



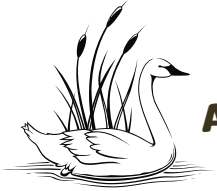
The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter

Trumpeter

Volume 57 - Issue 6
www.MRVAC.org

May - June 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Chapter Events

May 23: Social at 7 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Jacquelyn Fallon

June 27: Social at 7 p.m. and meeting at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Greg Hoch

MRVAC Sponsored Field Trips: See page 4

Grants Fuel Conservation

One of the ways MRVAC helps local conservation and birding efforts is through its grants program. MRVAC grants have helped fund pollinator projects, rain gardens, avian rehabilitation projects, Eagle and First Class scouting projects, bird strike mitigation and many others. If you want to apply for a grant – or contribute to MRVAC's grant program as so many have – you can do that on the website at www.MRVAC.org/grants.

Trumpeter Subscription & Local Membership

Become an MRVAC member for \$20 per year! This is not the same as the National Audubon Society membership. Becoming a local member helps the chapter continue to fund crucial environmental projects and cover costs associated with outreach and advocacy.

Partnerships in Action

MRVAC has partnered with Restore the Nine, a Bloomington organization working to help the city use recently-passed tax referendum funds wisely in its restoration of parkland along Nine Mile Creek. There was an article printed in the March *Trumpeter* about this project. The city begins its next round of citizen involvement May 21, 4-6 p.m. at Moir Park. Learn more about it at www.restorethenine.org and let the city know that nature comes first!

MRVAC Program Information

The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter meets most months on the fourth Thursday. Meetings are held in person at the refuge and simulcast via Zoom, unless otherwise noted. Zoom links will be posted about one week in advance on our website. The refuge visitor center is located at 3815 American Boulevard East in Bloomington and is accessible after a short walk from the METRO blue line. All meetings are free and open to the public.



May 23, 2024

Social gathering at 7 p.m. with presentation at 7:30 p.m.
Jacquelyn Fallon: VP of Field Operations for the Midwest Peregrine Society and MN state coordinator

Forty Years of Peregrine Falcon Restoration

The remarkable success of the Peregrine Falcon recovery program is one of the most highly celebrated restoration efforts of the 20th Century. Today, the Peregrine Falcon has expanded its range and surpassed historical population levels to a level no one could have possibly imagined. Fallon will discuss the history, process, monitoring discoveries and adaptability to an ever-changing landscape.

June 27, 2024

Social gathering at 7 p.m. with presentation at 7:30 p.m.
Greg Hoch: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Are There Any True Prairie Birds and What Are The Current Dilemmas For Them?

Prairies and prairie birds create a puzzling situation for ecologists and ornithologists. The Midwestern prairies are a combination of plants and animals from different parts of the continent with few being unique to this region. This presentation will look at how to define prairie birds and also talk about modern day conservation dilemmas, strategies, and opportunities for grassland bird conservation.

A Note From Our President

by Rob Daves

“When the birds begin their singing in the trees
And the rabbit and the possum be at ease
Oh, how happy we’ll be
When we hear that “whoa, haw, gee”
When the birds begin their singing in the trees.”

That’s a verse from a country song from the 1920s. But more recently the dawn chorus – Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers, Tufted Titmouse and the more common suspects – was loud in the trees in Marble Hill, Missouri, right smack in the path of the eclipse totality.

We were there to see and photograph the eclipse and enjoy the stunning conjunction of American redbud and flowering dogwood trees blooming in the southern spring woodlots. And we could test the notions written in the popular press (perhaps too strongly) about birds going quiet during the eclipse.



Photo by Rob Daves

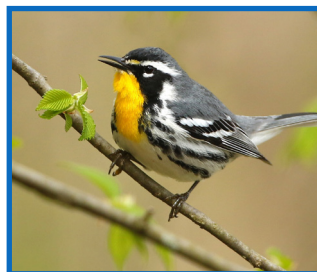
We’d done our eclipse homework: eclipse path maps; cloud cover prediction apps; boning up on photo techniques; securing a hotel room way early. On arriving in the St. Louis area, we scouted the area we’d selected and ID’d several

specific sites. We chose one only on eclipse morning, the New Salem Baptist Church parking lot. So did a double handful of others who’d traveled from Texas, Colorado, Alabama and Oklahoma, thinking it was the best shot at a clear sky in the middle of the path.

I’ve seen comets and conjunctions, earthshine and equinoxes, meteors and the Milky Way, but never a total eclipse. Louise, my wife, had missed the one a few years back in her home state of Tennessee. Our 2024 eclipse was more than we bargained for. In our little parking lot it united Catholics and Baptists, creationists and scientists, vegetarians and hot dog fans. Ooohs, aahs, and grins were common and widespread. The more sentimental teared up at such a wondrous event.

The birds? Scientific journal articles generally agree that there’s some confusion among birds’ behavior during the eclipse, behavior that begins roughly when the sun’s surface is half covered. But were they to go quiet and roost here?

In our little hunk of Missouri heaven, about midway through the eclipse, but before totality, birds began to sing less. One observer with younger and better ears than mine heard crickets begin to chirp. During totality birdsong quieted. Only the Yellow-



Yellow-throated Warbler by Shari McCollough

throated Warbler continued singing strongly throughout the eclipse.

And us? We didn’t sing, but we surely created strong, rare memories of a magnificent and rare event, birdsong or not.

