



# Minnesota BIRDING

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## Bird Flu and the WRC

*by Tami Vogel, Communications Director,  
Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota*

Early this winter, staff at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRC) began closely following the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Europe. While both Europe and Asia are experiencing an outbreak in domestic poultry and wild birds, our concern was how other wildlife hospitals, especially high capacity ones like ours, were handling the situation.

In March, a DOA bird arrived at a wildlife center on the East Coast. Through procedural swabbing the bird came back as positive for HPAI. Federal and state agencies quickly moved on this, and shut down the center for a month to all new admits. The center was given a choice to cull all avian patients or temporarily close. They opted to close rather than euthanize, because of the low risk to their current patients. They had followed protocols and isolated the bird in one area of the building and had not brought it into the main treatment areas.

The WRC began talking with similar state and federal agencies to help us gauge what steps would be taken if we admitted a positive bird or had an outbreak in the building.

Based on those conversations and the significant consequences associated with an outbreak in our hospital (having to close, possibly culling all

our susceptible species patients, possibly culling all avian patients), we made the decision not to provide rehabilitative treatment to susceptible species listed by APHIS USDA (Europe and Asia each have their own species lists as well).

This means they will be euthanized on arrival in a separate building from our main clinic.

In the first 3.5 weeks of testing susceptible species, we've received results on 24 patients with 17 (71%) of those being positive for HPAI. In addition to known susceptible species, we've also had an American Crow test positive. The crow confirms that corvids are susceptible in general, with positives also found in a Blue Jay in Canada and a raven in Connecticut.

All our test swabs are sent to the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (VDL) at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. Following protocols all positives are then sent by them to the National Veterinary Services Lab (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa for confirmation. We receive initial results from the diagnostic lab approximately 24-36 hours after submission. The NVSL confirmation takes an additional two weeks.

Common Loons were recently added to the susceptible species list as well, due to positive-testing loons in Florida.



*Hooded Merganser  
showing symptoms of HPAI with upsidedown head  
Photo courtesy of WRCMN 2*

As of mid-April, we have not seen symptoms in songbirds or heard of sick or dying birds in people's yards. Out of all the birds in Europe that tested positive, only three songbirds were shown to have HPAI. We are taking opportunistic swabs of any avian species with potential symptoms or is considered adjacent to susceptible species. Coots, for instance, are not on the U.S. list but are on the European list. So far, we have not found any positives in coots, woodcocks, pigeons or flickers.

The situation is fluid with new data arriving daily. We are continuing to adjust our protocols and public messaging based on that data.

The biggest question: When will the outbreak end? The simple answer is that we do not know. We're hoping once migration ends, the virus will run through the local populations and disappear. It is unsettling that in Europe the virus lasted over the winter and is still spreading through both domestic poultry and wild bird populations.

We tested 39 patients since March 24. Of those, 27 were susceptible species, with three pending. Testing results of those 27 found seven negative, the rest positive. Two species previously considered non-susceptible — a belted kingfisher and an American Crow — also were shown to be positive after testing. We will continue testing and, as more information becomes available, we'll share it.

In the meantime, if you find a sick or dying bird, you can bring it to WRC (2530 Dale St N, Roseville) during our operating hours of 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, including holidays. While HPAI is a zoonotic, there have been no human cases in the U.S. yet. Please follow these recommendations if you need to handle a susceptible species bird:

- Use a cardboard box that you can tape shut and do not want returned to you.
- Don disposable gloves and a mask (ideally an N95) before handling the bird. If you have goggles or sunglasses, wear those as well.
- Carefully pick up the bird and put it into the box. Do not put anything you want returned in the box.
- Tape box shut.
- Properly remove gloves and dispose of them in an outside trash bin; set glasses/goggles aside for cleaning with a solution of 3 c. bleach to one gallon water.
- Wear the mask to protect from airborne pathogens during the car ride.
- Upon arrival at WRC, talk with the greeter and let her/him know you have a possible HPAI bird.
- All raptors should go directly to the Raptor Center.

If you find sick/dying birds in a public area, call the city to report the birds. They may have a plan in place for HPAI. If you find five or more birds deceased in one area, contact the MNDNR at (888) 646-6437.

It is important to remove deceased birds from the environment in order to prevent other birds from scavenging on them and possibly contracting the virus.

WRC is here to help with any additional questions: 651-486-9453. During our peak season we have a team dedicated to returning voicemails. If we do not answer, please leave a message, and we'll call you back within the hour.



*American Crow  
with HPAI. Photo courtesy of WRCMN*

# Message from the President

“Hope’ is a thing with feathers.” So wrote Emily Dickinson.

As I write this column, it is mid-April, which is typically a very hopeful month, when we leave winter behind and look forward to the peak of spring migration. But April in Minnesota is also a fickle month, and this is one of those years where the forward momentum of spring seems to have stalled. The northern third of the state is still covered in snow, and temperatures have been 10 to 20 degrees below average.

Further, the anticipation of migration has been tempered by an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Confirmed cases spread north on the map in tandem with the waterfowl migration and have reached Minnesota (see the article in this issue of the newsletter by Tami Vogel). Recent reports of the loss of families of Great Horned Owls and other signs of the virulent nature of this outbreak are sobering. MOU membership can assist in the monitoring of HPAI by reporting symptomatic and dead birds, particularly waterfowl and raptors, to the DNR information center 888-646-6367 or the Board of Animal Health’s Avian Influenza hotline 833-454-0156.

Here, in east-central Minnesota, some feathered signs of hope have appeared. The Song Sparrow that perennially nests in the shrubs in our driveway island perches in the branches and sings so heartily that I can hear its song from inside the house. The flock of Dark-eyed Juncos in the driveway seems to grow larger each day as they move north, and the few remaining Common Redpolls that

buoyed winter with their irruption will join them. A tinge of green has begun to appear in the lawn and with it an influx of American Robins, and both kinglets and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers have been seen bouncing among the still bare branches. Perhaps this will be one of those rare and magical springs when the first waves of warblers arrive before the leaves.

And there are other reasons to be hopeful. For the first time in two years, the event calendar for 2022 is full of birding activities. The Hastings Area Earth Day Birding Festival, of which the MOU is a sponsor, is once again being held in person; MOU volunteers are resuming leading monthly bird walks at the Bell Museum (May-November); and a variety of MOU field trips will be taking place throughout the year. After a two-year hiatus in so much of our lives, I hope members will not only take advantage of these opportunities but consider too doing something new this year, whether it’s birding a new part of the state, meeting a new group of birders, writing an article, or volunteering. Often, we may think “I will do that next year,” but if there has been a lesson from COVID, it is to make the most of the moment at hand.

By the next time I write, we will be at summer’s peak and young birds will be fledged and begging. It might be hard to imagine today, but one must have hope. Happy Birding!

-Michelle Terrell



Ruby-crowned Kinglet, by Heidi Hermes

## “Hope” is the thing with feathers by Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -  
And on the strangest Sea -  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.

# Conservation Column

## Current Conservation News

*by Carrol Henderson, Chair, MOU Conservation Committee*

### 1. Save our Environment Natural Resources Trust Fund

Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) was created by voters and approved in 1998 with 77% of the vote. This fund directly supports conservation projects and research to protect birds with declining populations like Common Terns. This fund is a major source of funding for innovative wildlife conservation research and management projects.

During my DNR career I received over two million dollars for the Nongame Wildlife Program for funding loon research, nature tourism efforts, lakescaping demonstration projects, digital bridge to nature workshops for youths, and acceleration of nongame wildlife program projects. The future of this dedicated natural resources funding is in jeopardy because, without legislative action, the constitutional protection will expire in 2024 and there are some legislators who oppose efforts to invest in environmental conservation.

