



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 44 Issue 5—Bloomington MN
www.MRVAC.org

March & April 2011

Anne Hanley, Editor
anne_hanley90@hotmail.com

Terry's Perch

By Terry Houle, MRVAC President

It was with amazement as I watched as people just kept arriving for our January meeting at the refuge. We even had to fill in with some chairs to accommodate the crowd gathered to see Stan Tekiela's very informative and entertaining Hummingbird presentation.

I want to thank our Program Chair, Steve Weston, who continues to arrange fantastic speakers like Stan Tekiela for us. Many other people work behind the scenes to keep our organization running. Thanks to our excellent field trip leaders, the newsletter editor and proofreaders, the web mistress, Facebook administrator, the social committee chair, membership coordinator, the board of directors, newsletter labeling and mailing team - and the list goes on.

Thanks also to our Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge partners for staying late so we can meet at the Refuge Visitor Center.

But last and certainly not least, thanks to you - the members who support the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter.

But with that said, we need the continued volunteer support to continue to make this a fun and growing organization. In particular we need people for what has been called the Natural Resources Committee. Lois Norrgard is the chair but we could use some additional committee members. Please help us regenerate that important committee that acts as our Advocacy group. Much of the work can be done from home but we'd also like to get a group formed again who will meet regularly to determine what the group should look like and how people can best help.

So please help us make a difference. Contact Terry Houle (612-293-6011) or Lois Norrgard (952-881-7282) or any Board member to discuss further.

In closing, be good role models and stewards for our only earth.

Special Presentations in March and April Open to the Public

March 24 Thursday – Maya Hamady
Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources

Goshawks & Other Boreal Birds

Given the biology of northern goshawk and boreal birds, what must we consider to sustain them in our Minnesota Forest? Northern Goshawk and other boreal birds are species of greatest conservation need in Minnesota; this presentation will review their ecology and distribution, and offer forest management strategies to sustain their populations in Minnesota.

April 28 Thursday – Mike Dixon
University of MN Dept of Conservation Biology

Minnesota's Bats

Minnesota is home to a small but diverse and fascinating assemblage of bats. This talk will briefly outline the natural history of the state's 7 species and then cover some of the current conservation challenges, including the white nose epidemic, facing bats in North America. Mike has conducted acoustic surveys of echolocation activity across the Twin Cities metro and built models that best explain how land cover change influences bat habitat use for each species. Mike is completing his PhD at the U of M, Dept. of Conservation Biology.

When: Please join us at **7:00 pm** to socialize over coffee and cookies from 7:00 to 7:30 pm. A brief business meeting and the featured speaker begin at **7:30 pm**. The meeting will conclude before 9:00 pm.

Where: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd. E, Bloomington

Car Pooling: call George Skinner at 952-936-0811.



MRVAC Chapter News

Bloomington CBC Results

By Randy Hills, Bloomington CBC Compiler

After a record amount of snow for the Twin Cities in December, the weather on this year's Bloomington Christmas Bird Count, held on December 18, 2010, was snowless with average temperatures for December. Our total species count was a bit lower than our 15 year average, but we still managed to tally 60 species and 11,259 birds. No new count species were found this year, however, the Bloomington Count's second mute swan was spotted at Black Dog. Additionally, we logged record totals for two species: 10 Eastern Bluebirds and 4 Fox Sparrows. Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Northern Goshawk, and Green-Winged Teal rounded out the interesting finds.

This year's counters were: Arden Aanestad, Bart Anderson, Tom Bloom, Paul Budde, Dave Cahlander, Joel Claus, Diana Doyle, Matt Duford, Kathy Eich, Molly Eichten, Cathy Gagliardi, Otto Gockman, Courtney Grathwol, Karol Gresser, Mary Heltsley, Randy Hills, Rob Janssen, Ross Johnson, Sue Kratsch, Harriet Liedtke, Rick Magee, Kari Meyer, Andres Morantes, Lois Norrgard, Mark Ochs, Ken Oulman, Sean Peterson, Alexis Powell, Jim Ryan, Becky Smith, Drew Smith, Tony Smith, Liz Stanley, Jane Stull, Walt Stull, Raymond Tervo, Tom Tustison, Eldean Ward, Steve Weston, and Linda Whyte.

