



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 51 Issue 4—Bloomington MN
www.MRVAC.org

November & December 2017

Anne Hanley, articles editor
Greg Burnes, field trips editor

Holiday Auction Thursday Nov 16

Great items available

By Anne Hanley

Where: Our annual fundraising auction will be held at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center: 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington

When: Thursday November 16, 2017 at 5:30-9:00 pm

5:30 pm Drop off auction donations, check out the items on offer and enjoy refreshments.

6:45 – 8:15 pm Live auction – Mark Lystig and Scott Clark team up again. If you attended in past years, you know they are not to be missed!

8:15 – 8:55 pm check out and clean up

Why: Raise money for Refuge needs and other environmental education projects

Who: You and your friends. Please come to the Auction and buy something – we'll have items in every price range.

Get some of your holiday shopping done, have fun and raise money to support a variety of environmental education projects. Come and bid often, bid high and have fun doing it for our environmental education program!

If you can donate auction items or provide refreshments, thank you!!

1. Make plans to drop off your contribution ahead of time. Coordinate with Anne: 952-936-0811(h)
anne_hanley90@hotmail.com
2. Please let Robin Kutz know if you can bring some snacks. Call her at 612-723-2632 or email
robinkutz13@gmail.com
3. If you need to bring your items on Thursday evening, please make every effort to deliver them between 5:30 and 6:15 pm so people can preview your items before the bidding starts.

To tempt you to attend, here are some Auction items we know about so far:

- Optics and related:
 - Vortex Raptor 8.5x32 Binoculars, retail value \$99.99. Quality porro prisms; mid-size, wide-angle design featuring waterproof, fogproof construction and fully multi-coated optics - delivers a bright, crisp image with excellent color fidelity—even in low light conditions. This binocular can be easily adjusted to fit anyone.
 - Tripod for camera or scope
 - Monopod
- Bird feeders: tube type, new
- Books and prints
 - 2 volume boxed set of the 1966 Original Water Color Paintings of John James Audubon. It is in mint condition.
- Food/treats
 - Bavarian Mints (Rita Baden)
 - Krumkake (\$10 flat rate per dozen) (Cheri Fox)
 - Bread
 - Wine
 - Gift certificates
- Handcrafted:
 - Ceramics
 - Ugandan basket (red, pine green, tan and brown with white accents)
 - Ugandan handcrafted 28" multi-strand beaded necklace (cinnamon and lime green colored)
 - Bird of your choice custom cross-stitched on clothing or household item (sandhill crane, scissor tailed flycatcher, red bellied woodpecker, etc)
- For kids:
 - Bald Eagle plush toy 9" tall, Jaag brand

See photos on page 4

MRVAC Chapter News

50th Anniversary Celebration Report

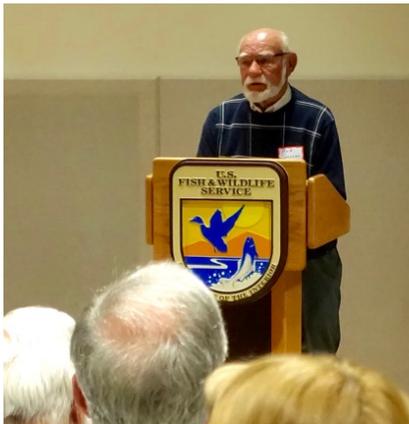
The 50th Anniversary celebration on September 28 was a wonderful evening. It included delicious snacks including Italian bruschetta trays, fruit plates and caprese skewers from Kowalski's, organized by Betsy Magee and Robin Kutz. In addition to the savory snacks, there was a magnificent cake – marble with white frosting and a teal MRVAC logo in the center (see color version with photos on the web at MRVAC.org – Newsletter).

As people checked in, they had an opportunity to get their photo taken in front of their favorite Chef Eric Gideon Baker's photo in the gallery. Eric's photos will be up through Oct 29, so you have a chance to enjoy them at the October meeting.

Thanks to our photographer-extraordinaire for the evening, Media Mike Hazard!

Bob Janssen introduced Al Batt with a story about how Al promised to show him a black billed cuckoo in Freeborn County but somehow Bob never did get see a black billed cuckoo – and is still missing one for his Freeborn County list.