Urge your state legislators and the Walz administration to support HF 4649/ SF 4131 to begin the process of reauthorizing Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

*Upland Sandpiper, by Carrol Henderson*



Rob Schultz, Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota, has shared the following information regarding the importance of this effort: “The Mississippi River is the backbone of the Mississippi Flyway, which serves as a major aerial highway for 60% of North America’s birds. An incredibly diverse ecosystem lines the Mississippi River, including wetlands, marshes, sloughs, channels, bottomland forests, and prairies. However, those systems have been altered by agriculture, locks and dams, and levees. Today, much of the Mississippi is a narrow window of habitat in a predominant sea of agriculture. In some areas, up to 80% of the original forests have been lost. The fund helps to study and conserve bottomland forests, restore islands, and re-establish more natural water levels. These efforts will help bird species like Cerulean Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers, Louisiana Waterthrush, Wood Ducks, and many others.”

Urge your elected officials to support the reauthorization of Minnesota's Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund.

### 2. The North American Grasslands Conservation Act

A coalition of conservation organizations, including Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, is working to advance a proposal in Congress to establish the North American Grasslands Conservation Act. This legislation would create a landowner-driven, voluntary, incentive-based program to conserve and restore threatened grassland ecosystems across the continent. The model for this concept is the successful North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA).

North America's grasslands are one of the most threatened ecosystems — and a most critical habitats — for wildlife. They include tallgrass, mixed grass, and shortgrass prairies, sagebrush shrub-steppe, and savanna grasslands. Over 50 million acres of these various grassland ecosystems have been lost in just the last decade, either converted to croplands, lost to residential and commercial development, or fragmented by invasive species. Each year, on average, more than one million acres of sagebrush burn, due to invasive annual grasses that fuel wildfire.

With the loss of grassland habitat comes the loss of grassland wildlife, particularly upland birds, but also iconic big game species such as pronghorn and bison. Since the 1960s, grassland bird populations have declined by more than 40%. The popular Northern Bobwhite quail has seen an even greater population decline — nearly 85%.

It is urgent that we act now to maintain grassland and sagebrush steppe systems for the important wildlife habitat they provide, as well as for their carbon sequestration benefits. This proposal will soon become legislative language that informs the introduction of a bill and is officially considered by members of Congress. We have a long way to go, but by encouraging a bipartisan, action-oriented approach in Congress, we can be successful in the conservation and restoration of our North American grasslands.

To learn more and take action with your members of congress, go to <https://actforgrasslands.org>

### 3. Our Minnesota Grassland Birds Need Your Help

The federal Minnesota Breeding Bird Survey data for the 52-year period from 1967 through 2019 shows the following average *annual* population decline rates for the following grassland nesting birds in Minnesota.

Western Meadowlark:	-6.74%
Grasshopper Sparrow:	-6.44%
Dickcissel:	-3.33%
Eastern Meadowlark:	-2.22%
Henslow's Sparrow:	-2.07%
Blue-winged Teal:	-2.03%
Savannah Sparrow:	-1.98%
Bobolink:	-1.62%
Field Sparrow:	-1.56%
Vesper Sparrow:	-1.55%
Upland Sandpiper:	-1.44%
Nelson's Sparrow:	-1.28%
Clay-colored Sparrow:	-0.86%
Short-eared Owl:	-0.75%
Northern Harrier:	-0.69%
Horned Lark:	-0.22%

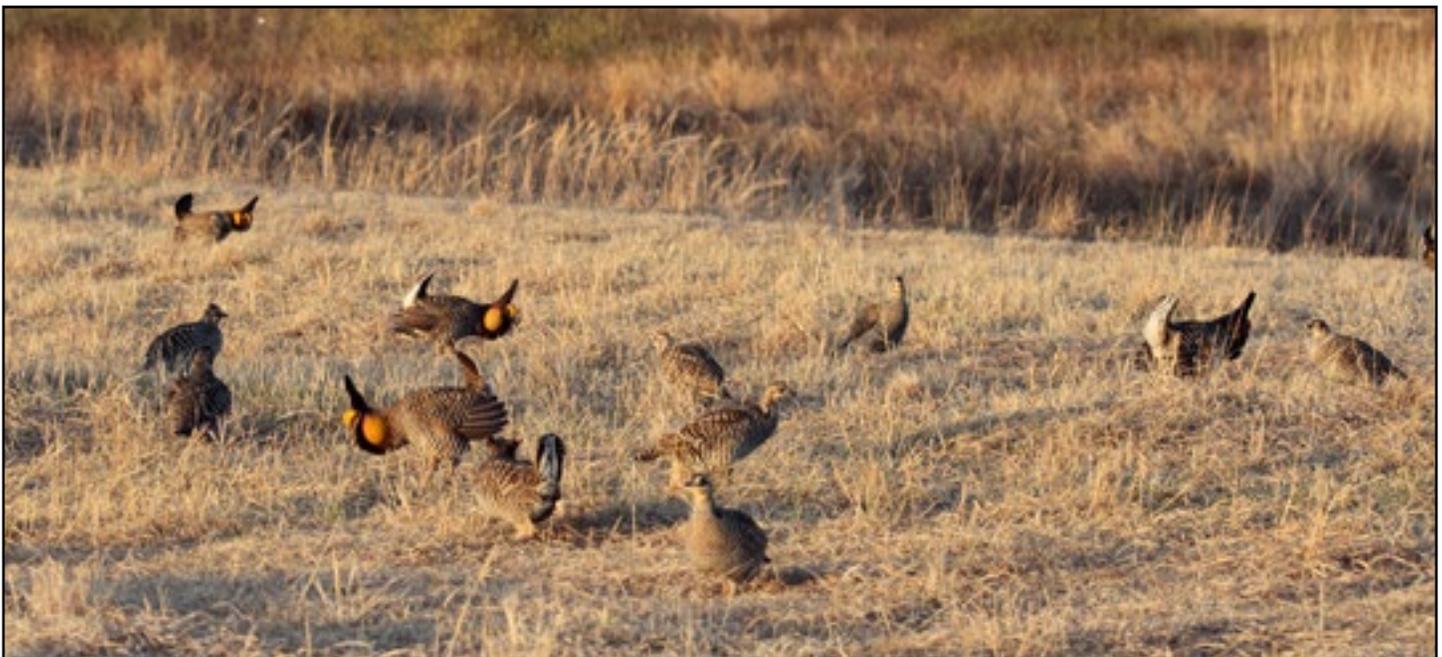
These birds need our help! Pheasants Forever is beginning to restore the grassland and wetland habitats of some Minnesota farms that they have purchased with use of LSO-HC funds (remember, those funds come from the surcharge on the Minnesota sales taxes that you pay). They will most likely be designated as Wildlife Management Areas.

Pheasants Forever is an important partner for the MOU in grassland bird conservation. Eran Sandquist, Minnesota State Coordinator of PF, would like MOU members to bird these tracts of land in order to learn what birdlife is currently present. In future years, they would like to have the areas rechecked to see what birds have returned to the area after restoration. If you would like to check out any of these areas this spring/summer, please let me know at [carrolhenderson@prodigy.net](mailto:carrolhenderson@prodigy.net). I will then have Eran send you details for the location and contacts necessary for visiting these areas, since they are not yet publicly accessible.

- Big Stone County: Olson farm; Thielke Farm
- Cottonwood County: Makovsky farm
- Douglas County: Roy Thompson farm; Tessmer County
- Lac qui Parle County: Wendland farm
- Pope County: Kapaun farm
- Sibley County: Frauendienst farm
- Stevens County: Giberson farm
- Steele County: Ingvaldson farm

Please consider birding some of these new spots this year, courtesy of Pheasants Forever.

