become an increasing phenomenon with more unpredictable weather events paired with range shifts. Although this may be a good thing for some species by helping their populations to become more resilient, it may not always lead to favorable results. Some researchers have suggested that if vagrant brood parasites like our Brown-headed Cowbird were to establish populations on other continents, or if Eurasian Cuckoos were to somehow become established here, some native species may not be well equipped to deal with them. Both of these species are showing up with increasing frequency away from their native lands. While many things would have to fall into place for this to happen and become problematic, it is a potentially concerning trend.



Ross's Gull at Point Douglas Park, 2021, by Ben Douglas

2021 MOU Certificates of Appreciation

The MOU gives Certificates of Appreciation to people with a “rare” bird on their property who provide access for visiting birders. Any MOU member may nominate a bird host/hostess at any time of the year by simply emailing the Awards Committee (honeywarbler@gmail.com) and including the name(s), address, shared bird, and a general description of the circumstances. A complimentary MOU membership is included with each Certificate for non-MOU members. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following people who shared their birds with MOU members and others during 2021:

- Linda Potts Krueger and Kevin Krueger, Hastings, Spotted Towhee
- Donna Klepp, Cokato, Varied Thrush
- Colleen and Terry Wackerfuss, St. Paul Park, Carolina Wren
- Dr. Bill Faber, Cushing, Lewis’s Woodpecker
- Bob and Donna Vanderhoof, Northfield, Varied Thrush
- Tom and Joan Remus, McGregor, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Doug and Joyce Warnke, Red-headed Woodpecker conservation

2021 Theodore Voelker Award Ezra Hosch

Presented by Alex Sundvall at the MOU Paper Session

I remember when this year’s Voelker Award recipient told me about Paul Hugo Farms WMA. He had just gotten back from birding there and described it as “one of the best marshes in the Twin Cities area,” mentioning Black Terns, Ring-necked Ducks, both Least and American Bitterns, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. He knew that one day something special would show up in this marsh, and he was going to be the one to find it. He spent hundreds of hours over the course of many months and a few years at Paul Hugo looking for that rarity.

On the 26th of May this year, I was happy to be with him when the two of us discovered Washington County’s first record of Black-necked Stilt there — a pair of birds that stuck around for only about 15 minutes before taking off and disappearing.

While this was a good bird, nothing would prepare the world for what he discovered just a few days later. On the 30th of May, 2021, when this year’s Voelker Award winner visited Paul Hugo Farms WMA just as he had countless evenings before, he encountered an unfamiliar sounding bird. He recorded it but passed it off as a weird-sounding Sora, since he and the rest of the state were suddenly preoccupied with a Black Rail report in Anoka County. However, after listening to the recording again that night and comparing it to spectrograms, he realized there was some real potential that this weird bird was in fact the first state record and farthest north record of Limpkin!

After sending it around to some friends and experts who all agreed that it was a Limpkin, he reported it out, and the entire state descended on Paul Hugo Farms WMA. After the initial discovery on May 30, the Limpkin was re-



ported until at least the 18th of July, with over 250 people seeing or hearing it. Limpkin is the 447th species added to the Minnesota list and the first to be added since the Lesser Goldfinch in late 2019. For the second year in a row now, it is my honor on behalf of the MOU to present the Brother Theodore Voelker Award for Special Achievement in Ornithology to Ezra Hosch!

2021 Young Birder Award

Frank Fabbro

Presented by Garrett Wee at the MOU Paper Session

I first met this birder on a cold January day up in Duluth. I was in Duluth trying to relocate the Tufted Duck that had been seen near Canal Park and the surrounding areas, as it would be a lifer for me. The duck had a brief absence when this young birder posted an update on Facebook that the bird had been relocated with some goldeneyes off “Pier B” just to the west of Canal Park. He said he would watch the bird until I could get there. I had not met this birder yet, but was eager to do so. I was aware that he had earned a good reputation quickly and was known for his sharp eyesight. Little did I know that I was about to earn two lifers, the second being a lifelong friend!

When I got to Pier B there was a crowd of people watching the Tufted Duck. My next mission was to surf the crowd looking for this young birder. We finally met, exchanged some small talk, and got back to birding. There were gulls in the area, and we both needed a FOY Iceland Gull. Joining forces, we carefully scoped through the mess of birds, snot running down our faces, for what seemed like an eternity but was actually a few minutes; then he calmly blurts out, “Iceland Gull!” Sure enough, he had located our FOY Iceland! I was impressed and even a little taken aback that he found the Iceland Gull before I did! My thoughts thereafter were, “Well, this kid is the real deal!”

My curiosity was eating me alive, and I couldn’t help but ask, “How old are you?” He replied “17.” I followed up by applauding him and noting that he really has a lot of people impressed by his persistence and enthusiasm in the birding community. Despite the brief encounter, I couldn’t help but think that his humble nature and already sharp birding skills at the age of 17 are going to make him one heck of a birder. Since then, he’s gone on to find many notable birds, constantly keeping us on our toes as we wait for his next find. Some of those finds include:

- Cinnamon Teal in Jackson County in 2021
- 2 Black-necked Stilts in Sherburne County in 2021
- Black-necked Stilt at Rice Lake in Hennepin and Carver Counties in 2021
- Lesser-black Backed Gull on Lake Harriet in 2019
- 5 American Avocets on Lake Byllesby in 2020
- Connecticut Warbler at the Wood Lake Nature Center in 2020

Many people chased these birds and added them to their Life or County List. His finds have led to other good birds

as well: in 2021 Rice Lake yielded over 20 species of shorebirds for metro birders to enjoy.

All this has us wondering, what will he find next? But it’s not just his great finds that make him a birder worthy of this award. He began working at the Wood Lake Nature Center assisting with bird

banding for spring migration. He’s also helped with bird banding at the Carver Park Reserve and Nature Center, working with Northern Saw-whet Owls. Now he’s continuing his studies at UC Davis in California, studying Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology, in addition to working with Sierra Pacific Industries as a Wildlife Technician banding and monitoring populations of the Threatened Spotted Owl.