Thanks to everyone who counted, the team who assisted with the soup supper and Diamond Lake Lutheran Church. Your continued support is critical to our success. No date has been set yet for the 2011 Count.

A Few Lenox Birds for Sale

Birds still available for sale are pictured on MRVAC's Facebook page: Northern Cardinal (male & female), Chipping Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Turtledove, Vermillion Flycatcher, European Robin, Blue Tit, Christmas Dove. Contact George Skinner or Anne Hanley at 952-936-0811 anne_hanley90@hotmail.com for more information or to arrange to have some brought to the next MRVAC meeting.

Chapter Contacts:

President: Terry Houle

612-293-6011 or terry99@gmail.com

Membership: Patti Larson

952-934-0792 or pattilarson@comcast.net

Birdathon 2011

By Bob Williams, MRVAC Treasurer

Birdathon is a fundraiser and we hope you will participate. It's easy and fun! You ask friends and neighbors to sponsor you – an amount per bird seen or just a flat amount – then you go birding for a day in May. The money goes to MRVAC for educational projects to get kids outside and interested in exploring wild places. Last year we raised over \$3800 during our spring Birdathon with about 12 participants. This year we hope you will help MRVAC raise even more!

Here are some of the environmental projects that we were able to fund as a result of last years' efforts:

- Busing grants for the area schools that bring students to the Refuge for environmental education,
- Funding to the Refuge to pay for an Environmental Ed intern and supplemental classroom teachers.
- Support for Purple Martin housing in a Minneapolis Park, organized by Diana Doyle
- Audubon Adventure Newsletter Kits for elementary school classrooms
- We are also actively pursuing some exciting new joint ventures with local schools and/or nature centers that we hope we can fund yet this year

The dates for this year's Birdathon are May 1st through May 16th. Participating birders should pick up a sponsor sheet at one of our monthly meetings or request one from Bob Williams at bxwilliams@cbburnet.com or at 612-728-2232. We recommend that you begin seeking sponsors as soon as possible. Put out the word to your friends, relatives and fellow workers about the great things that MRVAC is doing with the money that is raised.

You or your team can bird on any one day between the 1st and the 16th and can bird locally or anywhere in the world. The Birdathon is really a great way to combine the pleasures of birding with the rewards of raising money for some great environmental projects.

Thank you for considering becoming a participant. If you would rather not actively fundraise, please consider sponsoring one of your fellow MRVAC members.

National Audubon Contacts:

Update your National Audubon record on-line (address, phone, email) at <http://tinyurl.com/4gq8hmj>

If you would prefer that National Audubon does not provide your name for mailing to other organizations, send an email to Audubon@emailcustomerservice.com and put "Do Not Share" in the subject line.

MRVAC Chapter News, Continued

Call for Trumpeter Award Nominations

Each spring for the past 10 years, MRVAC has presented the Trumpeter Award to one of its members for outstanding long-term contributions to MRVAC. Please send in a nomination by Mar. 26. The selection committee, which is composed of the previous years' recipients, will review the nominations and forward their choice to the Board. The award will be presented at a subsequent meeting.

There are two ways to get a nomination form:

- Find the nomination form at www.mrvac.org.
- Call Becky Lystig (651-452-1133) to have a copy mailed to you.

Completed applications can be sent to her at markbeckylystig@comcast.net or mailed to Becky Lystig, 1741 Sartell Ave, Eagan, MN 55122.

Previous Trumpeter Award recipients:

2001 Karol Gresser	2006 John Rehbein
2002 Joe White	2007 Lois Norrgard
2003 Pat and Jack Telfer	2008 Jack Mauritz
2004 Edith Grace Quam	2009 George Tkach
2005 Craig Mandel	2010 Bob Leis

A BIG Thank You for Mailing Assistance!!

By Becky Lystig, Trumpeter Mailing Chair

I would like to publicly thank Wayne Krause, a friend of Patti and Barry Larson, for his generous help in "tabbing" the Trumpeters for the past 8 issues! (Tabs are the round stickers that hold the pages together during mailing.)