*Greater Prairie-Chicken Booming Ground  
by Carrol Henderson*



# Savaloja Grant Awards

by Steve Wilson, Chair, MOU Savaloja Committee

It goes without saying that nearly all facets of life have been affected by the pandemic, some positively – think outdoor recreation – but most negatively. Count Savaloja projects in the “loser” category. Not only have many projects in the last two years faced pandemic-related delays, the three proposals received this year were the fewest since 2002. Educators and students alike are distracted or simply exhausted, and understandably reluctant to plan new activities that they may not be able to pull off.

Fortunately, the quality of the proposals did not suffer. It was an easy call, then, for the Savaloja Committee to recommend to the MOU Board that all three proposals be fully funded. The three proposals were awarded just shy of \$8,000, including \$1,000 donated to one project in memory of Bob Russell.

**Factors influencing occupancy, productivity, and early life mortality at American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) nest boxes in the Upper Midwest, United States: Halle Lambeau/Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, \$3,104.**

The primary objective of this project is to collect information about kestrel occupancy, productivity, and early life mortality at nest boxes in Minnesota and Wisconsin that may be used to influence future management and conservation practices for this locally-declining species.

**Production, Manufacturing and Distribution of the book The Breeding Birds of Minnesota: History, Ecology, and Conservation, University of MN Press, \$3,000.**

The objective of the proposal is, of course, publication of the above book. They describe it as “the most comprehensive account of Minnesota’s breeding bird species in print. We are confident it will greatly increase public understanding of the history and present distribution of Minnesota’s birds, as well as the ecological and habitat challenges they will face due to climate change in the twenty-first century.” Specifically, \$2240 of our grant will go to production and manufacturing support, and \$760 to supply free copies to MN’s Indigenous communities. None of it will go to administration or overhead costs. An anonymous donor contributed \$1000 towards this project in memory of Bob Russell. As the donor said, “Bob was a HUGE fan of the MN Breeding Bird Atlas and made a major contribution in time and energy doing BBA surveys.”

**Owl Education Programming for Third Graders: Starling Lake Outdoor Center, \$1,850.**

This project will extend their owl education program (developed with assistance from a previous Savaloja grant) to 350 third graders from three different schools. “The goal of these comprehensive programs is twofold: to encourage a development of interest in birds, especially owls, and to establish a deeper respect and understanding of the world around them, which will ultimately lead to a greater appreciation of habitats and preserving the natural world.” They estimate that 40-50% of attendees will be students of color.

The Savaloja Committee includes eight members, all now veterans in assessing proposals, which shows in their thoughtful analysis and exchange of ideas during our deliberations. They are Chuck Neil, Sue Keator, Mike North, Pam Perry, Ezra Hosch, Alyssa DeRubeis and our senior member (length of service, not age) Ann Kessen.

Next year should see a return to our annual conundrum of not having enough money to support all the worthy proposals received. Your donations make these grants possible. You can support future grants that promote education, research and monitoring projects designed to benefit birds by making a donation. Simply go to MOU’s home page (<http://moumn.org/>), click on the “Donate” button at the top of the page, and contribute whatever you can. (Under “Add special instructions to the seller,” please enter “Savaloja donation.”)



Ovenbird, by Thomas Burns

# MOU Calendar

## May / June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>2</b> LNC: Mondays are for the Birds	<b>3</b> SPAS: Crosby Farm Regional Park ZVAS: Kutzky Park Lunch Hour Walk	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> CNC: Trails & Ales ZVAS: Kutzky Park Morning Walk ZVAS: Kutzky Park Lunch Hour Walk	<b>6</b> SPAS: Warbler Weekend: Hok-Si-La, Frontenac SP, & Villa Maria	<b>7</b> CNC: MN Campus Bird Hike FOSZB: Sax-Zim Night Field Trip MOU: Western MN Shorebirds MRVAC: Hok-Si-La Warblers ZVAS: Quarry Hill NC Crane Meadows NWR Bird Walk
<b>8</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds SPAS: Warbler Weekend: Hok-Si-La, Frontenac SP, & Villa Maria	<b>9</b> MRVAC: Rapids Lake Education & Visitor Center LNC: Mondays are for the Birds	<b>10</b> SPAS: Snail Lake Regional Park ZVAS: Kutzky Park Morning Walk ZVAS: Kutzky Park Lunch Hour Walk ZVAS: Cedar Creek Red-headed Woodpeckers - Zoom program	<b>11</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesdays	<b>12</b> ENC: World Migratory Bird Day: Early Morning Bird Walk ZVAS: Kutzky Park Morning Walk	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike FOSZB: Warbler Saturdays MOU: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes MRVAC: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge SPAS: Pigs Eye Park ENC: World Migratory Bird Day Festival MGRP: Morning Birds
<b>15</b> SPAS: Swede Hollow Park ZVAS: Hok-Si-La Birding Field Trip	<b>16</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds LNC: Mondays are for the Birds	<b>17</b> SPAS: Rachel Lilly Preserve ZVAS: Kutzky Park Morning Walk MGB: "Birding Tristan da Cunha"	<b>18</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesdays	<b>19</b> ZVAS: Kutzky Park Morning Walk	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> BELL: Celebrating Urban Birds FOSZB: Waffles & Warblers MRVAC: Bass Ponds SPAS: Lebanon Hills ZVAS: Rock Dell WMA
<b>22</b> FOSZB: Bog Ecology MRVAC: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge LNC: Raptors Up Close MGB: Birding Belize	<b>23</b> LNC: Mondays are for the Birds	<b>24</b> SPAS: Silverwood Regional Park ZVAS: Why Birds Don't See Glass - Zoom program	<b>25</b> FOSZB: Warbler Wednesdays MRVAC: Old Cedar Ave. Bridge	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> FOSZB: Warbler Saturdays
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> SPAS: Harriet Alexander Nature Center	<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>2</b> CNC: Trails & Ales MOU: Mississippi River Paddle, "The Gorge Route"	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> CNC: MN Campus Bird Hike ZVAS: Birdsong at Chester Woods Park ZVAS: Quarry Hill NC
<b>5</b> MRVAC: Dakota County Prairie Birds and Schaar's Bluff	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> SPAS: Afton State Park	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> MOU: Savanna Portage State Park	<b>11</b> MOU: Savanna Portage State Park CNC: WI Campus Bird Hike SPAS: Arden Hills ZVAS: Weaver Dunes
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> SPAS: Battle Creek Park	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> CNC: Trails & Ales
<b>19</b> MRVAC: Miesville Ravine Dakota County Park	<b>20</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds	<b>21</b> SPAS: Reservoir Woods	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> MRVAC: Bass Ponds	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		



# — MOU Calendar

## May / June 2022

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

### BELL MUSEUM

<https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/>

#### **Now through Oct. 2, 2022: “Seeing Birds”**

10 am–4 pm. Open Wednesday through Sunday. 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. It focuses on critical research on birds from the University of Minnesota, reviewing advances in our understanding of birds made through careful observation of their behavior and habitat and revealing current research that advances knowledge of our changing world. The “Seeing Birds” special exhibition is generously supported by Dellwood Foundation and Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union. Get tickets here: <https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/admissions/>.