We see his ever-growing skills as a birder and stewardship towards conservation developing right before our eyes. He’s achieved a lot already and has demonstrated his knowledge of birds and still has that sharp eye for the skies. He’s very accomplished and consistent, and quite persistent when it comes to searching for a “needs” or a FOY bird. His communication skills and his down to earth personality make him impossible not to like.

Knowing all of this, I finally decided I should nominate him for this award when he relocated some Short-eared Owls near Marsh Lake this spring. A small group of us gathered and we were talking amongst each other, I waited for him to move quite far down the road, and I *really* made sure I was more than an earshot away, since he also has really good ears! I turned to a fellow birder said, “Has anyone nominated him for the MOU Young Birder of the Year Award?” We both agreed that he’s *well* deserving of it. That birder that’s gone a long way already (figuratively and literally) and quite FRANKly, has found some great birds along the way. The young birder we all know as Frank Fabbro.



2021 T. S. Roberts Memorial Award

Lee Pfannmuller

Presented by Kristin Hall at the MOU Paper Session

It is a huge privilege to announce this year's T.S. Roberts Memorial award recipient. I'll try to make it brief, but this person is a lifelong learner and dedicated contributor to improving our avian understanding in Minnesota and beyond. She is known for a lot of things, but perhaps most notably for her many years with the Minnesota DNR. While there she served in multiple roles:

- She was a Coordinator in the Scientific and Natural Area Program
- She supervised of the research unit of the Nongame Wildlife Program
- She was a Director of the Division of Ecological Services.

In all of these capacities, our recipient kept birds in her unique ecological lens, yet never at the expense of other taxa or ecological knowledge. Our 2021 award winner has a wide and deep breadth of knowledge of Minnesota's natural resources, but birds are her inspiration.

While at the DNR, she was pivotal in developing the bird survey component for the Minnesota Biological Survey, she managed Minnesota's Forest Songbird Diversity Initiative, and she worked tirelessly with the legislature to secure funds for these and other important natural resource policy issues. After leaving the DNR, she worked with Audubon Minnesota to develop an integrated Conservation Blueprint for Minnesota birds. She was also responsible for data collection and the rigorous data quality review of the first Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas. Most recently, she led the effort to compile and publish the Atlas, both the online version and the soon-to-be-published book. In her personal time, she served as the Hennepin County Coordinator for the Atlas and has consecutively covered two Breeding Bird Survey routes for over 40 years.

I am honored to be able to announce Lee Pfannmuller as the winner of the Roberts Memorial Award Lee Pfannmuller. Recognition of her professional leadership within the Minnesota DNR, at Audubon Minnesota, and at the Bell Museum, as well as for her personal commitment to conservation, is overdue. Lee has, without doubt, made many "Outstanding Contributions to Minnesota Ornithology and Birding."

Lee has never sought attention, although the spotlight does find her. She is a well-known and accomplished biologist, an eloquent speaker, a phenomenal writer, a thought-



provoking mentor, and amazing birder. Lee is driven by doing good work, solving persistent problems, and improving our understanding of the natural world. She is diligent, thorough, and curious, always quietly listening (to birds and people), so recognition of her dedication and contributions with this award is more than fitting.

This brief speech is only a glimpse into the extensive and remarkable work Lee has done on behalf of birds and natural resource conservation in Minnesota. She is more than deserving of this award. Thank you to the Awards Committee for their selection and to all the folks who have nominated Lee for this award. Congratulations LEE.

I would also like to acknowledge the Larks in assisting with this nomination. Other key thank you notes include: Lee's husband, Gary for sharing Lee with us; Kristen and Gretchen for having an awesome mom; and Steve Wilson, who submitted the previous award nomination with co-nominators Mary Shedd, John and Jan Green, and Don Luce.

2021 MOU Volunteer of the Year Award

Pam Albin

Presented by Linda White

This year's recipient of the David Cahlander Volunteer of the Year Award is someone whose name many of you will likely recognize. She is a prodigious e-birder, who has contributed many times to MOU's notifications of species seen, and to the Rare Bird Alerts, being both avid and diligent about finding and identifying birds. But more than that, this person, who could afford to simply kick back and enjoy a life of leisurely travel and recreational birding, devotes an amazing amount of time instead to giving back to the world of both birds and people in countless important ways, some of them very demanding and nitty-gritty.

For multiple years, she has volunteered faithfully on a weekly Raptor Center clinic crew. As many of you out there know, that work is often unglamorous, sometimes tiring, and usually challenging, no matter how rewarding you find it. The fact remains, like so many organizations, the Raptor Center counts on dependable volunteers like her, so she has been known to add rescues and releases to her busy schedule as well. Returning to clinic in turbulent pandemic times was an additional challenge, but she rose to that occasion, too.

Along with all that, our recipient has participated in several Christmas Bird Counts in Hennepin, Washington, Dodge, and Goodhue Counties yearly, slogging through all manner of weather with partners determined to do as much walking as driving. Add to that multiple years of the Golden Eagle Count, and you know how dedicated she is to keeping tabs on our birds.

In fact, as part of the bird-banding crew of Carpenter Saint Croix Nature Center, she oversees the list of birds seen and heard each week, when she's not dealing with nets and extractions, or putting bands on birds. She even forwards to all the crew members the day's results, with additional information about any special species of the day. Likewise, she takes the time and trouble to share with the crew links to important information, events, and opportunities impacting birds and the environment. All that is only a portion of the special tasks, like data entry, that she's done for Carpenter. It's easy to see why she was their 2011 Volunteer of the Year.



Pam Albin (R), with Linda Whyte

She is definitely a supporter of the science of birds, having used her bird-banding training this past year or more on two current studies, MMN (Minnesota Migration Network) and MAPS (Monitoring Avian Population Survivorship). These studies start before dawn, on a schedule that is sometimes irregular, depending on weather, and follow a very demanding protocol, with limited time frame in which to be completed. Knowing the importance of dependable, trained volunteers, she even undertook, this past summer, the weekly commute up the North Shore to expand her skills by helping out with these studies at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center and Wolf Ridge.