Al Batt told delightful stories about how his love of birds started along with moving examples of how individuals have made a difference, making the world better for people and birds. He describes Freeborn county residents enlisting local business to clean up Albert Lea Lake (including pulling a quarter of a steer out of the lake and depositing it in the Hormel board room), Owen Johnson's persistence in building local support and persuading the legislature to create Myre-Big Island State Park to his father taking time out from milking cows to watch a Snowy Owl with young Al, as well as Al's own commitment to taking children out birding. His talk ended with 'Thanks for all you do', reminding us again that we can each make a difference.



Bob Janssen introduced speaker Al Batt.

More photos next page.

Volunteer Opportunities

MRVAC can always use volunteers for both short term projects and longer term commitments.

Treasurer Bob Williams will retire as Treasurer in May 2018. He is willing to coach the new Treasurer through the first year. Duties include checking the PO Box, depositing checks, paying bills and reporting on account balance, income and expenses and keeping current with state and federal filings. bxwilliams@cbburnet.com

Board members meet once a month. During the meetings, the board makes decisions about spending money (i.e. the grants offered by the chapter – see more about past awards on the web <http://mrvac.org/grants/>) responds to requests. The board also plans ways to raise money, attract members and increase diversity. Board members periodically take on a special project approved by the board like helping with the fundraising auction, planning a special celebration, finding volunteers to help with an event at the refuge, attracting new and retaining existing members, recruiting speakers, helping partner organizations (e.g. 2 board members led 2 field trips for East Side Neighborhood Services, related to their grant). There is no immediate opening on the board, but interested persons could start attending meetings now to get up-to-speed! Contact Rick Magee, MRVAC secretary or any other board member: rrickvex@live.com

Membership chair – welcome everyone attending the monthly meetings (make sure someone is at the nametag table) send the annual renewal mailing to local members and work with National as needed to keep membership list up to date. (Greg Burnes is filling in for now.) gburnes@comcast.net

Newsletter editor – Anne would like to take a break for 2 years until she retires. If someone could fill in, that would be marvelous! anne_hanley90@hotmail.com

Field trip leaders and assistants. If interested, contact Cheri Fox at cherifoxj@gmail.com

A New Jersey College Takes Action To Stop Bird Collisions

Nestled near the New Jersey shore, Atlantic Cape Community College's Cape May County Campus is in a famously important area for migratory birds. After noticing dead birds—lots of them—under new and sparkling glass windows, the staff took action and achieved inspiring results. Read more about it and see a video here:

<https://abcbirds.org/birdcalls/> - select the August 30 issue.

50th Anniversary Celebration Photos

Betsy Magee sets up in the Visitor Center classroom



Robin Kutz wheels in some of the food



Food trays from Kowalski's: Italian bruschetta tray, fruit and caprese skewers



The impressive cake from Lunds & Byerlys:



50th Anniversary Celebration, continued:

Al Batt has the audience spellbound

Preview of some auction items

Tube Feeders

Tripod



These items – plus more- will be auctioned November 16. Please join us.

Tripod leg detail

Monopod

Custom-baked krumkake \$10/dozen

Plush Bald Eagle



Ugandan basket

Ugandan necklace

Red-Bellied Woodpecker

Sandhill Crane

Vortex Raptor binoculars



MRVAC Chapter News

Chip Notes

By Matthew Schaut, MRVAC President

My son and I took an epic road trip this August through Canada using Parks Canada's national park pass. The day we arrived in the Yukon Territory the temperature was 94 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Northwest Territories, I swam in the Great Slave Lake. It was warmer than Lake Superior. The Native Dine people speak about the ominous heat of the last two summers. We did a big figure eight, came back from the high latitudes via the national parks in southern Alberta and British Columbia. Dry dry dry. Smoke from fires in British Columbia prevented a clear view of the mountains. Sections of Yoho and Mount Revelstoke National Parks closed due to active fires. We walked on the Columbian Icefield in Jasper, thrilling, but much diminished. We ended our national parks tour in Glacier National Park, Montana. Glaciers there, but so diminished they didn't really make the experience for us. I feel we threaded a needle; we could see a couple of small fires the park was "keeping an eye on." After we left, they turned into conflagrations. Dry dry dry.

