



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 51 Issue 6—Bloomington MN
www.MRVAC.org

May & June 2018

Anne Hanley, articles editor
Greg Burnes, field trips editor

Special Presentation May 24 Open to the Public

Nature at Our Doorstep

Presented by Matt Schuth, MN Landscape Arboretum

Join us for Matt's photos and stories. He has worked in various capacities at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 1982, managing maple syrup production, working on wetland projects with graduate students, helping to prepare and maintain research plots, setting up bluebird trails, wood duck houses, and osprey nests, and keeping track of bird, mammal, and butterfly sightings at the Arboretum. He continues to write about the natural world for the Arboretum Magazine and to conduct nature walks and talks throughout the year. His book *Nature at Our Doorstep* was published in June 2017.

When: Please join us Thursday, May 24 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 Potluck & Red-Headed Woodpecker Presentation June 28

Thursday, June 28, 5:30pm

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
Visitor Center 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

Please join us for a guided bird walk, a pot-luck picnic, and a great presentation.

- At 5:30pm MRVAC will sponsor a short guided bird walk.
- Bring your binoculars – some loaner pairs will be available and there should be a few spotting scopes there as well.
- At 6:15pm we will have our annual pot-luck dinner.
- Please bring some food to share and your own plate, utensils and glass or cup as we are aiming for a waste-free evening.
- MRVAC will supply drinks and cake.
- At 7:00 pm we will move to the auditorium for the evening's presentation by Elena Wood, the lead scientist at the Red-headed Woodpecker study at Cedar Creek, which is looking at nesting and migration of the woodpeckers.
- The bird walk, potluck and talk are open to anyone – members, friends, prospective members and fans of Red-headed Woodpeckers.

Elect 2018-2019 Board Members -

Please join us at the meeting on Thursday May 24 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;

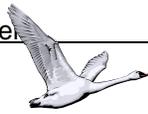
President: Matthew Schaut

Vice President: Steve Weston

Treasurer: Walt Stull

Secretary: open

Members at Large (5): Becky Lystig, Ken Oulman, Monica Rauchwarter, Rita Baden, open



MRVAC Chapter News

Treasurer Candidate Introduction

By Walt Stull

I have been a longtime, but inactive member of Audubon and am looking forward to being more involved as Treasurer of MRVAC. I have been retired for three years and am what I would describe as a recreational birder. My other interests are golf, travel and reading.

Our back yard with woods and feeders is a favorite place to bird especially with spring migration. A favorite out-state place to bird is the Sax-Zim Bog.

Two places in Minnesota I have not birded, but look forward to visiting are the Detroit Lakes area and Salt Lake in western Minnesota. My most adventurous birding trips were to Belize and Ecuador/Galapagos Islands.

Walt Stull

mathemagicland@Q.com

2018 Birdathon Fundraiser

It's time to prepare for the 2018 MRVAC Bird-a-Thon FUNdraiser! Here's how to participate: You simply ask friends and relatives to either pledge to donate a certain amount per bird sighted or a specified sum. Some birders will sight over 100 birds on a Bird-a-Thon day, so a pledge of 25 cents per bird could bring in \$25.00 from one sponsor.

You get to pick a day between May 1 and May 16 as your Bird-a-Thon day. You can bird anywhere in the world for up to 24 hours (less is fine) on your chosen day. This is an opportunity to spend a day birding while raising money for MRVAC. The funds will be used to support birder education efforts, such as programs at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, area parks and nature centers. We have also supported efforts like the Red Headed Woodpecker project (see page 4).

Ideally, all donations that you collect should be submitted to Bob Williams by June 1, 2018. You can contact him at 612-728-2232 or by email at bxwilliams@cbburnet.com. It is best to give the donations directly to Bob at one of the general meetings, but they also can be mailed to MRVAC at PO Box 20400, Bloomington, MN 55420. You don't need to sponsor a birder to donate; direct donations are welcomed as well!

You may also donate via the MRVAC GiveMN site – go to MRVAC.ORG, click on Support MRVAC to find the GiveMN link.

