



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

# Trumpeter

Volume 50 Issue 6—Bloomington MN  
www.MRVAC.org

May & June 2017

Anne Hanley, articles editor  
Greg Burnes, field trips editor

## Special Presentation May 25 Open to the Public

**The Rarest Birds of North America**  
Presented by Bob Russell, USFWS, Retired

We'll take a look at the rarest bird species of North America from the never-photographed Semper's Warbler to the controversial claims that the Lord God bird, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, still exists. Updates on Whooping Cranes, Kirtland's Warbler, and the continuing search for the Eskimo Curlew will be discussed. An in-depth review of the history of the Carolina Parakeet with some information on records since 1950 (!!) will highlight this program.

**When:** Please join us Thursday, May 25 from 7:00-7:30 pm to socialize over cookies. A brief business meeting including the board of director' elections 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. Take Hwy 494 to 34th Ave. Go south to American Blvd; turn left and go 2 blocks. Center will be on your right. Enter through the door at the middle of the building.

**Public Transit:** Accessible by METRO Blue line (Hiawatha light rail), The Visitor Center is a couple of blocks east of the American Blvd. stop.

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

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## MRVAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic 6/22/17

We plan on "changing up" our annual membership picnic for our 50th Anniversary. Join us on June 22nd at the Minnesota River Valley Refuge. Here is the agenda:

- \* At 5:30pm MRVAC will sponsor a guided bird-walk
- \* At 6:15pm we will have our annual pot-luck dinner. Please bring something to share, MRVAC will be supply drinks and cake.
- \* At 7:00pm we will move to the auditorium for the evening's presentation by Neil Wingert. Neil's around-the-world birding trip garnered many pictures and stories; he has agreed to share some of the best ones with us.

### A Global Big Year

Neil Wingert promised his wife they would go south and west for the winter after he retired at the end of 2015. They both got more than he had imagined. Neil will present photos and highlights from his 2016 Big Year which found him in 9 countries: New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, Turkey, Germany, Spain, Bolivia, Ecuador and the USA. If you can't attend this program, all his sightings and photos were entered into eBird.

It should be a fun evening. Please come, and bring family and friends.

**Return the inserted postcard if you want to continue to receive the Trumpeter by mail.**

If you are unable to get the Trumpeter on-line, you can opt-in and have a hard copy of the Trumpeter delivered to you. Please complete the card that came with your Trumpeter and send it to us or bring it to the next refuge meeting. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you will be enjoying the Trumpeter on-line.



# MRVAC Chapter News

## Chip Notes

By Greg Burnes, MRVAC President

I hope everyone is enjoying spring and getting outdoors to see those early migrants! I want to update you on a couple of things that will be happening in the upcoming months.

### Trumpeter Distribution:

As you've seen me discuss in past issues, the Trumpeter is a valuable tool for communicating what is going on in the environmental community, great book reviews, updates on birding events and more. However, the challenge is that printing the Trumpeter costs MRVAC close to \$4,000 per year. That is a substantial part of our budget that could be invested in supporting youth programs, birding events, and more. Therefore, we are asking those who have access to the internet to go to our new website, [mrvac.org](http://mrvac.org), download and/or read the Trumpeter on-line.

If you are unable to get the Trumpeter on-line, you can opt-in and have a hard copy of the Trumpeter delivered to you. Please complete the card that came with your Trumpeter and send it to us or bring it to the next refuge meeting. If we don't hear from you, we will assume you will be enjoying the Trumpeter on-line.

If you want an email reminder when the new Trumpeter has been posted on the web site, you can sign up at [MRVAC.ORG](http://MRVAC.ORG), on the Newsletter page. It looks like this:

**Receive your newsletter via email:**

Save a tree! Subscribe to The Trumpeter via email. Complete the form and hit Submit or email Steve Weston ([sweston2@comcast.net](mailto:sweston2@comcast.net)), and we will add you to our email list and discontinue sending you a copy by mail.

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Comments

**SPECIAL EVENT - MRVAC Day at Cedar Creek** – with the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Project: Many of you know of the great work being done at Cedar Creek. The Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Project is one of the most incredible conservation projects and we hope to offer you a chance to visit with them and get an inside look into the project and then take a walk to see the birds. The site is only open to the public once a year, so we are working out the details to allow members a rare opportunity to see this beautiful bird (along with a number of others) up close and personal. Stay tuned for details on a special tour for MRVAC members in July.