Canada bears a lot of the blame for global warming, despite its small population. You can't drive through the prairie of Saskatchewan or the oilfields of Alberta and British Columbia without being confronted by agribusiness and petrodollars. Public radio is complicit. Every news item concerning Native Americans was preceded and followed by oil industry ads.

We all know the Earth has passed the threshold into a new reality. The hurricanes of 2017 are historic, and will be followed by the hurricanes of 2018 and 2019 and 2020... The Caribbean Islands and Gulf Coast may become uninhabitable. Will even the wildlife be able to survive if islands are continuously scoured of vegetation by hurricanes? There go wintering songbirds. There goes the Kirtland's Warbler. The historic wildfires of 2017 throughout western North America. The high temperatures and new (lack of) moisture regime will continue. There is no refuge.

We could still do much to mitigate the impacts. But our leaders play. Truly they are execrable. We won't mention the travesty that is our Presidential politics, and the damage currently in the EPA and the Agricultural Department, etc. I will mention just how diligently Rep. Nolan - DFL, is working tirelessly to desecrate Minnesota's water's, and Minnesotan's right to due process and public input in environmental affairs -- all to benefit the avarice of a multinational corporation.

What makes a public servant go rogue like this? It'd be nice to think the Democratic party politicians would be allies; few Republicans (name one) currently are. Nolan has apparently found a more rewarding constituency? Being a steward of the environment, thinking unto the 7th generation so our descendants have a world to inherit. Doesn't seem rewarding to so many in politics and industry. Why? Imagine if our governor was not an honorable public servant? We could have Flint's water throughout Minnesota as well. Michigan's governor simply does not care. Neither does Nolan, apparently.

Our leaders play games.
The heat rises.
The oceans roar.
The world burns.
Species go extinct.
Cultures die.

Fight people. Fight with all you've got!

Matthew Schaut

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Contact National Audubon about your membership (renewing, extending, or updating your information), magazine subscriptions, National mailings, premiums (calendars, tote bags, etc.), address changes for National mailings and requests for removals from mailing lists

Christmas Bird Count & Other Bird Events

Christmas Bird Count - Dec 16 & 17

You are invited to join us for the 118th annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. All levels of experience are welcome. Young birders with good eyes and ears are especially appreciated as an addition to a team of more experienced birders with good ID skills. Come help us count the birds! Three counts are associated with MRVAC:

Bloomington CBC - Saturday 12/16 – Contact:
Bart Anderson 612-719- 6103,
andersonbartlee@gmail.com

Excelsior CBC - Saturday 12/16 – Contacts:
Howard Towle towle001@umn.edu
*Call Howard no later than Dec 9 to participate

Cedar Creek Bog CBC - Sunday 12/17 – Contact:
Steve Weston at sweston2@comcast.net

On Saturday 12/16, gather between 4:30 and 5 pm to help set up for a **potluck soup supper** at the Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave 55417. Juice and coffee will be available from 5 to 5:30 and the meal begins at 5:30 pm. Please bring soup, veggies, fruit, bread or dessert. Please contact Robin at 612-723-2632 or robinkutz13@gmail.com if you have soup-supper questions. You are welcome at the supper whether you counted with the Bloomington CBC or not.

The **Bloomington CBC** (Saturday, Dec. 16) is centered on the Black Dog Power Plant on the Minnesota River and includes parts of Bloomington, Burnsville, Richfield, Eagan, Apple Valley, and smaller parts of other cities. If you would like to help count in this area, contact Bart Anderson (see above).

The **Excelsior CBC** (Saturday, Dec. 16) is centered on the intersection of Hwys 5 and 101 in Eden Prairie and includes parts of Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Excelsior, Chanhassen, Chaska and Shakopee. If you'd like to help count in the SW Metro area, please contact Howard Towle no later than December 9 as it is hard to rearrange the groups at the last minute.

Alternatively, you can participate in the Excelsior count by helping to cover a portion of **Carver Park**. Please contact Kirk Mona (the naturalist at the Lowry Nature Center) no later than December 9 if you would like to arrange to bird a specific portion of the park: Kirk Mona, Naturalist, Lowry Nature Center at 763-694-7650.