Birds of Europe Book Review

by Mark Lystig

Birds of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East; A Photographic Guide

By: Frédéric Jiguet & Aurélien Audevard; translated by Tony Williams. Published by Princeton University Press
Paper list \$29.95; ISBN 9780691172439
448 pages; 5x7 ½ ; 2,200 color photos and maps
Publication date: March 22, 2017

This is a new field guide for the birds of Europe. It's small enough to carry with you in the field (if you don't mind toting a 1 ¾ lb. book). It has photographs, not drawings, and the authors have pointed out the field marks for each bird commonly found in the area, but the field marks are not emphasized as much as they might be in a drawn guide.

There are photos of the male, female, and juveniles where the plumage differs, and flight photos for many species where that might help identification. There are also some photos of vagrants that do not have the field marks identified. (European warblers tend to look pretty drab—to me—so you can get a warbler “color fix” by looking at American warblers in the vagrant section in the back, although most are shown in winter plumage.)

In the identification section of each species they give the average length or wingspan, and note any characteristic behaviors, as well as differences between races or subspecies where relevant. Where appropriate, they describe the male's song and often the normal species contact call. Then a description of the normal habitat for the species is given where not obvious (e.g., at sea). Range maps showing the breeding, wintering and resident areas are included.

All the data is located on the same page; you don't have to refer to a different section for any data. They have followed the “modern” taxonomic order as far as possible, but recognize that the order(s) has been subject to change in light of recent developments. Due to the changes, the scientific names may have changed from earlier guides, even if the common names are the same.

This claims to be the first comprehensive field guide to all the species recorded in Europe, including resident winter visitors, common migrants, and rarities. The guide covers 860 species, with 2,200 photographs. This is probably the best guide to have for the most recent scientific data on each species



Regional Opportunities to Get Outside

2018 Youth Summer Camps at ACNW

The Audubon Center of the North Woods (ACNW) offers a variety of youth camps that have a focus on wildlife, nature, challenge and outdoor skills. Experience the great outdoors and make 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.

audubon-center.org phone: 320-245-ACNW

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Robert's Bird Sanctuary Minneapolis - Bird Walks on Tuesdays and Saturdays

Saturdays from April 21 through May at 8 a.m.

Tuesdays in April and May at 9 a.m.

4124 Roseway Road, Minneapolis, 55409

Saturdays - Friends of Roberts will lead bird walks in the Roberts Bird Sanctuary at 8 a.m. on Saturday mornings during spring migration. Many migrating birds visit the Sanctuary on their long journeys!

Tuesdays - The Minneapolis Audubon Society will also lead bird walks in Roberts, as it has for almost 100 years. Come and bird with people who carry on the legacy of those early birders!

* * * * *

Bird Banding Program at Lowry

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 9:00 am - noon, free

Lowry Nature Center in Carver Park Reserve

7025 Victoria Drive, Victoria, MN 55386

See banders working with live songbirds. You will have an opportunity to see these wonderful birds up close and may even get the opportunity to release one. Visit

www.threeriversparks.org for more info.

MN Valley NW Refuge Hosts World Migratory Bird Day Event May 12 and Debuts the 'Discover Nature' App

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge will debut the Discover Nature App, a new mobile guide and trivia game, during World Migratory Bird Day festivities Saturday, May 12, at the Refuge.

The Discover Nature App guides visitors as they explore three units of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, providing points of interest and information on the Refuge's diverse wildlife, habitat and history. The app also offers a family-friendly trivia game to play while visiting the Refuge. Interactive features allow users to upload and share their own experiences and photos of Refuge wildlife and habitat.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and partners will also host a special event that day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day at the Refuge's Bloomington Visitor Center. Visitors can learn how to download and use the app, then walk Refuge trails on their own or join a Discover Nature walk at 12:30 p.m.

The May 12 event will also include a program by the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center, bird-themed arts and crafts activities, mist netting and bird banding, and more.

The Discover Nature App is available now for free by searching for "Discover Nature" on iTunes or Google Play. Download the three Minnesota Valley units ahead of time to come prepared. The app will automatically open up when users arrive at the Bloomington, Rapids Lake or Louisville Swamp Units of the Refuge. Maps with access points and trails information are available on the Refuge website,
fws.gov/refuge/Minnesota_Valley/map.html.