When the postal service began requiring that all mailings be "tabbed", we needed a solution. There were several options: pay someone to apply the tabs, put them on by hand or purchase a tabbing machine. Wayne, who owns Sensible Mail-Equip Services, applied the tabs for us for the past 8 issues! And now, he has donated both a used tab-applying machine and a folding machine to MRVAC, which will make our collating job go much faster!

Thank You Wayne!!

Cedar Creek Bog CBC Report

By Steve Weston

The 64th Cedar Creek Bog Christmas Bird Count was successfully completed in relatively good winter weather by a strong force of counters on Sunday December 20th. Bird counts were strong, but not usually high. Best birds included a Saw-whet Owl that was observed by most of the counters. It was holding what appeared to be an ermine, already partially consumed.

Other good birds included two Eastern Bluebirds, three Red-shouldered Hawks, tying the high count from previous years and a Fox Sparrow. We also found the first Snow Buntings in 15 years. Woodpecker numbers were high for the second time in three years with record numbers of Downy (49), Red-bellied (34), and Flickers (21), and second highest numbers of Hairy and Pileated.

Record high numbers were also recorded for Mourning Doves (104), Robins (94), Cardinals (70), Horned Larks, and Black-capped Chickadees (606). The Chickadee numbers may be an artifact of the high number of counters. The most notable miss was the count's historically most numerous bird: the Common Redpoll.



Kids' Birdwatching Fair Will be Held May 7 at Rapids Lake This Year

Audubon Minnesota and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host the third Kids' Birdwatching Fair from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 2011 at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Rapids Lake Unit, south of Carver. The free event celebrates International Migratory Bird Day by educating children on the basics of bird watching and conservation.

The event is for children aged 12 and younger and their friends and families. Children will witness migratory bird banding, view live raptor demonstrations, learn about wild bird identification, how to feed birds, and the use of field identification guides and binoculars. All attendees will be eligible for drawings for prizes. No reservations are needed for this free event and all participants will receive lunch.



Regional News and Events

Salt Lake (MN) Birding Weekend 2011 April 30

Do you want to experience spring migration in Western Minnesota? Join us at the 36th annual Salt Lake Birding Weekend, on April 30, 2011. Birders of all experience levels are welcome!

Volunteers will guide birders to Salt Lake, Big Stone Refuge and the lakes, wetlands, and native prairies of Lac Qui Parle and southern Big Stone counties.

Last year 80 participants recorded 141 bird species including Short Eared Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Virginia Rail, Hudsonian Godwit, Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis, American Avocet and Smith's Longspur. (Past performance is no guarantee of this year's results.)

Some highlights from last year included a flock of 30 American Golden-Plovers, a flyover at Salt Lake of 6 American Pipits, winnowing Wilson Snipe, and the courtship displays of Marbled Godwits and Horned Grebes,

On Saturday April 30 at 7 a.m., meet at the Marietta American Legion, located one block west of the intersection of County Road 7 and State Highway 40, 11 miles west of Madison. Coffee, sweet rolls and milk are available. Guided car caravans will leave between 7 and 8 am. At noon, stop back at the Marietta American Legion for lunch and to compare notes.

A Saturday chicken dinner, for \$10, will be served at 7:30 pm at the Sons of Norway Hall on Highway 75 in Madison. Reservations are necessary for dinner; please contact Lillian Johnson at 320-598-3535 or farmcity@frontiernet.net. After dinner there will be a short program and then the species count for the day will be recorded. Sunday birding is on your own or stop by Prairie Marsh Farm for directions to local sites.

Local lodging is available at Lou's Lodge in Madison 320-598-7518, Vali Vu Motel in Ortonville 320-839-2558, Prairie Waters Inn in Appleton 320-289-2500, Country Inn by Carlson in Montevideo 320-269-8000. Free camping is available at Prairie Marsh Farm, 1770 151st Ave, Marietta, located 7 miles west of US 75 and 1.5 miles south of 212.