#### **May 21: “Spotlight Science: Celebrating Urban Birds”**

10 am–2 pm. Join us to learn more about the birds who call our cities and neighborhoods home. Get up close and personal with residents from The Raptor Center, learn how you can contribute to the study of birds through citizen science, and more! Activities and events will be held throughout the museum and are included in the cost of regular admission: <https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/admissions/>

### CARPENTER NATURE CENTER

#### **Minnesota Campus:**

12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN

#### **Wisconsin Campus:**

300 East Cove Road, Hudson, WI

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

#### **May 5 & June 2: Trails & Ales**

6:30–8:30 pm. Enjoy the beauty of the St. Croix River Valley with an after-hours hike at Carpenter Nature Center, Minnesota Campus. Learn about the history of CNC, listen for birds, spot wildflowers, and more during a 45-minute naturalist-led hike. After the hike, we will meet at nearby Spiral Brewery in Hastings, Minnesota for a guided tour of the beers on tap in the taproom! This includes a flight of beer for each participant and a staff member leading a discussion around each sample of beer. This experience will

take approximately 45 minutes with the option to stay for another beer you can purchase on your own. Cheers! The cost is \$30 and includes a hike, 1 beer flight, and guided tasting. Must be 21+ to participate. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot today.

#### **May 7 & June 4: Minnesota Campus Bird Hikes**

8–10 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. 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 registration is required. Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot today.

#### **May 14 & June 11: Wisconsin Campus Bird Hikes**

8–10 am. Hike various trails on our Wisconsin campus and learn to identify birds with local experts from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club. Program fee: \$5 per participant or free for SCVBC members and ‘Friends of CNC’. Space is limited and registration is required. Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot today.

#### **June 18: Trails & Ales**

1–3 pm. Celebrate spring with your four-legged friend! Dogs are welcome on all trails at CNC and the taproom at Spiral Brewery. All dogs must be leashed for both the hike and the tasting. Enjoy the beauty of the St. Croix River Valley with an after-hours hike at Carpenter Nature Center. Learn about the history of CNC, listen for birds, spot wildflowers, and more during a 45-minute naturalist-led hike. After the hike, we will meet at nearby Spiral Brewery in Hastings for a guided tour of the beers on tap! This includes a flight of beer for each participant and a staff member leading a discussion around each sample of beer. This experience will take approximately 45 minutes with the option to stay for another beer. Cheers! The cost is \$30 and includes a hike, one beer flight, and guided tasting. Must be 21+ to participate. Space is limited and registration is required. **Please call 651-437-4359 to reserve your spot today.**

## CRANE MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

### May 7: Spring Bird Walk at Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

8–10 am. Are you interested in learning about birds and do you want to know what species can be found around Little Falls during the spring migration? Join other birders on Saturday, May 7 at Crane Meadows NWR for a morning walk along the Platte River Trail. The event is sponsored by the Friends of Crane Meadows NWR and is free and open to the public. The walk begins at 8:00 am at the Sedge Meadow Classroom near the Refuge Maintenance Shop and will be about 2 hours long. Wear your walking shoes and bring your binoculars. All birding levels are welcome, no experience is necessary, and binoculars are available to borrow! Last year, over 60 species of birds were observed during the event, with some notable sightings including three American Avocets and three Caspian Terns. Sedge Meadow Classroom is located at 19502 Iris Rd, Little Falls, MN. For more information call the Refuge Office at 320-632-1575 or visit the website at [fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows/](https://fws.gov/refuge/crane-meadows/).

## FRIENDS OF SAX-ZIM BOG

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

### May 7: “Things that go Buzz, Croak, Hoot, and Bump in the Night!”

4:30–5:30 pm. Early Dinner at Wilbert Café in Cotton (optional)

6–10 pm. Field Trip meeting at the Welcome Center. As Spring makes itself known in the Sax-Zim Bog, we start our Spring and Summer Field Trip Season with the longest running field trip we offer. Though it still may approach 30 degrees during the night, spring in the Bog is full of life... and dusk is a great time to SEE and HEAR some of the unique critters. On this evening field trip, we will listen for early season frog species, American Bittern, Wilson’s Snipe, American Woodcock, search for Great Gray Owls, and more! Plan on bringing a head lamp or flashlight with you during this field trip. Registration required. Register for this field trip here: <https://saxzim.org/events/>

### May 11, 18, & 25: Warbler Wednesdays

6 am–12 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center. Warblers! The target of this weekly field trip! There are MANY other species of birds to see and hear in the bog during the end of spring migration and the start of nesting. Field trips will hope to see and hear flashy warblers, cryptic wetland species, and even prairie birds! Our trips are a good introduction to summer birding in the Sax-Zim Bog and routinely document 80-100 species! Join us each Wednesday to see and learn about the diverse bird communities that make the greater Sax-Zim Bog area such an amazing and important

collection of habitats. Registration for these trips will be split into two groups and each group will try to see similar species but will cover different areas of the Bog. Groups will meet at noon to share stories about what was (or wasn’t!) seen during the day! Registration required.

**Register for this field trip here:** [Warbler Wednesday #1, May 11](#)

**Register for this field trip here:** [Warbler Wednesday #2, May 18](#)

**Register for this field trip here:** [Warbler Wednesday #3, May 25](#)

### May 14 & 28: Warbler Saturdays

6 am–12 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center. Warbler Wednesdays have become a very popular and sought-after field trip for us, such that we expand to Saturday! While the targets of the field trips will still be the same, we hope an extra date will allow more folks to option to attend! For more detail, see description above for Warbler Wednesdays. Registration required.

**Register for this field trip here:** [Warbler Saturday #1, May 14](#)

**Register for this field trip here:** [Warbler Saturday #2, May 28](#)

### May 21: Waffles and Warblers Field Trip

6 am–12 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center. Who doesn’t like Warblers and better yet, who doesn’t like Waffles?! Join us for this one-of-a-kind field trip, where we will be searching for warblers in the morning and then enjoying waffles in the afternoon! This field trip will have an extra **fee of \$10** for each participant, even if you are a current member. Field Trips will end at the McDavitt Community Center for the waffle portion of the field trip. Please bring **exact change** on field trip to offset waffle costs! Registration required.

**Register for this field trip here:** [Waffles and Warblers Field Trip](#)

### May 22: Bog Ecology and Bog Specialists Field Trip

10 am–4 pm. Meet at the Welcome Center. Bogs are incredible ecosystems, with species adapted to diverse conditions. Many of the bog specialist plant species found in the Sax-Zim Bog are early flowering plant species; black spruce and tamarack host specialized bird communities; and within bogs there even more specialized insects! This trip will introduce bog ecology from the perspective of how species (flora and fauna alike) specialize in the harsh conditions of a bog ecosystem. We hope to track down sundews and pitcher plants, Palm Warbler and Lincoln’s Sparrow, see flowering leatherleaf, Labrador tea, bog laurel, and species like Wood Frogs that call bogs home. Registration required. **Register for this field trip here:** [Bog Ecology and Bog Specialists Field Trip](#)

## MINNESOTA GLOBAL BIRDERS

### May 17: Birding Tristan da Cunha Island

7-9 pm. The May session will feature a presentation by Olaf Danielson on his voyage across the South Atlantic Ocean, with the focus being Tristan da Cunha, the world's most inaccessible island. Details for registering for the Zoom sessions will be provided via MOU-Net and on the Minnesota Global Birders Facebook page.

### June 22: Birding in Belize

7-9 pm. Robin Oxley and Keith Olstad will offer a combined presentation on their birding trips to Belize. Details for registering for the Zoom sessions will be provided via MOU-Net and on the Minnesota Global Birders Facebook page.

## MINNESOTA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION FIELD TRIPS

<https://moumn.org/>

### May 7: Western Minnesota Shorebirds

7:30 am. Meeting location: Cottonwood Co-op. Join Garrett Wee on a day trip around Southwest Minnesota in search of shorebirds and other waterfowl. This trip has yielded at least 1 "casual" and or a "rare regular" species per trip, though usually we record multiple rare regulars! It's one you won't want to miss! Registration required. Requests or questions send to [garrettwee@hotmail.com](mailto:garrettwee@hotmail.com) or text/call 507-829-8187.