The Refuge's Bloomington Visitor Center is located at 3815 American Blvd. E., Bloomington, Minnesota, 55425.

Visitors are encouraged to wear weather-appropriate clothing and shoes, and to pack a lunch or snacks if they plan to stay for the day.

For Refuge information, visit

fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/ or call 952-854-5900.

Conservation

Final Report for Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter for 2017 Summer Research Season

By Keith Olstad, Convener, Research Team, RHWO Recovery Project (612) 940-1534 November 25, 2017

Last December, our Red-headed Woodpecker (RHWO) Recovery research team submitted a grant application to the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. Our primary request was for funds to defray expenses for increased volunteer and professional field-work to begin to answer these questions:

- 1) What factors govern RHWO nest productivity and survival of juveniles into the next year?
- 2) What "internal" factors (e.g., sex, body condition) and/or "external" factors (e.g., food availability, weather, population density) drive RHWO to overwinter at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR) or migrate?
- 3) Where do RHWO go when they migrate? Do they migrate to the same place each year?

We were deeply gratified to receive a \$3,000 grant from the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club in 2017. We express a small part of our gratitude with this report on the application of these funds to critical research done this past summer, and offer to do a program for MRVAC detailing our work to date.

With support from a variety of funding sources (as reported in our initial grant proposal), we were able to hire a post-doctoral research coordinator, Dr. Elena West, to coordinate the work of our field research team. Dr. West worked half-time through the summer, and will continued to work this fall through December to analyze our data and formulate our research field work for 2018. Working with Dr. West at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR) were two full time seasonal research assistants, Candace Stenzel and Jesse Beck. Resources provided by MRVAC defrayed expenses for field work done at CCESR by this team and by about thirty-six volunteer "citizen scientists", and helped with laboratory expenses for data analysis.

During the course of the summer, the field research team "processed" sixty-six RHWO at CCESR, fifty adults and sixteen nestlings/fledglings. ("Processed" refers to capturing, banding, taking measurements, drawing blood samples and feather samples for DNA analysis, and possible use of location devices, listed below.) Thirty-nine RHWO were newly banded, and twenty-two nests were monitored. Twenty adults were outfitted with geo-GPS backpacks, of which eight were recovered in late summer and early fall, meaning that CPS and/or geo-locator data were gathered from these birds. Fifteen juveniles were "marked" with radio backpacks, allowing their movement to be tracked. In all, seventy-two birds were captured.

Parallel to the work of the field research technicians, thirty-six citizen science volunteers contributed 1,550 hours to the 2017 summer RHWO research season. They worked on five specific projects:

1. RHWO nest location;
2. RHWO parental effort in feeding nestlings;
3. Food use identification;
4. Oak tree tagging; and
5. Nest cavity porthole installation.

Data collected to date will be analyzed for preliminary results during late fall and early winter of 2017. Blood samples taken from summer RHWO captures will receive lab analysis over the 2017-18 winter. Spring 2018 recaptures of transmitter birds will allow downloading data regarding winter locations of these RHWOs.

In addition to the research conducted on RHWO, over the summer fifteen guided hikes and programs about this project, led by RHWO Recovery Project volunteers, provided rich educational opportunities to over 200 people at CCESR.

The research team of the RHWO Recovery Project created a partnership with Dr. Henry Streby at the University of Toledo, who is initiating similar research in Ohio and other states. This partnership will make it possible to compare different population's genetic patterns and adult and juvenile activities on a broader geographic scale for more conclusive research results.

A new round of grant requests will be issued in the coming months to support and expand our exciting research. And thank you once again for your most generous contribution to the recovery of this splendid bird.



Conservation, Habitat and Field Trips



Native Plant Markets May 19, June 2 and June 9

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. Learn more at www.burnsville.org/nativeplants.