Contact Ken Larson for more info: 952-595-9265 (H), priemmarshfarm@comcast.net or cell 612-210-8486.

International Festival of Owls

March 4-6, 2011 in Houston, MN. For more info visit the festival website www.festivalofowls.com or call the Houston Nature Center 507-896-4668.

Audubon Center of the North Woods Events March 26 and April 23-25

Audubon Center of the North Woods, Sandstone, MN offers these special spring events:

Annual Pancake Brunch & Maple Syruping

Saturday March 26, 2011

10 AM – 3 PM Programs; 10 AM – 2 PM Brunch
Come join us for a pancake brunch and hands-on maple syruping program. You will learn which trees in the woods are maple trees and the history and process of making maple syrup. Then, help us tap some maple trees, collect and haul sap, and observe the sap being processed into liquid gold - maple syrup.

Brunch will be served from 10 am to 2 pm and the programs/syruping stations will be open from 10 AM to 3 PM. That way you are free to enjoy brunch before or after your 'syruping' activities - just indicate your meal time when making your reservations.

Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend

May 13-15, 2011

All-inclusive, complete holistic retreat - comfy lodging, wonderful food, and a variety of classes and activities to choose from:

- Adventure & Challenge (examples include ropes course, canoeing),
- Wellness & Nature (examples include yoga, massage, reiki, meditation, hikes, bird banding)
- Creative Expressions (courses include art, crafts, gardening, ethical wills, nature journaling, etc.).

Lodging, meals, all programming are included in the weekend package rates. You'll find our accommodations are perfect for a weekend of adventure, relaxation and renewal. Each spacious room sleeps 3-4 women on the lower bunk of bunk-style beds. The dorms are near the dining hall and centrally located to all the weekend's activities.

Our food has a reputation of its own and has come to be known as some of the best in the area! We provide healthy, wholesome, organic meals and our chef carefully plans and prepares each one deliciously and with creativity.

Call 888-404-7743 or visit www.audubon-center.org for more info!



Conservation, Education and Volunteer News

Wildlife on the Move – Audubon Adventures Offered for 2010-2011

MRVAC continues to provide Audubon Adventure materials to elementary school classrooms in our area. Money raised at our May Birdathon pays for the kits, which include newspapers, posters and guides for teachers. "Wildlife on the move: water animals, birds and butterflies" is the topic for this year.

Sixteen classrooms in eleven schools are using these materials in their science classes. A teacher from Hidden Valley School in Savage reports that she teaches Earth and Physical Science and has an Environmental Education program after school. Another of our teachers takes her students to Lebanon Hills Regional Park, where they have become junior naturalists. Audubon Adventures is useful to her in her life science and literacy curriculum.

Please contact Mary Heltsley with names of schools and teachers who may be interested in using these kits (no charge to the school or teacher) for the next school year: mkhelts@comcast.net or 952-435-5904.

Saturday Birding Classes offered at Refuge in March, April & May

- **Waterfowl Identification Class** by Craig Mandel
Saturday, March 5, 2011 - 9:30 am-Noon
Learn how to identify the waterfowl that are found in Minnesota and at the Minnesota Valley NWR; key field marks, migration routes and some of the better locations on the refuge and around Minnesota to observe waterfowl.
- **Beginning Birding** by George Skinner & Anne Hanley
Saturday April 2, 2011 - 2:00-4:00 pm
Tips for using binoculars, basics of field marks, techniques for finding birds. Bring your favorite field guide and binoculars if you have a pair.
- **Warbler Identification Class** by Craig Mandel
Saturday, May 7, 2011 - 9:30 am-noon
Learn how to identify these beautiful, tiny birds and good places to observe them on the Refuge.

All classes will be held at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, which is walking distance from the American Blvd light rail stop.

Habitat Restoration Opportunities

Great River Greening has several different opportunities where you can help improve local habitats. Register at www.greatrivergreening.org or call 651-665-9500.