### May 14: Rice Creek Chain of lakes Park Reserve – Sunrise Warbler Walk

6 am. Meeting Location: Rice Creek Chain of lakes Park Reserve (Centerville Lake Boat Launch). Join Garrett at sunrise for a walk through the Rice Creek Chain of lakes Park Reserve in search of Warblers and other neotropical migrants. This park during peak migration can yield over 70 species in one morning and over 20 species of warblers including Black-throated Blue Warbler. Registration required. Requests or questions send to [garrettwee@hotmail.com](mailto:garrettwee@hotmail.com) or text/call 507-829-8187.

### June 2: Mississippi River Paddle Share "The Gorge Route"

5 pm. Meet at the Bohemian Flats Station. Note: *We're looking for shuttle volunteers to provide rides back to the start location.* Information: A unique experience as the MOU is partnering with PaddleShare.org to kayak down the Mississippi River and record the birds along the way. Note the cost is \$30 for a single kayak and \$45 for a double. Registration required. Contact [garrettwee@hotmail.com](mailto:garrettwee@hotmail.com) or text/call 507-829-8187.

### June 10 through 12: Savanna Portage State Park

There are lots of details for this trip, and this is a bare-bones summary. Please contact Garrett Wee at [garrettwee@hotmail.com](mailto:garrettwee@hotmail.com) or text/call 507-829-8187. Pine Forest Biome. The diverse northern woods landscape includes lakes, marshes, grasslands and shrublands, bogs, hills, and rivers. Northern hardwoods with birch, old-growth hardwoods and tamarack peat bogs aspen and some conifers dominate the forest. Meeting location: Savanna Portage State Park (Group Camp). Leaders: Sherry and David Gray. Registration required. Requests or questions send to [garrettwee@hotmail.com](mailto:garrettwee@hotmail.com) or text/call 507-829-8187.

## MNA RIVER VALLEY AUDUBON CHAPTER

<https://mrvac.org/trips-events/>

### May 7: Hok-Si-La Warbler Watching

7:30 am: Join us for this traditional field trip (30+ years). We never know what we will find. Meet at Hok-Si-La Park north of Lake City, 2500 U.S. Hwy 61. Bring a lunch if you want to stay for the afternoon's birds. Moderate effort — some walking on trails. No reservations needed. Contact: Steve Weston [sweston2g@gmail.com](mailto:sweston2g@gmail.com) or 612-978-3993

### May 8, 16, 21, June 20 & 26: Bass Ponds, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge treks

Bass Ponds Trailhead, 2501 86th St. E., Bloomington 8–10:30 am. Description: May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds, with the wood warblers being the most sought after. Join us on a walk that will feature nesting birds and migrants. Learn which species of birds use the refuge as a migratory stop over and those that migrate to the refuge to nest. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Registration required for all treks at the MVNWR website: <https://signup.com/go/rLmKfrK>. Note: registration for some dates will remain locked for about a month prior to the date of the walk. Please indicate in your registration if you would like to receive a birding summary and species list from the walk. Meet at the scheduled trailhead near the parking lot. Please consider carpooling with others in your party due to limited parking at the trailhead. These programs are capped at 25 participants. What to Bring: binoculars and a field guide. These programs will be held entirely outdoors, please dress appropriately for the weather. A cancellation notice will be sent via email to registered participants in the event of lightning or severe storms.

### May 14, 22, & 25: Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge treks

Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead, 9551 Old Cedar Ave. S., Bloomington 8–10:30 am. See Bass Ponds treks description above.

**May 9: Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center**  
15865 Rapids Lake Rd, Carver  
8–10:30 am. See description above for Bass Ponds treks.

**June 5: Dakota County Prairie Birds and Schaar’s Bluff**

7 am. Meet at Schaar’s Bluff Picnic Area–8395 127th St. E, Hastings. After a short hike of the Picnic Area, we will drive the “prairies” of Dakota County in search of grassland and other species. Except for walking in the picnic area, the effort level will be easy birding at roadside. No reservations needed. Bring a lunch if you want to continue into the afternoon. Contact: Steve Weston [sweston2g@gmail.com](mailto:sweston2g@gmail.com) or 612-978-3993

**June 19: Miesville Ravine Dakota County Park**

7:30 am. Meet at 27970 Orlando Trail, Cannon Falls (north parking lot). Join us to explore Dakota County’s least known county park. Target birds include Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, and Yellow Billed Cuckoo. Bring a lunch if you want to stay for the afternoon’s birds. Moderate effort – walking on trails. No reservations needed. Contact: Steve Weston [sweston2g@gmail.com](mailto:sweston2g@gmail.com) or 612-978-3993

**ST PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

*For further information on these birding trips go to <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events/>*

**May 3: Tuesday Morning Bird Walk: Crosby Farm Regional Park**

7–9 am. Early warblers and other passerine migrants. Meet in the parking lot of Crosby Farm Regional Park, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul. Southwest of downtown off Shepard Rd. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Leader: Linda Whyte 651-815-7045. Contact leaders only if you need additional information. No registration needed.



*Black-throated Green Warbler, by Jean Bris lance*

**May 6 through 8: Warbler Weekend 2022 (Hok-Si-La Park)**

6:30 pm. Meet at the Dining Hall at Hok-Si-La Park, 2500 U.S. Hwy 61 Lake City for a weekend of birding Frontenac State Park, Prairie walk, Sand Point trail, Hok-Si-La north and south, Old Methodist Camp, Frontenac Town Cemetery, and town, plus the Villa Maria grounds. Registration required by April 20 at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/event/warbler-weekend-2022/>

**May 10: Tuesday Morning Bird Walks: Snail Lake Regional Park**

7–9 am. Wetlands and woodlands with lots of edges make Snail Lake Regional Park a good birding site. Meet at 4191 Snail Lake Blvd, Shoreview. Enter from Snail Lake Blvd at lake level, go straight ahead to park. Leaders: Louise Eidsmoe (651-231-0453) and Terri Walls. For further information go to: <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/event/tuesday-morning-bird-walks-snail-lake-regional-park/>

**May 14: Pigs Eye Park: Spring Migrants**

7–9 am. Join us for spring migrant birding in the forested edge of Pigs Eye Regional Park—North Unit. After the field trip, there will be an opportunity to visit with members of the Pigs Eye Park Friends, learn about reclamation and advocacy activities, and celebrate spring! Meet at 2165 Pigs Eye Lake Rd, St. Paul. Leader: Chase Davies 651-246 9754 [Rockybirder@gmail.com](mailto:Rockybirder@gmail.com) For complete information go to: <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/event/pigs-eye-park-spring-migrants/>

**May 15: Swede Hollow Park: Migration**

7–9 am. Friends of Swede Hollow offer this great spring birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what spring migrants might be passing through the Hollow. Meet at 622 Beaumont St. East, St. Paul. Off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy (located in the old Hamm’s Brewery Building) at 720 Payne Ave. Registration is required and limited to 20 people. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/293571398957>

**May 17: Rachel Lilly Preserve: Tuesday Morning Bird Walk**

7–9 am. Don’t miss this gem! Many possible sightings await you at this little-known Rachel Lilly Preserve, 680 Highway 62, Mendota Heights. Enter from Highway 62 – bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn. Note: Do not park at the 590 Highway 62 site. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Leader: Linda Whyte 651-815-7045. Contact Leader for additional information only.