## Elect 2017-18 Board Members -

Please join us at the meeting on Thursday May 25 to vote on the slate of nine candidates for the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter board of directors. At present, here's the list, but there may be last minute changes;

- President: Matthew Schaut
- Vice President: Steve Weston
- Treasurer: Bob Williams,
- Secretary:
- Members at Large: Becky Lystig, Ken Oulman, Greg Burnes, Rick Magee, Monica Rauchwarter, Bob Janssen

## National Audubon Customer Service

if you need help with any of the following, please call National Audubon Customer Service toll-free at 1-844-428-3826., or send an email to [audubon@emailcustomerservice.com](mailto:audubon@emailcustomerservice.com) regarding:

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- Magazine subscriptions
- Address changes for national mailings
- Requests for removals from mailing lists



## MRVAC Chapter News

### CHIP NOTES TOO!

Bob Janssen, MRVAC Board Member

In the last Chip Notes Too!, I wrote about my adventures to Koochiching County in January. These adventures continued into March with the great anticipation of a county lister. Those of us that keep track of birds by county are an “interesting” group of birders. We chase after common birds in remote places and have much fun increasing our county list numbers. This may sound like a strange way to see birds but it really isn’t, it teaches us over and over again what the distribution of Minnesota birds is all about. My latest adventure took me again to Koochiching County, the Minnesota county where I’ve seen the fewest species.

Through a network of birders created by Al Meadows in International Falls I found out that there were Great Horned and Northern Saw-whet Owls being heard near the small town of Littlefork. I had to plan a trip there ASAP to see and/or hear those owls and add them to my Koochiching County list. The trip was postponed for many days because of high winds and bad weather in the area. Windy days are bad for finding owls. Finally on March 21, I headed north. There was lots of snow left on the ground and the temperature was 10 degrees when I reached Littlefork at 5:00 PM. There was no wind and the sky was clear, great for looking for owls. I met Lori Dobbs at her home. She greeted me like I was an old friend. Aren’t birders the greatest people! She immediately said let’s go and I will show you where I heard the owls.

For the next hour we drove around numerous back roads around Littlefork. Lori explained to me the area and where she had heard and seen both species of owls that I was looking for. After this adventure she led me to the only motel in town and the fancy (only) restaurant in town. I rented a room and then told Lori I would call her later and inform her of my findings. I sat down to dinner and when the waitress came to my table she asked me if I was Bob. Surprised to say the least, I asked how did you know? She replied that Lori and Gordon Dobbs were providing my dinner. What a treat and again I said to myself aren’t birders the greatest?

The sun was setting and I was through with dinner so I set off to find the owls. I went down a deadend road where Lori had pointed out that other birders had heard Great Horned Owls a week or so ago. It was a perfect night for owls, calm, clear and cold. I stopped the car, opened the windows and listened. Within 20 seconds I heard a Great Horned Owl hooting its’ “heart out” loud and clear. I scanned the horizon in the fading light and there was the silhouette of the most beautiful Great Horned Owl I had ever seen, # 222 for Koochiching

County and the # 87th county for me in Minnesota for Great Horned Owl!

I spent the next 3 hours traveling lonely back roads trying to hear a Northern Saw-whet Owl, all to no avail. It was well after 9:00 PM, I was tired after driving 300 + miles since morning. I decided for one last try, close to the motel that was near Lori’s home. It was near 10:00 PM, the stars and Milky Way were out brighter than ever. Before I got out of the car and turned off the engine I vaguely heard something that sounded a bit like a Saw-whet, I passed it off as my ears (brain) hearing what I wanted to hear. I stopped in the Dobbs’ driveway and got out of the car to enjoy the stars. Within 30 seconds there it was, the distinct low whistled “toots” of a Northern Saw-whet coming from some distance away. It was # 223 for Koochiching County, only 2 away from the coveted 225. Isn’t it great that county listers can count heard birds!

I slept well that night in Littlefork. I got up at 5:30 AM to drive to my next birding effort in Cook (St. Louis County), about 70 miles away, to look for an American Three-toed Woodpecker. I was to meet Julie Grahn, a local birder, and another birder named Jack (I never did get his last name) from Kansas City, who also wanted to see a Black-backed Woodpecker and the American Three-toed Woodpecker. We met at the McDonald’s in Cook at 8:00 AM and got into Julie’s car and spent the next 4 hours looking for my nemesis bird, the American Three-toed Woodpecker.

The definition of a nemesis bird is a bird that all your fellow listers have seen but no matter how hard you tried you have never seen one. Well to make a long story short, in spite of Julie’s great efforts and hospitality, the American Three-toed Woodpecker is still my nemesis bird. I did find two Black-backed Woodpeckers which made Jack happy. Julie and Jack went back to the spot after I left for home and saw the Three-toed. See what I mean by nemesis? So it is back to Cook in the near future to see what I can do about a nemesis. Maybe I will write a success story about it in a coming issue of the “Trumpeter”. I sure did meet some great birders on this trip which is always a neat experience.

