



The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

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Matthew's Musings

By Matthew Schaut, MRVAC President

It's hard to know, but the world may have ended the day the uber-handsome Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, bought the moribund Kinder-Morgan pipeline for 4.5 billion dollars. Part of me hopes he did it in order to shut it down. The rest of me suspects he has revealed that Canada is a petro state. That Canada is not any different from Russia or Saudi Arabia (or what used to be called the United States). That the Earth as we know it has ended. As Bill McKibben says – "game over."

How is it we continue to live in a post-apocalyptic world? It's not something I can wrap my mind around.

Trudeau's incredible betrayal is matched by the infamy of my local politicians at the local level. Here in pseudo-liberal Minneapolis I am told that it is too expensive to build carbon neutral housing. (It's not too expensive, really, it's just that the return on investment might take a little longer – or have to take account of environmental costs...) If Minneapolis can't/won't do it, I guess nobody will. The situation is disgusting, and these people disgust me. Individual bad choices or unwillingness to make the tough, right choice is going to continue to get us in trouble. But this is nothing compared to dooming Gaia itself – this good Earth and all its creatures – to ecocide.

Yet we go on. I go to work. I read. I play the piano. I maintain my MRVAC affiliations. I bird. I enjoy my children and my grandchild. Nothing I do anymore, however, is taken for granted. The birds I see today I know I may not see tomorrow. My grandchild I know may die of asphyxiation if the ocean's bluegreen bacteria stop producing oxygen in sufficient quantities. Or he may die due to a run-away greenhouse gas reaction, leaving the Earth in the Venusian condition. What a tragic waste of a beautiful thing, a water-blessed, blue planet, maybe the only one in the cosmos.

Tell me what to do with this.

Volunteer to Lead/Co-lead Bird Walks

By Cheri Fox

Would you be willing to share a favorite birding spot with other MRVAC members? Birding by bike or canoe might be fun! Pick your favorite park or trail, somewhere close by or further afield, and then contact me, Cheri Fox, about adding an outing to next year's field trip schedule. We'd love to have a few more field trip leaders. I can be reached by phone at 612-590-1261 or cherifoxj@gmail.com

If you have been thinking about leading a walk but are a little unsure about it, you may set up a field trip with a co-leader. You need not be an expert, you just need to be welcoming to your participants and have some experience with the trip location. For example, it's very helpful if you have birded there before, know the park features (restrooms, optional trails back to the parking lot) - and where at least a few birds are likely to be found.

Fourth Thursday Meetings Resume in September

The next general MRVAC meeting with a speaker will be on September 27, 2018. Steve Weston, MRVAC Vice President and the speaker coordinator promises a great lineup for the upcoming program year, but can't yet reveal any specifics. Plan to join us at the Bloomington Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

In the meantime, if you need a project, think about local habitat improvements. Could you add some (more) native plants and trees in your yard? Perhaps volunteer with your city, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge or Great River Greening on some habitat project.

Conservation and Family Events

Birdathon Raised \$2000

Bob Williams, MRVAC's retiring Treasurer, reports that this year's Birdathon raised just over \$2000. Watch the Trumpeter or our web site MRVAC.ORG for future updates on grants awarded, funded by Birdathon and the November Holiday Auction.

Successful Native Plant Market

By Caleb Ashling, City of Burnsville

The fourth annual Burnsville Native Plant Market was held on Saturday, May 19th across from Burnsville City Hall. The three hour event attracted more than 700 attendees. Between the 5 native plant vendors at the event, more than 4,300 native plants were sold and sent out into the local community to be planted in native gardens, raingardens and other pollinator friendly projects. Thanks to all who helped support this event!

Audubon Center of the North Woods

Summer Camps & Road Scholar

Summer Camps

Our great summer camps offer kids an opportunity to 'unplug' and connect with nature. With a focus on wildlife, nature, challenge, and outdoor skills, our camps enrich a child's perception of the natural world. Give your child the gift of the great outdoors and memories that last a lifetime! Partial need-based scholarships are available for our summer camps.

Ways of Wildlife - July 8-13 for kids entering grades 4-6
Spend a wild week learning about caring for rehabilitated animals and exploring the lives of animals in the wild.