**May 21: Lebanon Hills Regional Park:  
Woodland Birds**

7:30–11 am. Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan is a terrific place for migrant and resident songbirds! Join friendly birders seeking the sounds and colors of spring-time in this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. We will walk maintained woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. 2018 sightings included Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush. Instructions: Meet at the Holland Lake entrance of the park, 1100 Cliff Rd., Eagan. Leader: Paul Spreitzer 651-808-2147 [paul.spreitzer@gmail.com](mailto:paul.spreitzer@gmail.com)

**May 24: Silverwood Regional Park:  
Tuesday Morning Bird Walk**

7–9 am. Join us for passerine migrants and wetlands at Silverwood Regional Park, 2500 Cty Rd. E, St. Anthony. **Directions:** From 35W, take Cty Rd D/37th Ave. west, turn north (right) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on Cty Rd E for ~1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the large main parking lot. Paved trails. Restrooms available. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Leaders: Chase Davies, 651-246-9754 and Jane Braun. Contact Leaders only if you need additional information.

**May 31: Harriet Alexander Nature Center:  
Tuesday Morning Bird Walk**

7–9 am. The Harriet Alexander Nature Center features an extensive boardwalk and trails that circle through 52 acres of marsh, prairie, and hardwoods. Located at 2520 Dale Street N., Roseville. **Directions:** From the intersection of Snelling Avenue North and County Rd C West, travel 2 miles east to Dale Street N. Turn right (south) on Dale. Travel 0.3 mi. Turn left into parking lot. Leaders: Kathy Robbins 651-636-6475 [krobbins@umn.edu](mailto:krobbins@umn.edu) and Cathy Croghan.



*Bay-breasted Warbler, by Allan Meadows*

**June 7: Afton State Park: Tuesday Morning Bird Walk**  
7–9 am. Afton State Park has a rich variety of habitats and the target bird for this trip is the Dickcissel.

**Note:** trip starts at the 50<sup>th</sup> Street Parking Lot, Afton, MN. **Directions:** Take 94 west from St. Paul to exit MN-95 S/ Manning Ave S (exit 253). Travel south for 3.9 mi. Turn left (east) on 40<sup>th</sup> Street S. Travel 2.4 mi to Trading Post Trail S. Travel 1 mi. Turn left onto 50<sup>th</sup> Street for 0.9 miles. Leader: Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 [mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com)

**June 11: Birding at the Arden Hills Army Training Site**

7:30–10 am. Join us for birding at AHATS. A new hard surface one-mile path around Sunfish Lake is scheduled to be completed just in time for our birding enjoyment. If the path is not ready, we will travel by guided car caravan and practice social distancing at choice stops. The site has lots of prairie and wooded edges for us to explore for their birding potential. **Directions:** Driving directions will be included when you receive email confirmation of your registration. Information: The site has restricted access. All vehicles will enter and exit the property together. No sharing of binoculars or scopes will be allowed. Outdoor restrooms are widely spaced IF available. Registration required: Attendance is limited to six cars or 20 adults on a first reply, first served basis. Note: In an email send Chase Davies your cell phone number and the names of all attendees who will travel in your vehicle. Leader: Chase Davies 651-246-9754 [RockyBirder@gmail.com](mailto:RockyBirder@gmail.com)

**June 14: Battle Creek Park:  
Tuesday Morning Bird Walk**

7–9 am. We'll walk about 15 minutes to the western edge of the grassland being considered for preservation. The walk will continue for about 30 minutes along the northern edge of the grassland, where we hope to hear and see Bobolinks and Dickcissels. **Directions:** Meet at 2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood. From McKnight Rd turn east onto Lower Afton Rd., drive 0.2 mi, turn left into South Battle Creek Park parking lot. Meet in the parking lot. Leader: John Zakelj 651-239-4119 [jzakelj@yahoo.com](mailto:jzakelj@yahoo.com)

**June 21: Reservoir Woods: Birding Summer Style #1**

7–9:30 am. The first of three great Birding Summer Style trips. Summer birding is more relaxed and presents possibilities for observing different behaviors at a summer-time relaxed pace. The slower pace is also ideal for beginning birders. Meet at the Woodview Off-Leash dog area in Roseville between Rice and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. Park snugly in the small parking lot, or street park on Mackubin St. across Larpenteur from the parking lot. Suggestions: Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat, water, sunblock, and a field guide. Leader: Chase Davies 651-246-9754 [RockyBirder@gmail.com](mailto:RockyBirder@gmail.com) Call leader if you want to borrow 8x35 binoculars.

**THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT:  
LOWRY NATURE CENTER**

Lowry Nature Center, 7025 Victoria Dr., Victoria  
[www.threeriversparks.org/](http://www.threeriversparks.org/)

**May 2, 9, 16 & 23: Mondays are for the Birds**

7–9 am. Join naturalist Kirk on a series of four Monday morning hikes to look for birds. All levels of birders welcome. Beginners will learn a lot from more experienced birders on the hike and everyone will learn along the way. If you need binoculars, you will be able to borrow a pair from the nature center. Each week we will explore a new trail or area of the nature center. This is a great opportunity to learn the trails and find out where various species are seen in the park. We will try to begin hiking promptly at 7:00 so try not to be late! FREE. Ages 10+.

**May 22: Raptors Up Close**

3–4:30 pm. Raptors have been a part of education at Lowry for many of our 50 years. Meet the current captive raptors, learn about these amazing birds of prey, and discover how they help teach. This program is entirely outdoors. Ongoing from 3–4:30 PM. Drop in anytime. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

**THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT:  
EASTMAN NATURE CENTER**

13351 Elm Creek Rd., Dayton  
[www.threeriversparks.org/location/eastman-nature-center](http://www.threeriversparks.org/location/eastman-nature-center)

**May 12: World Migratory Bird Day:  
Early Morning Bird Walk**

7:30–9 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. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather, program will be outdoors.

**May 14: World Migratory Bird Day Festival**

9 am–2 pm. Each spring, birds begin their journey north. Wood ducks, osprey, bluebirds, tanagers, and more fly thousands of miles each year – some passing through Minnesota, and some staying here to nest for the summer. Birders of all skills will find activities and hikes to enjoy for the day. Watch as a bird bander places small bands on the legs of songbirds, meet raptors up close, take a hike with a naturalist to find spring migrants in the woods and fields, and create some bird-themed artwork. Binoculars will be available to use for the day. Presentations on birding topics and booths featuring organizations involved in bird conservation will be there for learning opportunities. Early morning bird hikes offered at 7:30–9:00am and again at 8:30–10:00am. Sign up for a bird hike here: [Early Morning Bird Hikes](#)

**THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT:  
MISSISSIPPI GATEWAY REGIONAL PARK**

West River Rd & Coon Rapids Dam, Brooklyn Park  
[www.threeriversparks.org/location/mississippi-gateway-regional-park](http://www.threeriversparks.org/location/mississippi-gateway-regional-park)

**May 14: Early Morning Bird Walk**

6:30–8 am. Join us for regular bird hikes throughout 2022, the Park District's Year of Birds! We will enjoy a gentle walk and seek out the birds that visit the river, forests and marshes along the Mississippi. All levels of interest are welcome, binoculars provided. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations required by two days prior at [www.threeriversparks.org/](http://www.threeriversparks.org/)

**ZUMBRO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

<https://zumbrovalleyaudubon.org/calendar.html>

**May 5, 10, 12, 17, & 19: Kutzky Park:  
Early Morning Bird Walk**

6:30–7:45 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom. Meet: Kutzky Park, 213 13th Ave NW. **Note:** the main entrance to Kutzky Park has been moved - cars should enter off 16th Ave NW. Located less than a half-mile from both St. Mary's Hospital and the Mayo Building, [Kutzky Park](#) comes alive with migrating warblers, vireos, orioles, and more every May. Join us for a walk at the peak of migration. Arrive and leave as your schedule requires. We will start at the picnic shelter. Later arrivals can locate the group along the creek between 11th and 16th Ave NW.