There is so much more that could be noted about her activism related to birds and the environment — bird surveys, bee surveys, bio-blitzes — all undertaken with an eye to getting herself and us engaged and connected to the well-being of the natural world and its creatures. But you can surely understand why, though she can't be with us today — because, of course, it turned out that she had made another volunteering commitment — we're proud to honor with this award, the efforts of Pam Albin.

Savaloja Grant Report: Black-capped Chickadee Project

by Margaret Menzies and Joe Lutz

Black-capped Chickadees — we all have them coming to our feeders. When you see that black and white ball of energy flit in and grab a seed and fly away, what kind of questions come to mind? How many different chickadees are there? Are they the same birds as the ones coming to my neighbor's feeder down the block? How many seeds do they carry away each day? Can they possibly eat that many? Do they have a daily pattern of visits? Do they have a seasonal pattern? Are the same chickadees around all year? These are all questions we would like to get at with our Black-capped Chickadee Project.

For this project, we are using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to follow the birds' activity at feeders. The Black-capped Chickadees are captured using either mist nets or feeder traps. A federal band is placed on one leg and a PIT tag on the other. The feeder readers are made up of several components: two antennas, a card reader, a data logger with battery, and sometimes an extra battery. Most of the components and the tags have been purchased from the British company Eccel Technology. The transponder (it appears as a colored attachment on the chickadee's leg in the photo) has no battery, but, when it encounters a magnetic field, the coil energizes and the transponder sends out a weak radio signal. The radio signal contains a unique ten-digit number identifying the individual bird. The reader pulses a magnetic field and then listens for the radio signal every second. The reader is set not to record the number if it receives the same signal within three seconds. The radio signal is weak, and the tag must be within about a centimeter of the antenna to be picked up. Black-capped Chickadee visits are quite short; the bird usually grabs a seed and flies away in one or two seconds.

We conducted a pilot study at Sugarloaf Cove (SLC), using only 25 PIT tags in the fall of 2020. Nine of the tagged birds routinely visited the feeder over the winter season 2020-21. The Savaloja Grant has allowed us to purchase 125 PIT tags, which will be used to tag 10-12 birds per month during the winter of 2021-22. By tagging gradually through the year, we hope to get a better idea of the movement of our local chickadees.

We did a similar pilot study in at Wolf-Ridge Environmental Learning Center (WRELC) in 2019 and followed up with a complete study starting in the fall of 2020, collecting feeder visit data almost daily from October 2020 to the present. From October 2020 through December 2021, we recorded over 150,000 visits to a feeder at WRELC. Since

2019 at WRELC we have banded 130 individual Black-capped Chickadees with PIT tags. In March 2021 (peak use period), we recorded 54 individual chickadees coming to the feeder in one day. Capture and recapture data showed approximately 60% of the Black-capped Chickadees had PIT tags at that time. Based on this information, we estimated the Black-capped Chickadee population, tagged and non-tagged, using the feeders daily to be approximately 90 individuals, a surprisingly large number. The record number of visits per day by a single individual bird was 356, with several birds visiting the feeder 200+ times per day during the peak use period of January 2021 through March 2021. After March 2021, the number of visits per day began to drop off to zero visits on most days during the breeding season of June 2021 and July 2021. Feeder visits then increased in the following fall, showing a similar trend to 2020.

Now, with the help of the Savaloja Grant, a companion study to this WRELC project is being developed at SLC. By the fall of 2022, we hope to have developed a robust database of feeder use from two different locations: WRELC in Finland, MN and SLC in Schroeder, MN. This database will be used to answer some of the many questions posed above regarding the Black-capped Chickadee's feeder behavior in Northern Minnesota.

Feeder and tagged bird



Savaloja Grant Applications Due January 20, 2022

by Steve Wilson, Chair, MOU Savaloja Committee

The MOU Savaloja Grants Committee solicits applications for grants for bird-related projects. 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 especially welcome as a means of broadening public support for birds and their habitat. If your organization has an idea for a great project, please consider applying!

Awards typically range from a few hundred dollars up to as much as \$4000. In 2021, eight grants, totaling \$13,475, were awarded for education, public appreciation, research, and community outreach. For further details on these, as well as descriptions of past projects and application information, see <https://moumn.org/grants.php>. We anticipate that at least \$12,000 will be available for grants in 2022. The deadline for receipt of grant applications is **January 20, 2022**. Grant recipients will be notified by April 1.

Thanks to you, our members, the MOU was able to sup-

port a diverse array of worthy projects last year. Unfortunately, each year we are unable to support all the great projects seeking grants, because there isn't enough money to go around. You can help MOU make sure fewer worthy projects go unfunded next year by upgrading your membership when you next renew. Or just donate now. Go to <https://www.givemn.org/story/Savaloja> and donate whatever you can. Minnesota's birds will appreciate it!

Northern Cardinal, by Richard Gotz



New MOU Members

NB: Please remember to notify the MOU Membership Secretary (membership@moumn.org) when you change your address or email. If you are renewing for more than one year, please indicate that on your check.

Douglas Hepper, St. Paul, MN
Nancy Kleven, Bloomington, MN
Riley Lindstrom, St. Paul, MN
Jonathan Logas-Lindstrom, St. Paul, MN
Susan Marusic, Andover, MN
Suzanne Nelson, Bloomington, MN
Kimaree Poole, Eagan, MN
Tom and Joan Remus, Jacobson, MN
Scot Rolek, Fridley, MN
Patricia Sheehan, North Oaks, MN
George Soule, Minneapolis, MN
Lisa Townsend, Hudson, WI
Bob and Donna Vanderhoof, Northfield, MN
Doug and Joyce Warnke, Cottonwood, MN