### John Rehbein passed away at 90

John passed away on Thursday, February 16, 2017. He was a founding member of MRVAC and 2006 Trumpeter Award winner. For 20+ years he led the spring warbler field trip to Hok-Si-La and Frontenac. In addition, in 1969, he started the Bloomington Christmas Bird Count that MRVAC still supports.



## Conservation and Habitat



### Native Plant Markets May 20 and June 3

#### \* Burnsville Native Plant Market

Help birds, butterflies and bees by growing native plants!

Native wildflowers, ferns and grasses will be on sale from multiple vendors at this farmer's market style event. Vendors will only accept cash or checks. Event held rain or shine.

Date: Saturday, May 20, 9 am – noon  
Location: Parking lot across the street from City Hall  
(100 Civic Center Pkwy, Burnsville.)

[www.burnsville.org/nativeplants](http://www.burnsville.org/nativeplants)

#### \* Landscape Revival in Roseville

Learn about native plants from local conservation organizations and purchase Minnesota native plants from local growers.

Date: June 3, 2017 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Location: Cub Foods Community Pavilion  
1201 Larpenteur Ave W, Roseville

<https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events/native-plant-expo-and-market/>

### Bluebird Monitors Wanted

Volunteers wanted to monitor two existing Bluebird Trails:

1. Four boxes at 102 and Park Ave. in Bloomington.
2. Twelve boxes at Golden Valley Country Club.

Contact Jack Hauser at [jgshauser@gmail.com](mailto:jgshauser@gmail.com)  
Or call 952-831-8132

### Do You Have Sparrow Problems?

If you have Bluebird boxes and have problems with House Sparrows, contact Jack Hauser for information about a technique that traps House Sparrows without trapping Bluebirds. [jgshauser@gmail.com](mailto:jgshauser@gmail.com) or by phone at 952-831-8132

### Recycle non-reusable clothing and linens at Hennepin County Drop-Off Facilities

Clothes and textiles that can't be reused or donated due to tears, stains and other damage can now be recycled at [Hennepin County drop-off facilities](#). This is an important way to keep even more waste out of the garbage.

Items accepted include clothing, shoes, accessories, bedding, curtains, pillows, towels, table cloths, and stuffed toys. Find out more on the [Green Disposal Guide](#).

And remember, you can find donation options for clothing, textiles and shoes in good shape on the [Choose to Reuse website](#).

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-Off Center 1400 West 96th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Fix-It Clinics

Check online for upcoming Fix-It clinics to help keep damaged items out of the trash. Attend a clinic to learn how to fix your broken item or volunteer to help at an upcoming clinic:

Saturday, May 13, 2017 from noon to 4 p.m.  
Bloomington Center for the Arts,  
1800 W Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington

Saturday June 10, 2017 from noon to 4 p.m.  
Eastside Neighborhood Services,  
1700 2nd St NE, Minneapolis

<http://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/fix-it-clinics>

### Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery

For more information about the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery group, see their web site at [www.Redheadrecovery.org](http://www.Redheadrecovery.org).

## MRVAC Field Trips and Other Events

### 2017 Youth Summer Camps at ACNW

The Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW) in Sandstone MN offers a variety of youth camps that have a focus on wildlife, nature, challenge and outdoor skills. Give your child the gift of the great outdoors and memories that last a lifetime! ACNW provides great accommodations, wonderful scratch-based meal service, a top-notch, experienced staff and engaging activities to provide one of the best outdoor camp experiences around.

In June and July: Rocks, Ropes & Rafts (entering grades 6-8), Ways of Wildlife (entering grades 5-7), Outdoor Explorations (entering grades 5-7). Need-based partial scholarships are available.

ACNW has been providing environmental and outdoor education programs since 1971. Our focus is on developing an understanding, ethics and responsibility regarding the environment and the role of humans through formal and informal experiences that link nature and humans.

\* \* \* \*

### Spring Bird Walks in Roberts Bird Sanctuary

The Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary will lead bird walks in the Sanctuary to search for migrant and resident birds.

When: Every Saturday morning at 8 AM through May 27 in all weathers.

Where: Meet in the Roberts Sanctuary parking lot, 8 AM.

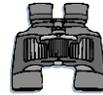
This lot is next to the Peace Garden; the address is 4124 Roseway Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55409. (Note: This parking lot is a pay lot; some people park on Lake Harriet Parkway as a free alternative.)

\* \* \* \*

### Friends of Wood Lake Big Day Bird-A-Thon

Mark your calendars for Wood Lake's Bird-A-Thon May 6! Get a team together or bird as an individual and enjoy the opportunity to win fabulous prizes while helping bird conservation and education at Wood Lake Nature Center! Event activities include; bird banding demonstrations, live eagle bird show, guided bird hikes, and bird photography class with live owls!