*Green Heron, by Richard Gotz*

**May 3, 5 & 10: Kutzky Park: Lunch Hour Bird Walk**

Noon-1 pm. Leader: For May 3, TBA; for May 5 & 10: Lance Vrieze. Meet at Kutzky Park, 213 13th Ave NW. Details: See the description for Kutzky Park above.

**May 7: Quarry Hill Nature Center: Monthly Bird Walk**

9 am. Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier. Join us on a casual walk thru Quarry Hill Nature Center. Meet by the Nature Center entrance. 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.

**May 10: “Red-headed Woodpeckers at Cedar Creek”**

7–8 pm. Program via Zoom, presented by Dr. Elena West, a postdoctoral researcher at the U of M in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology. Dr. West has been leading research on Red-headed Woodpeckers at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve since 2017. Citizen Science volunteers from the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project have also been conducting nest monitoring surveys there since 2008. She will update us on what’s been learned about woodpecker nesting and habitat preferences, breeding, and nest ecology. The more we know, the better we’ll be able to help Red-headed Woodpeckers, which are in decline throughout Minnesota and the rest of their range. Log in information will be posted in early May at ZVAS

**May 15: Hok-si-la Birding Field Trip**

8 am to mid-afternoon. Leaders: Terry & Joyce Grier. Meet at the east parking lot of the Heintz Center to carpool to Lake City. Located along the Mississippi River, Hok-Si-La is a magnet for migrating birds. Bring a snack or a bag lunch. This park has nice walking trails and good diverse habitat for a wide variety of birds. <http://hoksilapark.org/>.



*Least Flycatcher, by David C. Keyes*

**May 21: Rock Dell WMA Field Trip**

8 am to mid-morning. Leaders: Michael Degerstrom and Brendan Lanpher. Meet at the Olmsted County History Center parking lot to carpool to the site. Rock Dell WMA is little birded even though it is one of the best songbird areas in the County. Over the last several years it has been a go-to spot for Red-headed Woodpecker and Henslow’s Sparrow, Meadowlarks, and Grasshopper Sparrows, and many other county songbirds. Its oak trees attract late-migrating warblers. Wear long pants and spraying for ticks is highly recommended.

**May 24: “Why Birds Don’t See Glass” Program via Zoom**

7–8 pm. Presenter: Dr. Bryan Lenz from the American Bird Conservancy. Birds just don’t seem to understand the concept of glass as an invisible barrier that can also be a mirror. When they see trees and habitat reflected in our windows, they assume they can fly through. Dr. Lenz and the American Bird Conservancy have studied this issue for years. He’ll talk with us about the latest research, what works and what doesn’t, and what we can do as individuals and groups to help preserve our birds. Log in Information will be posted in early May at: ZVAS

**June 4: Chester Woods Park: Birdsong Walk**

7–9 am. Leader: Michael Degerstrom. Meet in the boat landing parking lot of Chester Woods Park. With the Spring migration over, birds are busily defending territories, nesting, and raising young birds. The birds are difficult to see but very vocal. This trip will focus on learning many of the songs and calls of the local breeding birds. NOTE: Those wishing to also attend the Quarry Hill Walk at 9am should plan to leave Chester Woods by 8:30 am.

**June 4: Quarry Hill Nature Center: Monthly Bird Walk**

9–10:30 am. Leaders: Joyce and Terry Grier. Join us on a casual walk thru Quarry Hill Nature Center. 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.

**June 11: Weaver Dunes Field Trip**

7 am to mid-afternoon. Leader: Joel Dunnette. Meet in the NW corner of the former Shopko North parking lot to carpool. Bring water and lunch. On this trip we’ll focus mostly on birds of the varied habitats of the Weaver Dunes area, but will also look for interesting plants and insects. Plan for walking off-trail on uneven ground. Long pants and sturdy shoes and protection from the sun are recommended. Free and open to the public - no registration required. This trip is not recommended for your children.

# MOU Board of Directors Minutes

## March 12, 2022

*by Kathrynne Baumtrog, Recording Secretary*

*Present:* Michelle Terrell, President, Steve Wilson, David Cahlander, Carroll Henderson, Dick King, Ann Kessen, Cindy Smith, Gerry Hoekstra, Justin Watts, Liz Stanley, Susan Barnes-Elliott, Jennifer Vieth, Tom Tustison, Kathrynne Baumtrog, Mark Lystig, Garrett Wee.

### **I. Approval of minutes from December 3, 2021**

### **II. Treasurer's Report (Ann Kessen)**

Ann presented her report for the first quarter of the fiscal year, noting that the 2021 Paper Session was a success in terms of finances, since the costs were lower than in the past. Income was generated through membership renewals and for the Savaloja Grant fund by the book sale. However, overall membership fees are fewer than in past years. Motion to accept was seconded and approved.

### **III. Other financial business**

Ann is filing annual MOU non-profit status with the state.

Mark Lystig presented a resolution for managing the MOU Ameriprise Financial accounts in order to ensure proper access to the monies and methods to use said monies. Moved, seconded and approved.

*Nelson's Sparrow, by Kimberly A Emerson*



### **IV. Membership Report (Cindy Smith)**

Cindy reported a drop of 125 members since the beginning of the year. Some memberships have lapsed, and reminder postcards were sent out, but current address information may not be up to date. Cindy is working to contact members. She also noted email addresses are outdated or not available for some members. The Board discussed how to encourage members to renew and the best ways to contact members.

### **V. Committee Reports**

#### *A. Savaloja Grans Committee (Steve Wilson, chair)*

1. This year MOU has had only three applicants for the Savaloja Grant. He believes that the Covid virus directly affected some of the number of current applications. Justin questioned whether MOU should have a second application opening? This was decided against, since the time frame has worked well for the last ten years. Motion to approve the committee's recommendation that the proposals be funded to a total of \$7,954 was seconded and approved.

2. Most projects of current recipients are moving along well. Just a few had delays due to Covid-19.

3. Steve expressed appreciation to members of the Savaloja Grant Committee for their work and noted their diversity of experience and willingness to serve. He asked for guidelines for vetting of applications in the future in order to ensure that the process is fair and integral to all. This matter was tabled.

#### *B. Information Technology Committee (Liz Stanley, chair)*

Liz noted that there has been a problem with mass emails: approximately a quarter of the membership, and different individuals each time, do not receive a mailing. The technical side of this is under investigation. Liz wanted to remind members to renew their membership and update their email address. She confirmed Cindy Smith's report that some members do not have email. Liz will look at including reminders via social media and other ways. She reported that the software integration is moving along, and there is a lot of data management, and the committee is still evaluating the best ways to manage and provide access for members.

*C. Conservation Committee (Carroll Henderson, chair)*

Carroll reported an opportunity in partnership with Pheasants Forever to conduct baseline birding surveys of acquired properties. Access is limited for legal reasons, and he is working on resolving this.

*D. Field Trips Committee (Garrett Wee, chair)*

Garrett reported on upcoming MOU birding trips. He intends to create a different style of field trip each time: Specific Species Walks (woodcock, warblers, shorebirds, sea ducks), Beginning Birders, 5-Mile Radius Birding Day, and camping in a State Park. Also, he's also looking into Birding and Biking. He currently keeps group numbers limited in accordance with CDC guidelines.

*E. Education Committee / Spring Birding Primer (Jen Vieth, Susan Barnes Elliott, cochairs)*

1. Jennifer informed the Board that Bill Tefft has agreed to serve as the new Youth Birding Coordinator.
2. The Spring Primer is set for March 26 and will be on Zoom.
3. The letter of intent to have a MOU booth at the Minnesota State Fair has been submitted.