MOU Calendar

January / February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						JANUARY 1 ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk ZVAS Whitewater State Park CBC
2 LNC First Birds of the Year Walk	3 MRVAC Refuge Birding: Wilkie Unit	4	5	6	7 CNC MN Campus Owl Prowl	8 CNC MN Campus Bird Hike CNC WI Campus Bird Hike MGRP Morning Bird Hike ENC Weekend Bird Hike
9	10	11	12	13 SPAS Belize Migratory bird monitoring ENC Early Morning Bird Hike FOSZB Science of the Winter Finch Forecast	14	15 ZVAS Golden Eagle Survey MRVAC Refuge Birding: Bass Ponds
16 LNC Raptors Up Close LNC Young Birders Club: Winter Birds TRPD Bird Conservation MRVAC Refuge Birding: Wilkie Unit	17	18	19	20 MRVAC Sax-Zim Birding Days	21 MRVAC Sax-Zim Birding Days	22
23	24 MGB Birding SE Brazil	25	26	27	28 "Seeing Birds" exhibit opens, Bell Museum	29
30 TRPD Smart Phone Birding	31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4	5 CNC MN Campus Bird Hike ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk MRVAC Refuge Birding: Old Cedar Ave.
6	7	8	9	10 SPAS Birds of Ecuador	11	12 CNC WI Campus Bird Hike
13 TRPD Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas MRVAC Refuge Birding: Bass Ponds	14	15	16 MGB Birding Peru	17 FOSZB Great Horned Owl Soap Opera	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 CNC Masters of the Sky MRVAC Refuge Birding: Old Cedar Ave.
27 CNC Masters of the Sky TRPD Bio of T.S. Roberts	28					



MOU Calendar

January / February 2022

Note: Readers are advised to check the web sites of the respective organizations before going.

THE BELL MUSEUM

Jan. 28–Oct. 2, 2022. “Seeing Birds”

The exhibition “Seeing Birds” integrates art, science, and nature to ignite curiosity and wonder about the beauty and biology of birds, engaging visitors in an exploration of birds, their environments, and their evolution. “Seeing Birds” special exhibition is generously supported by Dellwood Foundation and Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union.

CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

Minnesota Campus:

12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN

Wisconsin Campus:

300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI

<https://carpenternaturecenter.org/events/>

Jan. 7: MN Campus Owl Prowl

7-9 pm. This time of year, many of the Midwest’s owl species are vocalizing to attract mates. Explore CNC on a guided night hike to look and listen for these owls. Program Fee: \$8.00 per person or \$5.00 for “Friends of CNC.” Space is limited, and registrations are required. Please RSVP by calling 651-437-4359.

Jan. 8: MN Campus Bird Hike

9–11 am. Join an expert birder on a morning hike around the Nature Center. Learn to identify birds by sight and sound. Field guides and binoculars are available to use or bring your own. Program fee: \$5.00 or free for “Friends of CNC,” Hastings Environmental Protectors, Hastings High School students, and St. Croix Valley Bird Club members. Space is limited, and registrations are required. Please RSVP by calling 651-437-4359.

Jan. 8: WI Campus Bird Hike

9–11 am. Hike various trails on our Wisconsin campus and learn to identify birds with local experts from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club. Facemasks requested during check-in and when participants are closer than 6 feet. Program fee: \$5 per participant or free for SCVBC members and ‘Friends of CNC. Space is limited, and registrations are required. Please RSVP by calling 651-437-4359 or visit our website listed above.

Feb. 5: MN Campus Bird Hike

9–11 am. See January 8 entry above for details and registration.

Feb. 12: WI Campus Bird Hike

9-11 am. See January 8 entry above for details and registration.

Saturday, Feb. 26 & Sunday, Feb. 27: Masters of the Sky

Presented by and in partnership with the World Bird Sanctuary from St. Louis, Missouri. Come and learn about the fascinating world of raptors. Meet seven of the World Bird Sanctuary’s traveling avian ambassadors. Learn how owls hunt at night, why the Barn Owl is sometimes called the ghost owl, and how falcons attain such astounding speed. See live hawks, eagles, owls, falcons, and vultures from around the globe up close and in free flight. Space is limited, and registrations are required for all programs. Please RSVP by calling 651-437-4359. Go to our website shown above for more information.

EASTMAN NATURE CENTER: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

13351 Elm Creek Road, Dayton, MN 55369

<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/eastman-nature-center>

Jan. 8: Weekend Bird Hike

9:30-11:00 am. Join staff for a casual early morning bird hike to look for birds that are common around the area as well as birds that migrated to Minnesota for the winter. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the nature center. ID by sight and call will be practiced. Appropriate for beginner and intermediate birders. Reservations recommended, drop-ins welcome. Visit the website listed above.

Jan. 13: Early Morning Bird Hike

7:30-9:00 am. Join staff on a casual early morning bird hike to look for birds that are common around the area as well as birds that may be migrating through. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the nature center. For ages 16 or older. Reservations required by two days prior: Call 763-559-6700. Visit the website listed above.

FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG

Jan. 13: The Art Behind the Science of the Winter Finch Forecast

6:30-8:30 pm. Friends of Sax-Zim Bog Zoom Webinar speaker series presented by Tyler Hoar, Winter Finch Forecaster and Ornithologist. Please register at saxzim.org/events

Feb. 17: Real Life Great Horned Owl Soap Opera

6:30-8:30 pm. FOSZB Winter Zoom Webinar Speaker Series presented by Karla Bloem, Founder and Executive Director of the International Owl Center.

LOWRY NATURE CENTER: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr, Victoria, MN
Please call 763-559-6700 with questions about registering.
<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/lowry-nature-center>

Jan. 2: First Birds of the Year Walk

1-2 pm. Meet at Lowry Nature Center. Walk with a naturalist to find the first birds of the year. Practice bird identification while hiking on trails. Start your 2022 bird list. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. For ages 6+. Free. All programs take place outdoors. Please dress for the weather. Call 763-559-6700 or register online.

Jan. 16: Raptors Up Close

3-4:30 pm. Meet at Lowry Nature Center. Meet captive raptors. learn about these amazing birds of prey and how they help teach. This program is for all ages and free. Participants ages 13 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult from the same household. Call 763-694-7650 for details or register online.