Outdoor Explorations-July 22-27 for kids entering grades 5-7. Unleash the explorer in you! Spend a summer week roaming our forests and learn how to build fires, shoot a bow, and make a survival shelter; then find your way home using only a compass.

Road Scholar:

Outdoor Adventures with Your Grandchild July 15-20 (Road Scholar program #32100RJ)
This Road Scholar program is designed for grandparents with grandchildren ages 12-15 years old.
Deep in the heart of Minnesota's Northwoods, you and your grandchild will experience some of the most exciting sports this side of the Mississippi River. White water rafting, archery, rock climbing and zip-lining are just a taste of your outdoor fun as you venture through the lush greenery on your next learning adventure

For registration and more info <http://audubon-center.org/> or 1-888-404-7743

Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah 8/18

Birds, Bees, Butterflies & Blooms!

Saturday, August 18th 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain or Shine

Activities will be held at these Henderson locations:

Bender Park: 200 N. Third St.

Garden: 4th Street & Oak Street

Minnesota New Country School (MNCS): 210 Main St.

Hummingbird Banding in the garden

9 a.m.- noon

Garden Tour-with Master Gardener/Sarah Malchow

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Painting with Lana Beck - \$15 fee (Class limited to 12, please pre-register at 507-665-6570 to save a spot!)

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Speakers – all at the Minnesota New Country School

10:45-11:30 a.m. David Rice, Gardener

1:00-1:45 p.m. Donald Mitchell - Master Gardener

Mr. Mitchell will speak on attracting hummingbirds to your garden and provide insights regarding hummingbird biology that will help you understand why some ideas for attracting hummingbirds work while others fail.

2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Al Batt - Author, Humorist

Educational Displays.....Hummingbird Mall Vendors
Children's Activities...Food...Raffle Prizes...& More!

www.hendersonhummingbirdhurrah.com

Find us on Facebook

FREE Fun for the Whole Family!

Whooping Crane Festival

Event Dates: September 7 through 9, 2018.

An exciting fun-packed weekend full of festivities along with exploring nature at its finest are all part of the 2018 Whooping Crane Festival held September 7th thru 9th, 2018. Bringing a full array of activities to the Princeton and surrounding area, Cranefest is a one-of-a-kind event families and festival goers and nature lovers do not want to miss.

The event is held at the Princeton Public School: 604 Old Green Lake Road - Princeton, WI

Information: 920-295-3877

The festival celebrates and supports the ongoing efforts to save the endangered Whooping crane from extinction.

<http://operationmigration.org/CraneFest.asp>

MRVAC News + Book Review

Butterfly Gardening

North American Butterfly Association Guide

by Jane Hurwitz

Published by Princeton University Press

Book review by Anne Hanley

This very attractive book is a good introduction to gardening for butterflies. Interspersed with lots of great photos you will find an overview of the main butterfly families and some guidance on identification. If you have enjoyed some butterflies in your yard and are thinking about making it more attractive to a wider variety of butterflies, this book is a good place to start.

Some butterfly books and articles focus only on nectar plants for your garden, but this book spends equal time on the plants that support the caterpillars. You will see that various species feed on grasses, forbs, shrubs and trees.

I also learned that not all butterflies consume flower nectar; some eat tree sap, rotting fruit and animal dung. This isn't going to help you select plants for your front yard, but you might consider setting up a hanging shelf for watermelon rinds or other fruit.

Nearly half the book describes gardens and gardening tips for different parts of the country. The two chapters most relevant for our area are "Butterfly Gardening with Trees: Eastern Deciduous Forest" and "Prairie-Plant Inspired Butterfly Gardens: the Grasslands".

In the Resources – Plant and Garden Design section of Butterfly Gardening, I was pleased to see Heather Holm's book Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants.

You will also want to look for local plant information – e.g. the plant list at <http://nababutterfly.com/regional-butterfly-garden-guides/> and click on the Minneapolis one, written by Kathy Heidel. Some of you will remember Kathy Heidel from her years as a naturalist with Three Rivers Park District and the MRVAC bird ID classes she co-taught with Karol Gressor.