**VI, Other Business**

*A. Partnership updates*

1. Bird Walks at the Bell Museum. Michelle informed the Board that the Bell is planning to start these walks again. Volunteers must take training to become guides. Walks will be from April through fall, with group sizes of 15-20 people. Part of admission to the Bell Museum

2. Minnesota eBird Portal. Michelle announced that the MN-DNR awarded MOU an annual grant of \$750 in support of the eBird portal.

*B. Affiliate Bird Club Memberships*

MOU was once associated with 20+ birding clubs around the region. We are looking to build this again and increase the number. Ann Kessen moved that we amend the by-laws to create a ninth type of Membership category for these clubs. Seconded and approved. A motion to set the cost. A motion to set the cost for these clubs to join the MOU at \$25.00 was moved, seconded, and approved.

*C. MY Bird Club Proposal*

A proposal was submitted for a youth birding club with paid leaders. This was declined, but the board encourages those presenting the proposal to apply for a Savaloja Grant. The MOU will support MY Bird Club through the use of binoculars through the Youth Mentorship Program.

*LeConte's Sparrow, by Jerry Pruett*



## New MOU Members

NB: Please remember to notify the MOU Membership Secretary ([membership@moumn.org](mailto: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.

Glen Anderson, *Farmington, MN*  
Jeff Birks, *Brainerd, MN*  
Barbara Broker, *Minneapolis, MN*  
Ahna Brutlag, *Minneapolis, MN*  
Richard Buenger, *Woodbury, MN*  
Beth Cosgrove, *River Falls, WI*  
John Hamer, *Mound, MN*  
Mary Hemshrot, *Shell Lake, WI*  
David Holmen, *Apple Valley, MN*  
Tyson Kahler, *Detroit Lakes, MN*  
Jackie Niemand, *Stillwater, MN*  
Jason Osowski, *Big Lake, MN*  
Theresa Sullivan, *Minneapolis, MN*  
Daniel Watkins, *Duluth, MN*

# Birder Bio: Michelle Terrell

*Note from the editor: It may seem unusual to have our current MOU President be the subject for a Birder Bio column, but I was pleased that Michelle accepted my invitation to do this. It occurred to me that, although we birders often meet each other out in the field, we often know little about each other. And, in this case, how little those of us on the MOU Board even know about our fellow board members. GRH*



*Tell us about yourself.*

I am a lifelong Minnesotan, except for a short stint away during graduate school. I grew up in St. Paul Park in the southeast part of the Twin Cities metro. I did my undergrad studies at the University of Minnesota and received my Ph.D. in archaeology from Boston University. My dissertation was the study of a seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Sephardic Jewish community on the small island of Nevis in the Eastern Caribbean. My wife, Eva, and I run a cultural resources management firm that does archaeological and historical consulting. We work almost exclusively in Minnesota, but occasionally in surrounding states. In 2003, we moved from southwest Minneapolis to rural Chisago County, where we live with our assorted pets.

*When did you start birding, and what first sparked your interest?*

I have always enjoyed being in nature and observing birds and other wildlife. While my parents and grandparents would not have considered themselves “birders,” they had bird feeders, and there were bird guides on their shelves. In that environment, I naturally became interested in birds. As a teen, I bought my first bird guide at the local Snyder Drug and began checking off birds in the back. In high school I was very fortunate to have longtime MOU member Tom Bell for my biology teacher. He not only encouraged my

interest in birds but also instilled in me an appreciation for observation and record keeping (my earliest bird lists date to his classes). During that time, I regularly birded southern Washington County and augmented my life list during visits to Arizona and Florida.

*How did your interest expand after that first experience?*

Our move to Chisago County reinvigorated my interest in birds. Graduate school had left very little time for concerted birding, and the variety of species that visited our Minneapolis backyard was limited. Having the opportunity to put up multiple bird houses, provide native plantings and habitat, and to really live among the birds that visit and use our land over the course of the year and to observe them daily has really made me a better birder and given me a whole new appreciation for the lives of birds.

*What is the main attraction of birding for you?*

The main attraction of birding for me is being out in nature observing birds within the context of their natural environment and their annual cycle. For that reason, I am not a big “chaser” of vagrant sightings. That’s not to say that you won’t see me at the occasional stakeout, or that I haven’t taken a side trip to boost my county lists, but I tend to bird organically over the course of the year, with the parts of the state I visit and the species that I see being more dependent on where my work projects take me than my birding goals.

*Northern Waterthrush, by Tom Gilde*



*Where are your favorite places to bird inside or outside Minnesota?*

I am very fortunate that one of my favorite places to bird is at home. From the moment we first viewed our home at the open house, we were struck by the variety of birds on the property. Our location within the St. Croix River flyway brings a nice mix of species annually and several that return to nest each year. When I am travelling around the state for work, one of my favorite things to do is explore nearby public lands that I haven't previously visited — particularly Scientific and Natural Areas and Wildlife Management Areas with their lack of roads and trails. We are very fortunate to have these natural spaces set aside and preserved. I do have a couple of favorite places too in Minnesota that I return to repeatedly. I love birding Itasca State Park, where I spent three college summer sessions at the University of Minnesota's Forestry & Biological Station. Whenever I find myself in that part of the state, a drive through the park and a stop for birding is a must. On the other side of the state, my truck knows the way to Duluth's Park Point. Minnesota Point is a unique spot and I have experienced some magical moments of birding there.

*What is your favorite birding style (i.e., by yourself, with others, etc.)?*

I enjoy both birding by myself as well as in groups, because each offers a different birding experience. In terms of time, I bird most often by myself heading out for a walk before work or a stroll in the evening after dinner. I enjoy these quiet times in nature and the opportunities they offer to gather my thoughts before the start of the day or decompress at day's end. I am also lucky to have a supportive birding spouse, and together we like watching the birds at our feeders or going for birding walks in our local parks. In the past few years, I have done an increasing amount of group birding and appreciate the camaraderie it offers, as well as the opportunity to meet fellow birders. Going on a walk with new birders and sharing in their experience is also a wonderful reminder of what it is like to see birds for the first time.

*What is your favorite bird or bird family?*

This is a tough question, one I often answer with "whichever one I am looking at," because part of the attraction of birds for me is their wide variety. I will say, though, that I have a soft spot for wrens. My maternal grandmother's favorite bird was the House Wren, and their bubbly song always brings her to mind. Also, having worked in the Caribbean, where many of the homes have names, in a nod to that tradition we dubbed our little cedar-sided home "Wren House." Fittingly, each year we have two, sometimes three, pairs of House Wrens nest around our yard, including in a house that hangs just outside the front door. We also get the occasional Sedge Wren and passing Winter Wren.

*Do you have any advice on how to be a better birder?*

We live in a time where there are an increasing number of tools available to us to aid in bird identification and to record bird sightings. Digital cameras have revolutionized our ability to document birds, and now there are applications on our phones that can identify birds in photos as well as their songs. These are excellent resources, but as any of you that have tested them have experienced, they are not 100% accurate. There is no substitute for careful observation. I would advise new birders to not rely solely on apps to provide identification, but to familiarize themselves with species and their songs through study and to confirm their sightings with guides and other sources. In the same vein, I hope seasoned birders will allow themselves the time to slow down and observe bird activity and behavior. On occasion, I intentionally go for a walk without my binoculars or camera, and it is refreshing to be forced to see and hear birds without peering at them through a lens.

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

In addition to being a birder, I am a photographer and enjoy combining both interests. How we as birders and photographers interact with our subjects is important to me and I have given presentations to local camera clubs on how to be respectful and ethical in our approach to birds, their habitat, and our fellow birders and photographers. I also enjoy art, genealogy, and history.

*What new bird would you most like to see?*

I am hopeful that this year I will at last find a cooperative Upland Sandpiper!

*Red-eyed Vireo, by Jean Brisance*





# Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

Carpenter Nature Center  
12805 Saint Croix Trail South  
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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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