Jan. 16: Young Birders Club: Winter Birds

2-4 pm. Kick off the year learning about common Minnesota winter birds. Learn about the Young Birder's Club and the amazing events going on during the "Big Year of the Bird" in Three Rivers Parks. Free to Young Birders Club members. Reservations required by 24 hours prior. Call 763-559-6700 to register.

MINNESOTA GLOBAL BIRDERS

Details on registering for these Zoom events provided when available via MOU-Net and on "Minnesota Global Birders" Facebook page a few weeks prior to the session:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152831202070564>

Jan. 24: Birding Southeast Brazil

7-9 pm. This Zoom session will feature Gregg Severson and Jason Caddy presenting on a birding trip to southeast Brazil. The Atlantic Forest region is isolated from the rainforests of the Amazon Basin, so is rich in endemic species.

Feb 16: Birding Peru

7-9 pm. A Zoom session with Robin and Suzanne Oxley describing a visit to Peru. It will cover a mix of travelling on their own to Machu Picchu with birding along the way, then a 9-day guided birding tour down the Manu Road to the Cock-of-the-Rock and Amazonia lodges.

MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON

Join us for a winter birding walk at one of the many Refuge Units. Each winter offers a different variety of birds that over winter on the Refuge. But you can usually observe a variety of Waterfowl and Raptors each year. Plus, other species observed some winters include Northern Shrike, Winter Wren, and Brown Creepers. We'll look for these species and watch for the species that regularly overwinter in Minnesota. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Led by Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist. For weather cancelations, or other questions, please contact Craig at 952-240-7647

Jan. 3 & 16: Refuge Bird Watching Trek

Wilkie Unit
8-10:30 am. Wilkie Unit Trailhead, 7701 County Road 101 E., Shakopee, MN

Jan. 15 & Feb. 13: Refuge Bird Watching Trek

Bass Ponds
8-10:30 am. Bass Ponds Trailhead, 2501 86th St. E., Bloomington, MN

Jan. 20 & 21: Sax Zim Birding Days

The first day of this trip we will explore the Sax Zim Bog, looking for Great Gray and Northern Hawk Owls along with winter Finches and other. We'll leave Friday's itinerary open, to search for any unusual species of birds that have been seen in the area. This trip should get your 2022 Minnesota year list off to a great start. \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members. Please contact Craig Mandel to register for this trip: 952-240-7647

Feb. 5 & 26: Refuge Bird Watching Trek

Old Cedar Ave.
8-10:30 am. Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead, 9551 Old Cedar Ave. S., Bloomington, MN

MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK: THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT

10360 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
<https://www.threeriversparks.org/location/mississippi-gateway-regional-park>

Jan. 8: Morning Bird Hike

8-9:30 am. Join us for a gentle walk and seek out birds that visit the river, forests, and marshes along the Mississippi. All levels of interest welcome, binoculars provided. Call 763-559-6700 for reservations, required two days prior. \$5.00 fee.

ST PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Jan. 13: University of Belize Migratory Bird Monitoring

7-8:30 pm. Virtual–Online Zoom meeting. Abidas Ash, bird biologist at the University of Belize, will give an update on their work at the migratory bird monitoring program, which she runs. This project, “Improving Natural Resources Management in Belize through Bird Monitoring,” is supported with a grant from the Saint Paul Audubon Society. Free. See <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events/>

Feb 10: Birds of Ecuador

7-8:30 pm. Virtual–Online Zoom meeting. Birders and photographers Tom Amble and Terry Scheller will present “Birds of Ecuador.” Visit the website above for information.

THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT: SILVERWOOD PARK

Celebrating a **Big Year of Birds in 2022**. The year will include numerous programs, hikes, festivals, and more for everyone: families and individuals new to birds to the longtime birders. Silverwood Park, Visitor Center Great Hall, 2500 County Road E, St. Anthony, MN. For more on a Big Year of Birds: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/big-year-birds>

Jan. 16: Bird Conservation

2-3 pm. A presentation by John Moriarty, Senior Wildlife Manager Three Rivers Park District. For us at Three Rivers, it’s about conservation and connection. Birds connect us to nature in our own backyards and can spark curiosity about the faraway places they migrate to and from. They can help us learn about ecosystems and more about the natural world, reminding us of the importance of being good environmental stewards for these creatures and their habitats. Join us for a Speaker Series all about birds! Learn from some of Minnesota’s most prominent bird experts, twice a month. All sessions are free for all ages. Location: Silverwood Park, Visitor Center Great Hall. Registration required. Go to Programs and Events on the Three Rivers Park District website.

Jan. 30: Smart Phone Birding

2-3 pm. A presentation by Sharon Stiteler “Bird Chick” on smartphone birding. Registration required. See January 16 entry above for details on this session of the Big Year of Birds in 2022.

Feb. 13: Minnesota’s Breeding Bird Atlas:

Changes Over 75 Years

2-3 pm. A presentation by Lee Pfanmuller, Author/Ornithologist. See January 16 entry above for details on this session of the Big Year of Birds in 2022. Registration required. See January 16 entry above for details on this session of the Big Year of Birds in 2022.

Feb. 27: Bio of T.S. Roberts – Historical Birding

2-3 pm. A presentation by Sue Leaf, author. See January 16 entry above for details on this session of the Big Year of Birds in 2022. Registration required. See January 16 entry above for details on this session of the Big Year of Birds in 2022.

ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Jan. 1: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

9–10:30 am. Join Brendan Lanpher, Dave Gross and Cody Miller on a casual walk through Quarry Hill Park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather. Stay for any length of time. Walks usually last about 60–90 minutes. Free and open to the public; no registration required. Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester.