For the **Cedar Creek Bog CBC** (Sunday 12/17) in northern Anoka and southern Isanti counties, please contact Steve Weston. There are not expected to be many openings available to participate in this count.

Planning ahead –

Feb & March out of town events

Winter Family Weekend 2018

February 16 @ 4:00 pm - February 19, 2018 @ 1:00 pm
Audubon Center of the North Woods,
54165 Audubon Dr. Sandstone, MN 55072

February 16-18, 2018 - President's Day Weekend
Wonder, adventure and discovery for all! Embrace winter over the long President's Day Weekend. Treat your family to 3 nights/4 days of discovery, learning and fun. This exciting family program offers age-specific and all-family program options to choose from. Whether you're looking for snow activities, skiing/snowshoeing, nature learning or quality family time, we have something for the whole family. Activities you can enjoy during your stay at the Center include: Indoor climbing wall... \$165 - \$318

International Festival of Owls

March 2-4, 2018

If you love owls, this is the place to be in March! Adult programs, banquet, kid's activities, live owls, photo sessions held in Houston Minnesota (SE corner of the state). Something for every owl fan. Check out the speakers and events as they are posted on the festival web site:

<http://www.FestivalofOwls.com/>

Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival

March 22-25, 2018

Audubon Nebraska will hold its 2018 crane festival on March 22-25 in Kearney. The highlight is the largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes in the world. Over 500,000 cranes plus millions of snow geese and other waterfowl stopover in central Nebraska each spring. See <http://ne.audubon.org/birds/crane-festival> for details on speakers and activities as they become available.

For information on viewing the Sandhill Crane migration, outside the festival field trips, call Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary, (308) 468-5282.



MRVAC Donations at Work

MVRAC & MOU Support ESNS “East Side Takes Flight! The Minnesota Flyway as a Whole Family Experience”

By Matt Schaut, MRVAC President

MRVAC donated \$3000, in addition to some support from MOU, for this project. The East Side Neighborhood Services (ESNS) project journey began in mid-September with a family overnight field trip to the annual Hawk Ridge Festival in Duluth, Minnesota. Families of the Glendale Townhomes traveled to Hawk Ridge and participated in the free family activities which introduced them to bird watching and bird appreciation. They stayed overnight at the East Side Neighborhood Services campground, Camp Bovey, in Gordon, Wisconsin.

In addition, throughout the fall, there will be after school programs on dynamics of flight, wing technology, and the geographical relevance of the Minnesota River Valley through an education series that will involve 6-site visits by staff from Silverwood Park (Three Rivers Park District).

Youth will work on bird-related art projects, observe local bird wildlife within the Prospect Park and East River Parkway, and study bird artifacts with naturalist twice weekly for three weeks. They will participate in a field trip to Silverwood Park with activities facilitated by Silverwood Park Staff.

Meanwhile, in Northeast Minneapolis, the afterschool program Mulberry Junction will construct a bird habitat viewing area outside the windows of the East Side Neighborhood Services Adult Day at Friendship Center, a program that provides daytime care and support for 20-25 seniors weekly.

On two separate weekends (October 7 and 14), families from the Luxton Learners and Mulberry Junction programs were invited to attend a family bird watching hike along the East Bank trail system near the Glendale Townhomes. Board members of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Society (Monica Rauchwarter and Greg Burns) will lead bird-watching hikes equipped with binoculars and appropriately translated bird-identification guides in Somali and Spanish so as to bridge any language barriers otherwise inhibiting immigrant families from fully benefiting from the experiences.

All three programs will culminate in a joint family night meal and bird appreciation festivity at Luxton Community Center on November 2. Families of students who attend the programs will be invited to share photos, students' written stories, and art projects detailing their bird-related family and afterschool program projects.

Jean Emmons, the co-leader of the weekend, informed me that everyone who went was part of a multi-generational family: grandparents with grandkids, parents with children, blended families. Everyone was from an underserved population.

They spent two nights at a small camp, Bovey, in northern Wisconsin that Eastside Neighborhood Services has managed to maintain. None of the participants had ever canoed before or seen the star-filled night sky. None had ever been to Duluth, experienced hawk migration or seen Lake Superior. They hiked at Hawk Ridge, met banded hawks and received quality attention from staff on the Ridge. Sparky Stensaass met the families and donated materials to the ESNS program. One young lady spent hours learning about dragonflies.