Event: Xcel High Bridge Arbor Day Planting Event
Friday, April 29, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m

Site: Saint Paul, MN

Description: Great River Greening is entering its 13th year of work at the Xcel Energy plant. This year, 100 volunteers will plant trees, seedlings, and shrubs in order to close a gap in the forest canopy in an effort to help ensure the ecological health of the surrounding floodplain forest and Mississippi River. The planting will help ensure the health of a rich diversity of plant and animal life. The closed canopy will also help improve wild bird habitat and encourage the return of endangered bird populations. The project as a whole helps protect the water quality of the Mississippi River which positively impacts the entire metro area watershed. *Support for this project has been provided by Xcel Energy.*

Seed Spreading and Invasive Removal Event

Site: Acacia Blvd & Pilot Knob Rd, Mendota Heights, MN
Saturday, May 14, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Description: Get involved in this on-going restoration project, restoring 24 acres of Pilot Knob to prairie and savanna habitat! Great River Greening has been working with partners on a ten-year plan for this site since 2005 in order to provide continual improvements on this beautiful area. This year, volunteers are needed to help spread native seeds and remove invasive species. These actions will ensure that the area remains hospitable for a variety of native plants and provides habitats for local wildlife, such as songbirds and raptors. *Funding is provided by City of Mendota Heights and the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund.*

On-Call Seed Collection Volunteers Wanted

Want to volunteer, but can't commit? Here's the project for you! On-call volunteers are needed to collect native seeds at sites in south Washington County. Volunteers will help collect native prairie and oak savanna seeds at rare ecological sites which will then be used in projects throughout the Metro area. There will be 2-3 seed collection projects from June through November. To sign up as a Seed Collection "on-call" volunteer, contact Mark Turbak, Volunteer Programs and Events Manager, at mturbak@greatrivergreening.org or 651-665-9500 ext.11.



Conservation, Education and Volunteer News

Two Ways to Help With the Breeding Bird Survey

By Bonnie Sample and Steve Weston

Want to learn more about the birds that breed in your area, **AND** help contribute to bird conservation efforts in Minnesota? You can do both by becoming a volunteer surveyor for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) or you can help with the owl count.

The breeding bird atlas is a comprehensive, systematic field survey of the occurrence and distribution of breeding birds. Volunteer surveyors record evidence of breeding status for each species observed. Quite simply, a breeding bird atlas is a "snapshot" of all species in a specific region during a specific time period.

Beginning in 2009, volunteers throughout Minnesota began surveying a 3 mile x 3 mile area of every township in the state. Volunteer bird watchers with all levels of experience can contribute. There are many opportunities for you to participate, whether you want to document breeding birds in your own backyard or neighborhood, or survey a Priority Block in a geographical area of special interest. By participating you can as improve your identification and observational skills, learn about bird behavior, explore new birding sites, as well as have fun **AND** contribute to bird conservation.

Check out www.mnbba.org for more information or contact the Project Coordinator, Bonnie Sample, at 651-739-9332, or bsample@audubon.org and get connected to an Atlas Coordinator in your area. Please join us!

Focus on Owls: Season 3 of the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas is underway and now is the time to collect information on nesting owls, a family of species that breeds early in the calendar year. Check for potential nests when the leaves are off the trees then watch for activity as the season progresses. Also, listen for owls calling in the same location 5 or more days apart or listen for a pair calling to each other.

You can listen to owl calls on many websites, including Audubon's bird identification site (www.audubonbirds.org). When you are confident you have identified the species correctly, go to the MN Breeding Bird Atlas website (www.mnbba.org) to enter your observations. Your sightings will help write the book on Minnesota's breeding birds.

If you have questions, contact Steve Weston, sweston2@comcast.net.

Working for Change to Protect MN

By Terry Houle

If you enjoyed Colin Beavan's book, *No Impact Man*, you might also enjoy *The Story of Stuff* by Annie Leonard. One of her messages is that the best way individuals can help overcome climate warming is by encouraging change at the local, state and federal level. If you'd like to work for change to protect the planet, one option is to check out the Minnesota Environmental Partnership's (MEP) Protect Minnesota website

<http://www.protect.mn/>. MEP is a coalition of about 80 environmental and conservation groups working together to protect our natural resources, including the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. Their web site is full of issues and actions you can take.