Jan. 1: Whitewater State Park Christmas Bird Count

If you are unvaccinated, please wear a face covering indoors and social distance from others. Join Whitewater State Park for their annual Christmas Bird Count. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome. Meet at the Whitewater State Park Visitor Center. To sign up, email sara.holger@state.mn.us or call 507-312-2301. More details available here: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/event.html?id=67371

Jan. 15: National Eagle Center’s Golden Eagle Survey

The 2022 Golden Eagle Survey is scheduled for Saturday, January 15, and they are always looking for more volunteers to help canvas the Driftless Area looking for and counting Golden Eagles! If you are interested in helping with this citizen science project, please send an email to golden@nationaleaglecenter.org. Can’t go but still interested in learning about the differences between Golden and Bald Eagles? Then watch the training video included in the link below. It’s a great teaching tool created by Scott Mehus. <https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/golden-eagle-project/>

Feb 5: ZVAS Monthly Bird Walk

9–10:30 am. Join Terry and Joyce Grier on a casual walk through Quarry Hill Park. Meet by the Nature Center entrance. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather. Stay for any length of time. Free and open to the public; no registration required. Location: Quarry Hill Nature Center, Rochester

~ MINNESOTA BIRDING WEEKENDS & WEEKS ~
APRIL 2022 - FEBRUARY 2023 · <http://www.mbwbirds.com> · OUR 37th 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, 2022**.

PLEASE NOTE – The opening of registrations for 2022-23 will be at **NOON** on **JANUARY 3, 2022**.

APRIL 2022 - JANUARY 2023 MBWEEKENDS

See [mbwbirds.com/mbweekends.html](http://www.mbwbirds.com/mbweekends.html) for complete information on each MBWeekend. Note that changes in this schedule are possible – including MBWeekends that may be canceled or added. Updates on these will appear on [mbwbirds.com](http://www.mbwbirds.com). All MBWeekend fees are \$20/day.

- April 7-8, 2022 ~ Traverse County I
- April 9-10, 2022 ~ Traverse County II

- April 28 pre-MBW ~ Mahnomen County
- April 29 pre-MBW ~ Norman County
- April 30-May 1, 2022 ~ Polk County

- May 12-13, 2022 ~ Yellow Medicine County I
- May 14-15, 2022 ~ Yellow Medicine County II

- May 26 pre-MBW ~ Jackson County
- May 27 pre-MBW ~ Nobles County
- May 28-29-30, 2022 ~ Rock & Pipestone Counties

- June 23-24-25-26, 2022 ~ Koochiching County

- September 1-2, 2022 ~ Lake of the Woods County
- September 3-4-5, 2022 ~ Roseau County

- September 22, 2022 ~ Murray County
- September 23, 2022 ~ Cottonwood County
- September 24, 2022 ~ Watonwan County
- September 25, 2022 ~ Brown County

- October 20-21, 2022 ~ North Shore / Tofte I
- October 22-23, 2022 ~ North Shore / Tofte II

- November 3-4, 2022 ~ North Shore / Grand Marais I
- November 5-6, 2022 ~ North Shore / Grand Marais II

- January 5-6, 2023 ~ Duluth I
- January 7-8, 2023 ~ Duluth II



Roy Zimmerman photo

- Registrations only accepted by e-mail
- Limit one MBWeekend (pre-MBW included) or MBWeek registration per day
- Limit one person (plus others at the same address) per registration
- Registrations open at NOON beginning JANUARY 3, 2022
- No MBW fees included with registrations
- **Questions? Contact Kim R Eckert · eckertkr@gmail.com · 218 349 5953**



Scott Meyer photo

JUNE 2022 - FEBRUARY 2023 MBWEEKS

See [mbwbirds.com/mbweeks.html](http://www.mbwbirds.com/mbweeks.html) for information on each MBWeek, including the estimated shared trip expenses. Changes in this schedule are possible (some MBWeeks may be canceled or added). Updates on these will be posted on [mbwbirds.com](http://www.mbwbirds.com).

- June 4 - 12, 2022 ~ Black Hills & Western Dakotas
- January 14 - 21, 2023 ~ Southern California
- January 22 - 29, 2023 ~ Southeast Arizona
- February 12 - 19, 2023 ~ South Texas

MOU Board Meeting, Dec. 3, 2021

Summary of Minutes (pending approval at March meeting)

by *Kathrynne Baumtrog, Secretary*

Present: Dick King, Ann Kessen, Cindy Smith, David Cahlander, Susan Barnes Elliot, Bob Dunlap, Jennifer Vieth, Michelle Terrell, Pete Nichols, Tom Tustison, Bob Janssen, Kathrynne Baumtrog, Garrett Wee

Absent: Carroll Henderson, Gerry Hoekstra, Kara Snow, Liz Stanley, Steve Wilson, Anthony Hertz, Mark Lystig, Kate Kelnberger

Guests: Claudia Egelhoff, MEPLiaison; Eran Sandquist, Pheasants Forever MN State Coordinator

I. Call to Order – President’s Comments

II. Approval of minutes for August 7, 2021

III. Treasurer’s Report & Proposed Budget; Ann Kessen

Ann presented the 2022 Budget, which was approved unanimously

IV. Membership Report, by Cindy Smith

The MOU had 87 new members in 2021.

V. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws Revision Committee, Ann Kessen, chair.

Ann presented the final draft of the revised MOU By-Laws to the Board. The following Articles involved changes:

Article 1. The purpose and mission of the MOU is clearly stated.

Article 3. The addition of remote (Zoom i.e.) meetings, actions for non-called meetings, and material distribution.

Article 5. Committees of the MOU

Article 9. Amendment of the By-Laws requires 2/3 majority of the Board of Directors

Acceptance of these changes was moved and approved unanimously. [See p. 17 below for text of revised by-laws.]

b. Conservation Committee, presentation by Bob Janssen with guest Eran Sandquist from Pheasants Forever.

Bob and Carrol Henderson, committee chair, have worked throughout 2021 to find a way in which the MOU can help birds through preservation of critical habitat. They investigated a partnership through charitable donations that would lead to habitat acquisition, restoration, and preservation. The Board discussed a proposal for the supportive actions in purchasing and transitioning a parcel of land in Mahnomon County, which would require a \$25,000.00 commitment by the MOU. Pheasants Forever works through Fee Title Acquisition to restore the land and then donates it to the MN DNR. This tract of land would be added to the Rush WMA. The hope is that this would be the first of many

more opportunities.