The kids and their parents exulted in Lake Superior – some even swam in the lake! Everyone got ice cream on the ride home. As Jean said -- "you get the full experience!"

People of color learn they aren't permitted the same rights to nature white people take for granted. These people were able to experience nature, have adventures, meet and immerse themselves in Lake Superior, be turned on to birds and dragonflies and the night sky.

This grant definitely fulfills MRVAC's mission in the most glorious way!

Matt Schaut

Dear Matt, Steve, Greg, and Monica-

The Luxton Takes Flight project is off to a strong start! We just completed our weekend family trip to Hawkridge and Camp Bovey, WI. Though I'll be sending you a more detailed recap toward the end of the month, I was too excited to wait and wanted to drop a quick line of gratitude immediately!

In the last 16 years of working with youth and families, I've participated in very few events that have even come close to the fun and the beauty of this weekend. Thank you for giving our East Side community this special experience. I so appreciate the willingness of both your agencies to work together and each fund a portion of the same project -- without your willingness to work together, we truly could not have made this happen.

*Best, James Taborda-Whitt,
Youth Program Manager East Side
Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413*



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 Bird Watching

Saturday, November 11, 8:00 am Bass Ponds
Tuesday, November 14, 8:00 am, Wilkie Unit
Sunday, November 19, 8:00 am, Bass Ponds
Sunday, Dec. 3, 8:00 am, Bass Ponds
Saturday, Dec. 9, 8:00 am, Bass Ponds
Monday, Dec. 11, 8:00 am, Wilkie Unit

Leader = Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

Addresses: Bass Ponds = 2501 86th St. E., Bloomington

Wilkie Unit = 7701 Co. Rd. 101 E., Shakopee

These walks focus on migrating waterfowl, raptors and other species that are part of the late fall migration or overwintering. All levels of experience welcome. Please bring binoculars, a field guide and dress for the weather. Registration is not required for these refuge tours, however, for more information contact Craig Mandel.

Carver County Birding Day

Friday, November 10, 2017 @ 7:00 am

Leader = Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

Lake Waconia, Goose Lake, Lippert Lake and Swede Lake are a few of the lakes we will check for waterfowl. We should also have time for some birding at Carver Park Reserve, Baylor County Park and Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Rapids Lake Unit. Please contact Craig for more information.

MRVAC Holiday Auction - see page 1

Thursday, November 16, 2017 - 6:45 pm

MVNWR Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd. E.

Plan to attend our fall fundraiser at the Refuge Visitor Center in Bloomington. If you have something to donate or are willing to contact companies or organizations who might make an in-kind contribution, please contact Anne Hanley at 952-936-0811. If you are dropping off a donation the night of the auction, please try to arrive between 5:30 and 6:00 pm.

Swans on the Mississippi

Saturday, November 11, 2017 @ 9:00 am

Leader = Mark Lystig - 651-452-1133

Join us on a trip along the Mississippi looking for Bald Eagles, ducks, gulls, shorebirds & Tundra Swans. Stops include Colville Park, just outside Red Wing, and Alma WI and the viewing platform at Rieck's Lake Park. We may disperse around noon or continue together to look for more birds on the way back north. The trip is suitable for beginning birders. We will always be close to the cars but the weather can be chilly so be prepared. For more info (times and meeting spots) and/or to register, call Mark.

Meeker County Birding Day

Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 @ 8:00 am

Leader = Craig Mandel - 952-240-7647

The Litchfield Nature Center, Lake Ripley and Lake Washington will be a few of the locations we will be birding at on this trip. With luck, there will be some open water to search for Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. Please contact Craig for more information.

MN Ornithologists Union Paper Session

Saturday December 2, 2017, 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

3675 Arboretum Dr, Chaska, MN 55318

For more info check; <http://moumn.org>

Christmas Bird Count – see details on page 4

Bloomington Winter Potluck - Sat. Dec.16, 5:30pm

Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, 5760 Portland Ave S.

Bloomington CBC - Saturday 12/16

Excelsior CBC - Saturday 12/16

Cedar Creek Bog CBC in Anoka Co. - Sunday 12/17