New Outdoor Education Supervisor

Lynnea Atlas-Ingebretson is the new Outdoor Education Supervisor at Richardson Nature Center. She wants to bring more minorities to the center and to establish a junior naturalists program that will allow students who have developed an interest in nature at a younger age to continue that pursuit through their teens.

"I am a native of North Minneapolis. I grew up canoeing, fishing, camping, hiking and exploring with my family throughout the state and region. I am particularly fond of the Gunflint trail area, the desert south west, and Theodore Wirth Park (or as I like to call it my backyard).

I worked in nonprofit and public sectors including Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) a nonprofit partnership between k-12 education, higher education, and communities of color seeking to increase success for students of color in Minnesota's schools, colleges, and universities. Later, working in Denver I developed and ran many wilderness trips into the canyon lands and mountain ranges in Colorado, Utah, and New Mexico. It was fascinating to see such alien life and landscapes but sad to see so few Americans exploring. It was in this work that I really saw a need for conservation and stewardship beyond my "backdoor."

I moved back to Minneapolis in 2008 and took a job with the city of Minneapolis as Program Manager of the Federal Non-motorized Transportation Pilot program Bike Walk Ambassador Program housed at the City of Minneapolis.

I am passionate about citizen, public, and private partnerships that empower everyone to play an active role in preserving and restoring natural spaces and connecting society to nature."



FIELD TRIPS – join us. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.



Bird Watching Trek at Old Cedar Ave Bridge

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington
Saturday, March 19, 2011 - 7:00-9:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

See a variety of waterfowl and early spring migrants.

Birding at Rapid's Lake Unit

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 - 7:00-9:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

See a variety of waterfowl and early spring migrants.

Bird Watching Trek at Old Cedar Ave Bridge

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington
Saturday, March 26, 7:00 am - 9:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

See a variety of waterfowl and early spring migrants.

Southwestern Minnesota Birds, Marshall, MN

Thursday - Friday, March 31 - April 1, 2011, 7:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members
Join us on a trip to southwestern Minnesota. We will begin the trip in Marshall and bird in Lyon and Lincoln Counties. Some of the locations we may bird include Camden State Park, Garvin County Park, Lake Benton and a number of WMA's. Expect to see a large variety of waterfowl, blackbirds and maybe see the first shorebirds and sparrows of the year. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area

Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 7:30 AM
Douglas Mayo 952-922-0346

Carlos Avery WMA lies in the Anoka Sand Plain and contains extensive wetlands and uplands including grasslands, fields and oak savanna. This varied habitat provides opportunities to view Sandhill Cranes, waterfowl, herons, rails, raptors and woodland birds. In past years we've seen over seventy avian species. We'll drive the roads on the dikes surrounding various pools and hike short distances on refuge trails. Bring binoculars - and spotting scope, if you have one. Contact Doug to register and form car pools.

Beginning Birdwatching - Old Cedar Ave Bridge

9500 Old Cedar Ave., Bloomington
Saturday, April 9, 2011 at 2 pm
George Skinner and Anne Hanley 952-936-0811

This field trip is part 2 of the beginning birdwatching class held April 2 (see page 5). Practice using binoculars and bird identification on the trail. Bring binoculars if you have some or borrow a pair from the instructors.

Pasque Flowers at Nine Mile Creek, Bloomington

Sunday, April 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm
Mary Brown 952-885-0913 (registration not required)
Note-the focus of this outing is flowers, not birds. Enjoy the earliest blooming spring wildflower on the hilly trail and bluffs above the mouth of 9-Mile Creek in Bloomington. From I-35W, exit at 106th St, go W to Morgan Ave. Turn L (S) on Morgan and continue to the Life Church parking lot. If you are late or wish to visit another time, you can go around the church on the right, to a large lawn area. Cross the lawn to the back right to the trail. Follow the trail until you come to openings in the woods. The first area is savanna; next, at the top of the bluff, is the prairie and the Pasque flowers.

Birding at Rapid's Lake Unit, MN Valley NWR

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 - 7:00-9:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

The Minnesota Valley NWR, is an important stop over location for a wide variety of species during the spring migration. Learn where, when and how to identify these early spring migrants.