Moved and seconded. Passed: 11 Yeas, 1 Nay (Cahlander), 1 abstention due to possible conflict of interest.

c. Paper Session Committee, Dick King (on behalf of Kara Snow, chair). Dick reminded us that masks are required and observed that various safety measures are in place for tomorrow’s Paper Session.

d. Field Trips Committee, Garrett Wee, chair. Garrett noted that 200+ species of birds were seen on the MOU Field trips in 2021. More than 30 participants of various ages visited 16 different counties and learned about birding while brushing up on skills and adding to their lifer lists. Garrett is working on more trips as well as other events for 2022.

e. Education Committee, Jen Vieth, co-chair. Jen stated that the 2022 Spring Primer hopefully will be an in-person event. She also noted that various Birding Festivals, Hawk Counts, and the State Fair Booth continue to prove very successful.

VI. New Business

Minnesota Environmental Partnership, guest Claudia Egelhoff, MOU liaison to MEP. MEP is a coalition of 70 environmental and conservation organizations. Having a MEP liaison gives the MOU a voice in state environmental issues. Currently the MOU is an Associate Member, for which we pay \$150 annually. Claudia provided a report of letters joined by the MOU in 2021. The Board discussed the question of whether the MEP representative should be a member of the Conservation Committee. We agreed that this requires future discussion with Carrol Henderson, Chair of the Conservation Committee.

VI. Next Board Meeting (via Zoom):

March 12, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Committee annual reports received:

Awards (Susan Barnes Elliott, chair), Education (Jennifer Vieth and Kate Kelnberger, co-chairs), Information Technology (Liz Stanley, chair), Publications (Anthony Hertz, chair), Records (MOURC) (Tom Tustison, chair), Savaloja Grants (Steve Wilson, chair), Social Media (Pete Nichols, chair)

MOU By-laws, Revised Dec. 2021

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union (MOU) is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota. It is organized for educational and scientific purposes.

The mission of the MOU is the observation, study, and conservation of birds and their natural habitats while supporting diversity and inclusion in its membership and in its leadership.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility for membership:

Membership shall be open to anyone.

Section 2 – Dues:

There shall be eight classes of membership in the MOU.

1. Individual
2. Family
3. Youth (through age 17)
4. Supporting
5. Life - Individual
6. Life - Joint
7. International
8. Corporate

Annual dues and/or changes in the dues structure shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual terms of Individual, Family, Supporting, Youth, International, and Corporate memberships shall continue from year-to-year unless forfeited for non-payment of dues or terminated by action of the Board of Directors. Annual membership renewal is due during the month that the member joined the MOU or last renewed their membership. Any member who has not paid their annual dues within three months of their renewal date shall no longer be a member of the MOU, unless the Board of Directors intervenes.

Section 3 – Privileges of Membership:

All individual members in good-standing shall be entitled to participate in all activities of the MOU. Each membership shall include, but is not limited to, subscriptions to *The Loon* and *Minnesota Birding*. All individual members shall be entitled to vote at the MOU's Annual Membership Meeting.

ARTICLE III – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 – Powers

The governing body of the MOU shall be the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall determine and establish policies and programs, acting always in the best

interests of the MOU and reflecting the intent of the majority of the members.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to fill any interim vacancies of the MOU officers due to death, resignation or termination. It shall appoint the Editor of *The Loon*, the Editor of *Minnesota Birding*, and approve committee chairpersons.

The Board of Directors shall have the power to remove any officer, editor, or committee chairperson for cause by a two-thirds vote of directors present at any Board of Directors meeting, providing the meeting has a quorum.

Section 2 – Composition

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the five officers of the MOU (see Article IV, Section 1), the Immediate Past President, the Editor of *The Loon*, the Editor of *Minnesota Birding*, and permanent committee chairpersons or their designated representative.

All Directors must be current members of the MOU.

Section 3 – Terms

All Directors shall serve one-year terms, which shall be renewable upon stated willingness of each Director to serve another term. These renewals shall be affirmed at the first Board meeting of each fiscal year.

Section 4 – Compensation

Directors shall receive no compensation other than reimbursement for reasonable and documented expenses approved by the Board of Directors either through inclusion in the annual budget or by special vote.

Section 5 – Meetings

There shall be at least three regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President shall determine an appropriate location for each meeting of the Board of Directors, either in the Twin Cities area or in Greater Minnesota.

The regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be subject to call by the President on at least five (5) days notice. In the absence of a meeting call by the President, any three Board members may call a meeting on at least five (5) days notice.

Items for consideration by the Board at a meeting shall be distributed no later than three days prior to the meeting.

Section 6 – Quorum

A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the current members of the Board of Directors. Two members of the quorum must be elected officers.

Section 7 – *Remote Communication for Meetings*

Any meeting of the Board of Directors may be conducted solely by one or more means of remote communication through which all Directors may participate in the meeting, if notice is given as described in Section 5 and if the number participating is sufficient to constitute a quorum as described in Section 6. Remote communication includes but is not limited to telephone, video conference, or any other means by which persons may communicate with each other on a substantially simultaneous basis.

Section 8 – *Action Without a Meeting*

Upon initiative of the President, an action that would ordinarily be taken at a regular meeting may be taken without a meeting if the motion to be voted on is delivered, either by mail or electronically, to every Director in a timely manner.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1 – *Number and designation*

There shall be five officers of the MOU: President, Vice President, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2 - *Duties*

The President shall:

- be the Chief Executive Officer of the MOU
- preside over the Annual Membership Meeting and over all meetings of the Board of Directors
- appoint all committee chairpersons with approval of the majority of the Directors
- direct and guide all programs under the direction of the Board of Directors.

The Vice President shall:

- have all the powers and duties of the President in the President's absence or inability to act, but only so long as such absence or inability continues
- perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the President or Directors.

The Membership Secretary shall:

- keep a record of the membership of the MOU
- distribute dues statements to members
- forward received payments of dues to the Treasurer or their designee for deposit in the MOU's bank accounts
- provide a membership report at each meeting of the Board of Directors and at the Annual Membership Meeting
- perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the Directors.