Or try the plant list from the Xerces Society: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/plant-lists/>

If you want detailed information on Minnesota native plants including photos of the plant in all stages of development with details on growth habit, bloom time, color and where it is found in the state, visit <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/>

Pat Telfer Passed Away June 7

Patricia Telfer, wife of Jack Telfer and long-time MRVAC member passed away June 7. A memorial celebration will be held at Friendship Village in Bloomington, but a date has not been set.

Salt Lake Weekend Birding Recap

By Ken Larson - - PrairieMarshFarm@Comcast.net

Salt Lake Birding Weekend is always interesting and April 27-29 in 2018 was no exception.

Cold weather late into April resulted in ice not leaving Salt Lake until April 25.

Happily, Saturday the 28th we enjoyed warm temperatures and low winds. Over 130 birders found 139 different species of birds with an additional three located on Friday and two on Sunday for a total of 144 species.

This year we found a number of late winter birds such as two Snowy Owls, Common Redpoll, one Evening Grosbeak plus Lapland and Chestnut-collared Longspurs.

Early arriving migrants included Grey-cheeked Thrush, Western Kingbird and Bobolink. Two of the best sightings of the weekend were in Yellow Medicine County: a Northern Goshawk and 12 Sharp-tailed Grouse on a lek. All of the species mentioned are uncommon for the 43 years of this birding event.

A big thank you to the Marietta American Legion Auxiliary and the Madison Sons of Norway for hosting this event. Once again a good time was had by all.

Complete lists of birds seen on previous years can be found on the MOU web site:

<http://moumn.org/saltlake/>

Sign Up to Be a Bluebird Monitor

Are you interested in monitoring bluebird nest boxes? To get your name on the list to be contacted about an open bluebird trail in need of monitoring, please contact Jack Hauser at jgshauser@gmail.com

Or call 952-831-8132



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

Various July dates;

Bass Ponds - 2501 86th St. E Bloomington

Sunday, July 1, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Monday, July 2, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Saturday, July 21, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Monday, July 23, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Join refuge naturalist Craig Mandel for a bird walk around the Bass Ponds to learn about the birds that nest on the refuge. Learn about the different types of habitats at the refuge that support over 100 species of nesting birds. Some of the species we may see include Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, Wood Duck and Yellow Warbler. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome to join the walk. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Preregistration is not required.

SW Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, July 26, 27, 2018, 6:30 am

Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

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

On this trip we will spend time birding in Watonwan and Cottonwood counties. Some locations we may explore include Kansas Lake, Pat's Grove & Eagles Nest County parks, Bergdahl & Delft WMAs and a couple of sewage ponds. Shorebirds should be migrating, and we should get some of the late nesting species as well. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.

MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Bird Watching

Various August dates;

Bass Ponds - 2501 86th St. E Bloomington

Sunday, August 5, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Tuesday, August 7, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Saturday, August 18, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Sunday, August 26, 8:00 am **Bass Ponds**

Join refuge naturalist Craig Mandel for a bird walk around the Bass Ponds to learn about the birds that nest on the refuge. Learn about the different types of habitats at the refuge that support over 100 species of nesting birds. Some of the species we may see include Trumpeter Swan, Bald Eagle, Wood Duck and Yellow Warbler. Bird watchers of all skill levels are welcome to join the walk. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. Preregistration is not required.

Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah

Saturday, August 18, 2018 – see page 2

Miesville Ravine

Sunday, August 19, 2018, 8:00 am

Steve Weston (612) 978-3993

We will be hike some of the trails of this rarely visited Dakota County Park, including some new trails. Birds that have been seen in the park include Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Scarlet Tanager and Louisiana Waterthrush. Call Steve for more information.

Western Minnesota Birding Days

Thursday, Friday, August 23-24, 2018, 6:30 am

Craig Mandel 952-240-7647

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

We will be birding in Otter Tail and/or Wilkin and Grant Counties. Some of the locations we may explore include Maplewood State Park, Ottertail Prairie, Rothsay & Manston Marsh WMA's and the North Ottawa Impoundment. Please contact Craig to register for this trip.