Goodhue County Birding Day, Cannon Falls, MN

Thursday, April 14, 2011, 7:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

We will spend the day birding in Goodhue county. We will begin the trip in Cannon Falls and some of the locations we may bird include Frontenac State Park, Miesville Ravine Regional Park, Lake Pepin and a number of locations in the Richard Doreer Memorial Hardwood State Forest. The early April date should give us a chance to see a mix of waterfowl, raptor's, sparrows and maybe a Winter Wren or Brown Creeper and the first Yellow-rumped Warblers of the season. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

Woodcock Walk – Rapid's Lake, MN Valley NWR

Friday, April 15, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Craig Mandel

You must RSVP with Kristen at 952-858-0715. She will tell you where to meet. Please wear clothes that are quiet when you move; no nylon.

Louisville Swamp Unit, MN Valley NWR

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - 7:00-9:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

The Minnesota Valley NWR, is an important stop over location for a wide variety of species during the spring migration. Learn where, when and how to identify these early spring migrants. This Refuge unit has oak savannah, prairie and riparian habitats. Bring binoculars and your favorite field guide.



FIELD TRIPS – join us. All trips are free unless otherwise noted.



Minnesota River Valley
Audubon Chapter
P.O. Box 20400
Bloomington, MN 55420

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Woodcock Walk at Black Dog Lake unit

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Craig Mandel

You must RSVP with Kristen at 952-858-0715. She will tell you where to meet. Please wear clothes that are quiet when you move; no nylon.

Woodcock Walk at Rapid's Lake unit

Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Craig Mandel

You must RSVP with Kristen at 952-858-0715. She will tell you where to meet. Please wear clothes that are quiet when you move; no nylon.

Purgatory Creek Park in Eden Prairie

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 6:30 pm
13001 Technology Dr, Eden Prairie

George Skinner, Anne Hanley 952-936-0811

This Eden Prairie park, just north of the Flagship Athletic Club and across the street from the SW Transit center often has some interesting birds in or near the pond. The type of birds found varies with the water levels. Let's see if the Caspian Terns are back.

Wildflower Walk at Eloise Butler WF Garden

Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis
Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 6:00pm
Mary Brown 952-885-0913

The focus of this walk is flowers, not birds. Enjoy early spring ephemerals along the hilly, woodchip paths in this 100-year-old garden. Directions: Take Hwy 55 west from Minneapolis. Turn L (S) at Theodore Wirth Pkwy. Watch for the signed garden entrance to the east (left). Park in the lot at the top of the hill and bring quarters for the parking meters. Since the sun sets quickly we will start promptly – join us inside the garden – take the first left. Preregistration is not required.

Southern Minnesota Birds, Blue Earth, MN

Thursday - Friday, April 28-29, 2011, 6:00 am
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members

Join us on a trip to southern Minnesota. We will begin the trip in Blue Earth and bird in Faribault and Martin Counties. Some of the locations we may bird include Walnut Lake WMA, Woods Lake & Perch Lake County Parks, Minnesota Lake and a number of WMA's. The late April dates should give us a chance to see a mix of waterfowl, raptors, sparrows and maybe some early shorebirds and warblers. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

Salt Lake (MN) Madison & Marrietta MN

April 29-May 1, 2011. See page 4

Family Birding at Old Cedar Ave Bridge

Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 4:00 pm

9500 Old Cedar Ave, Bloomington

Rob Daves 612-822-0085 rob_daves@yahoo.com

This will be an easy family birdwalk for parents and kids (ages 7+, please). Plan on several hours, dress for the spring weather in Minnesota, and bring binoculars and bird books if you have them. We'll also be covering several requirements for the Boy Scout Bird Study merit badge. Scouts should call ahead of time.

Beginning Bird Class (Hopkins Community Ed)

First class is Monday, May 2, 2011 at 6:30 pm.

George Skinner, Anne Hanley 952-936-0811

One classroom session and 3 field trips on Monday evenings. Register through Hopkins Community Ed. Cost \$27.00/family.