The Recording Secretary shall:

- keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Annual Membership Meeting
- distribute and retain meeting minutes
- keep hard copies of meeting minutes
- furnish summaries of meeting decisions to the MOU publications for the information of members
- maintain previous years' minutes in good order
- handle all correspondence which does not come under the responsibility of the committee chairpersons or other officers
- perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the Directors.

The Treasurer shall:

- be responsible for receipt of all MOU monies from every source whatsoever
- make such disbursements as may be authorized by the Board of Directors either through inclusion in the annual budget or by special vote
- keep a full and accurate account of all MOU income and disbursement
- provide a Treasurer's report at each meeting of the Board of Directors and at the Annual Membership Meeting
- keep hard copies of Treasurer's reports
- present an annual budget for the Board of Directors' approval
- file the MOU's federal tax return and state non-profit registration documents
- maintain previous years' financial records in good order
- perform such other duties as may be determined from time to time by the Directors.

The Treasurer's books may be subject to audit from time to time with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – *Qualification, Election, and Term of Office*

Any member in good standing shall qualify as a candidate for office. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Membership Meeting for a term of one year. President and Vice President shall serve no more than two one-year terms consecutively. Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall have no term limits. All officers shall be responsible to the Board of Directors. The officers shall draw no salary.

Section 4 – *Vacancies in Office*

In case of resignation, death or removal of any officer, the Board of Directors may appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the term.

Section 5 – Bonding of Treasurer and Other Officers

At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer and/or other officers of the MOU shall be bonded in an amount ordered by the Board, at the MOU's expense.

ARTICLE V - Committees

Section 1 – Standing Committees

The following are the standing committees of the MOU, the chairpersons of which are members of the MOU Board of Directors.

1. *Avian Information & Archives*
Acquire and archive Minnesota avian records, and maintain the archives of the MOU
2. *Awards & Recognition*
Select recipients of MOU awards and provide recognition
3. *Conservation*
Foster informed advocacy for conservation of MN birds and their habitats and recommend Board positions and collaborations on conservation issues
4. *Education*
Coordinate educational outreach opportunities
5. *Field Trips*
Organize field trips to observe Minnesota birds
6. *Finance*
Handle MOU investments and insurance
7. *Information Technology*
Develop and maintain next generation MOU website and database
8. *Nominations & Governance*
Seek nominees for officers and other Board positions and ensure that MOU operations are consistent with its by-laws. This committee will be chaired by the immediate Past President.
9. *Paper Session*
Plan and organize the annual Paper Session
10. *Publications*
Oversee production of all published or printed materials, excepting editorial responsibilities for MOU's journal and newsletter, which reside with the editors of those publications
11. *Records (MOURC)*
Determine acceptability of unusual bird sightings for inclusion in the permanent record of MN birds and maintain the official state checklist of MN birds.

12. *Savaloja Grants*

Solicit and evaluate grant proposals and recommend funding

13. *Social Media*

Manage MOU social media accounts.

14. *Website & List Service*

Manage original MOU website and MOU-net list service.

Section 2 – Ad Hoc Committees

The Board may create and dissolve ad hoc committees as needed. Due to the temporary nature of ad hoc committees, their chairs shall not be voting members of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – Chairperson Responsibilities and Qualifications

Each committee chairperson shall select their own committee members. Committee chairpersons and committee members must be members in good standing of the MOU.

Each committee chairperson shall submit a report on committee activities, either in person or in writing, at each Board meeting. Committee chairpersons shall submit fiscal-year-end reports summarizing the past year's activities and listing committee members.

ARTICLE VI – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Membership Meeting, consisting of the Paper Session and Business Meeting, shall be held on the first Saturday of December. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum to transact business at the Business Meeting. The President or their appointee shall preside at the meeting.

ARTICLE VII – MOU PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

The MOU shall publish a quarterly journal (*The Loon*) and a bimonthly newsletter (*Minnesota Birding*). These publications shall be accessible to all members.

The content of the publications shall support the mission of the MOU and be at the discretion of the respective editors.

ARTICLE VIII – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall be from November 1 thru October 31.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Any article of the by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors at a properly convened meeting of the Directors.

Amended by-laws approved by the MOU Board of Directors on December 3, 2021. Authored by Ann Kessen, Richard King, Michelle Terrell, and Jennifer Vieth, with input from Bob Dunlap, Susan Barnes Elliott, Anthony Hertzell, Gerald Hoekstra, Kate Kelnberger, Cindy Thrury Smith, and Steve Wilson.



Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

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

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Carpenter Nature Center
12805 Saint Croix Trail South
Hastings, MN 55033
Email: mou@moumn.org
Web: <http://moumn.org>

MN Birding is published bi-monthly

Editor: Gerald Hoekstra

Designer: Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

© 2021 Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

The Mission of the M.O.U.

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

MOU Officers

Michelle Terrell, *President*
Justin Watts, *Vice President*
Kathrynne Baumtrog, *Recording Secretary*
Cindy Smith, *Membership Secretary*
Ann Kessen, *Treasurer*
Richard King, *Past President*

Editor of *Minnesota Birding*

Gerald Hoekstra
Gene Bauer, *calendar editor*

Designer of *MN Birding*

Thomas Benjamin Hertzell

Birding Hotline

Northwest: 800-433-1888

MOU Contacts

Minnesota Birding Editor: newsletter@moumn.org

President: president@moumn.org

Vice President: vicepresident@moumn.org

Membership Secretary: membership@moumn.org

Treasurer: treasurer@moumn.org

Recording Secretary: secretary@moumn.org

The Loon Editor: editor@moumn.org

CBC Compiler: cbc@moumn.org

MOU Records Committee: mourc@moumn.org

Conservation Chair: conservation@moumn.org

Grants: grants@moumn.org

Youth Mentorship: mentorship@moumn.org

Field Trips: fieldtrips@moumn.org

All other MOU functions: mou@moumn.org

MOU web site: <http://moumn.org>

MOU Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MNornithU/>

MOU Membership: New/Renewal

Name _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

County _____

Membership Categories

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (under 18) | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign (including Canada) | U.S. \$35.00 |
| <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: \$ _____