Event details including a full schedule can be found at [www.woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.woodlakenaturecenter.org) Call Wood Lake at 612-861-9365 to register for the full event or individual activities! It all happens Saturday, May 6 from 5:30 am to 5:00 pm, including a special Live Eagle Bird Show, (tickets \$5/person) from 3:00 pm to 4:00pm



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

Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips:

### MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Birding

Bass Ponds – 2501 86<sup>th</sup> St. E. Bloomington  
Rapid Lake – 15865 Rapids Lake Rd. Caver  
Visitor Center - 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington  
Louisville Swamp – 3801 145th St. W., Shakopee

All walks run from 8:00-10:30 am

Monday, May 1, 8:00 am Rapids Lake  
Sunday, May 7, 8:00 am Visitor Center  
Saturday May 13, 8:00 am Visitor Center  
Monday, May 15, 8:00 am Louisville Swamp  
Tuesday, May 16, 8:00 am Bass Ponds  
Monday, June 12, 8:00am, Bass Ponds  
Saturday, June 17, 8:00am Louisville Swamp  
Monday, June 19, 8:00am Bass Ponds  
Saturday, June 24, 8:00am Rapids Lake  
Sunday, June 25, 8:00am Visitor Center

We will search for waterfowl, shorebirds, warblers and sparrows. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Bring your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress for the weather. Craig Mandel, Volunteer Refuge Naturalist 952-240-7647

### SE Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, May 4, 5, 2017, 6:30 am  
Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

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

On this trip we will be spending time birding in Dodge and Mower counties. Some of the locations we may explore include Hormel Nature Center, Lake Louise State Park, Cartney & Naylor WMA's and a couple sewage ponds. With luck, we'll have a nice mix of sparrows, warblers and some other spring migrants. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

### Hok-Si-La Warbler Watching

Saturday, May 6, at 7:30 am  
Steve Weston - 612-978-3993

2500 North Hwy 61, Lake City, MN 55041

Join us for this traditional field trip (30+ years). We never know what we will find but we hope for many species of warblers. Meet at Hok-Si-Lah Park north of Lake City. Bring a lunch, if you want to stay for the afternoon's birds. No reservations needed. Camping is available at Hok-Si-La (city) Park or Frontenac State Park



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

Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips:

### Carver Park Reserve

Tuesday, May 9, 2016, 7:00 am

Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

Join us for this early morning walk at the peak of spring migration. On past spring trips to Carver Park reserve we have observed over 140 species of birds, including 14 species of sparrows and 23 species of warblers. Each year is a little different. Contact Craig to register.

### Ritter Farm Park

Sunday, May 14, 8:30am

Jay Miller 612-325-3066

19300 Ritter Trail, Lakeville

On the shore of Lake Marion, this park has mixed habitat and is a good location for spring migrants. Please call Jay for more details.

### Western Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, June 1 - 2 2017, 6:00 am

Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

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

On this trip we will be birding in Becker and Clay counties. Some of the locations we may explore include, Hamden Slough and Tamarack NWR's, Felton Prairie, Ulen City Park and a few sewage ponds. We'll be searching for species that nest in the prairies and woods in these areas and some late spring migrants. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

### Dakota County Prairie Birds

Sunday, June 4, 7am

Steve Weston – 612-978-3993

8395 127th St. E., Hastings, MN 55033

We will drive the "prairies" of Dakota County in search of grassland and other species. Meet at Schaar's Bluff. Just show up, no reservations needed and bring a lunch if you want to continue into the afternoon.

### Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

Monday, June 5, 2016, 7:00 am

Craig Mandel - 952-546-3407

Early June, is a prime time to take a hike at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. Bobolinks, Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows can be found on the trails that run through the prairie while Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded, Cerulean and Blue-winged Warblers can be found along the wooded trails. Please contact Craig to register for this trip

### Cannon River Bottoms

Sunday, June 11, 7:30am

Steve Weston – 612-978-3993

We will explore a little known, but very productive trail near Red Wing in search of a surprising variety of birds. Target birds include: Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush. Please call Steve for more details.

### MRVAC Picnic, Hike & Presentation

Thursday, June 22, 5:30pm

Minnesota Valley NWR Visitor Center

3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

Please join us for a guided bird walk, a pot-luck picnic, and a great presentation. See more on page 1

### Central Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, June 29 - 30, 2017, 6:00 am

Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

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

On this trip we will be birding in Mille Lacs and Kanabec counties. Some of the locations we may explore include Mille Lacs Kathio & Father Hennepin State Parks, Mille Lacs and Kunkel WMAs, plus a few spots along Mille Lacs Lake. We'll be searching for species that nest in the area and maybe some early fall migrants. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.