Date: May 19, 2018 from 9:00 am – noon
Location: Parking lot across the street from City Hall (100 Civic Center Pkwy.)
Who: Open to everyone (non-residents OK)

Landscape Revival Shoreview & Oakdale

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

Date: June 2, 2018 from 9:00 am – 1:30 pm
Location: Shepherd of the Hills north parking lot 3920 Victoria St. N Shoreview

Date: June 9, 2018 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Location: Richard Walton Park
1584 Hadley Ave N Oakdale
Enjoy music and a food truck here

See more plant sales at bluethumb.org/events



Blood root photo from MinnesotaWildflowers.net

Bluebird Monitors Wanted

Wanted, a monitor to check an Eastern Bluebird trail at Southview Golf Course: 239 Mendota Rd E, West St Paul, MN 55118.

Duties include checking a dozen bluebird boxes once/week starting May 1st for a minimum of 12 weeks. One line abbreviated notes are taken and summarized at the end of the year to report results to BBRP (Bluebird Recovery Program). Training and data will be provided.

Contact Jack Hauser at jgshauser@gmail.com
Or call 952-831-8132

Wetland Monitoring Opportunity

Hennepin County is seeking citizen scientists to gather data about the health of wetlands in their communities. Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) volunteers will work with other citizen scientists to monitor bugs and plants in wetlands. No experience is required, but an interest in wetlands, bugs and/or plants is encouraged. Hennepin County provides all of the training, equipment, and leadership.

Teams will be formed in the Bloomington, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Corcoran, Eden Prairie, Maple Grove, Medina, Minneapolis, Minnetonka and Plymouth areas. Everyone is welcome in these cities and neighboring communities to join a team.

Applications will be accepted through June 1. For more information, contact Mary Karius at mary.karius@hennepin.us or 612-596-9129



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 Walks

Bass Ponds – 2501 86th St. E. Bloomington
Rapids Lake – 15865 Rapids Lake Rd. Caver
MVNWR VC Minnesota Valley NWR Visitor Center
3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

~~CANCELED May 6, MVNWR VC~~

Monday, May 7, 8:00 am **MVNWR VC**

Sunday, May 13, 8:00 am **Rapids Lake**

Monday, May 21, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Saturday June 2, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Monday, June 11, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Saturday, June 23, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Monday, June 25, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

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, 952-240-7647

Hok-Si-La Warbler Watching

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 7:30 am

Steve Weston - 612-978-3993

Join us for this traditional field trip (30+ years). We never know what we will find. 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.

Continued on next page



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

Beginning birders are welcome on all field trips

*** More field trips on previous page ***



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

World Migratory Bird Day – see page 3

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 10am – 3pm
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

Carver Park Reserve

Monday, May 14, 2018, 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. Join us to find out what surprises are in store for you. Contact Craig to register for this trip.

SW Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, May 17, 18, 2018, 6:30 am

Craig Mandel - 952-240-7647

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members
On this trip we will be birding in Murray and Nobles counties. Some of the locations we may explore include, Lake Shetek State Park, Big Slough & Lake Belle WMAs, and a couple Sewage Ponds. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

Ritter Farm Park

Sunday, May 20, 2018, 8:30am

Cheri Fox - 612-590-1261.

Ritter Farm Park 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 Cheri for more details.

Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

Monday, June 4, 2018, 7:00 am

Craig Mandel - 952-240-7647

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

Dakota County Prairie Birds

Sunday, June 3, 2018, 7am

Steve Weston – 612-978-3993

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.

Central Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday - Friday, June 7, 8, 2018, 2017, 6:00 am

Craig Mandel - 952-240-7647

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members
Join us for birding in Cass County. We may explore Boy River, Deep Portage Learning Center, areas near Leech Lake. Our focus will be on species that nest in the county including Nelson's & Le Conte's Sparrow and 15+ species of warblers. Please contact Craig to register.

Cannon River Bottoms

Sunday, June 10, 2018 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.

Southern Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday - Friday, June 28, 29, 2018, 6:00 am

Craig Mandel - 952-240-7647

\$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members.
We will be birding in Faribault and Martin counties. Some of the locations we may explore include Walnut Lake WMA, Woods Lake and Phil's County Parks. 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.