As Spring Shifts Earlier, Many Migrating Birds Are Struggling to Keep Up

by Maddie Burakoff

Reprinted from National Audubon Magazine

For migrating birds, timing is key. Their journeys require massive amounts of energy, so they need plenty of fuel on their way, and after they get to their breeding grounds, they’ll have hungry chicks to feed, too. “Every day during migration, they’re just on this trade-off between starving to death and being able to continue forward,” says Morgan Tingley, an ornithologist at UCLA. “When they’re not flying, they’re mostly voraciously eating.”

These travelers rely on the newly-available resources brought by spring, such as leaves, flowers, and the insects that come out to munch on them. But that abundance of resources dies down later in the season—and if birds arrive at a stopover or breeding site after this peak period of “spring green-up,” they might miss out on the feeding frenzy.

Climate change is raising the risk of this kind of timing mismatch. As temperature and precipitation patterns shift, and spring’s “green-up” arrives earlier and earlier, a major question for scientists has been: Can birds keep up by changing their migrations? According to a sweeping study published this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) journal, a wide range of species may already be falling behind.

“We’re used to thinking about warming with climate change,” says study author Scott Loss, an ecologist at Oklahoma State University. “But we’re changing the seasons, the seasonality, all across Earth.” Just this year, following a mild winter and record-warm February, leaves and blooms are already popping out, in some cases weeks ahead of their usual schedules; parts of the West Coast are seeing some of their earliest spring leaf-outs on record.

The new study shows this isn’t an anomaly. Loss and his team analyzed the migratory routes of 150 bird species, from hawks to hummingbirds, that breed in North America. They found that spring green-up was indeed moving earlier across birds’ flight paths, according to satellite observations between 2002 and 2021.

They then stacked those spring shifts against birders’ observations compiled from eBird, and found that migrators generally weren’t keeping pace: “Most of these species were more in sync with past long-term averages of

green-up than with current green-up,” says author Ellen Robertson, who worked on the study as a postdoctoral researcher at Oklahoma State University. It’s a concerning mismatch, she says, since it suggests certain birds may not be flexible enough to adapt to a rapidly changing climate. Rather than deciding when to travel based on current conditions, some species may have migratory behavior that is hard-wired into their genes or learned from other birds—factors that could take generations to shift.

These findings add to a growing body of evidence suggesting spring migration is falling out of sync with food sources, says Stephen Mayor, an ecologist at the Ontario Forest Research Institute who was not involved with the study. “This paper expands on previous work to show that the phenomenon is not unique to songbirds, but is common across bird groups,” Mayor says in an email. The analysis covered everything from ducks and geese to kites and woodpeckers.

While the pattern of mismatch showed up across the board, longer-distance migrants—such as vireos and warblers that winter in Central or South America—seemed to have extra trouble adjusting to year-to-year changes. Their schedules appeared to be more tied to the calendar, possibly relying on cues like changing daylight to tell them when to set off, Loss says.

Tingley, who was not involved with this new study, has seen similar patterns in his research: “Most birds can’t keep up well, but there’s a real range,” he says. Short-distance migrants like Eastern Phoebes can more closely track conditions on the ground, which could help them adapt when those conditions change. But “if you’re a bird that’s wintering in South America, you have no understanding, no ability to know whether or not it’s an early spring or late spring here in North America,” Tingley says. “Those are the birds that are really falling behind.”

If migrants can’t find enough sources of food, they may not be able to survive their journeys, or could produce fewer offspring when they arrive, Loss says. And these earlier springs are part of a broader set of challenges for birds and other migratory animals, Robertson points out, ranging from sea turtles to wildebeest. A recent United Nations report found that one out of every five migratory species they tracked was at risk of extinction, battered by threats like habitat loss and overhunting, as well as other risks brought by climate change.

Still, more research is needed to understand exactly how shifting seasonal schedules are affecting bird survival. “The consequences for bird populations are potentially catastrophic, but also not yet entirely clear,” Mayor adds.

There is hope, for example, that even if they can’t shift their migrations, birds can adapt in other ways, like by shortening the window of preparation before they lay eggs—which some species are already doing, Tingley points

out. Chicks in particular need to eat lots of insects, so it’s important that their hatches line up with periods of bug abundance. “They’re advancing their breeding, even when they cannot advance their migration,” he says, but it’s not known to what extent these kinds of changes can make up for lost time.

“It could be that even by trying in all these different ways to adapt to climate change, it’s still not enough,” Tingley says. “And at what point that becomes really, really bad for populations is a really big remaining question.”

Global Big Day: May 11, 2024

Reprinted from eBird.org

Be a part of birding’s biggest team! Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us virtually on 11 May, help celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, and share the birds you find with eBird.

Participating is easy—you can even be part of Global Big Day from home. If you can spare 5 or 10 minutes, report your bird observations to eBird online or with our free eBird Mobile app. If you have more time, submit several checklists of birds throughout the day. You never know what you might spot. Your observations help us better understand global bird populations through products like these animated abundance maps brought to you by eBird Science.

Last year, Global Big Day collected more data about birds on a single day than ever before. More than 58,000 people gathered 3.2 million bird observations on 148,000 checklists, setting new world records for a single day of birding. Will you help us make this the year we surpass 150,000 checklists on a single day?

Here’s how you can participate!

- Get an eBird account: eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It’s what allows us to compile everyone’s reports into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting data to help scientists better understand birds. It’s 100% free from start to finish.
- Enjoy birds on May 11: It’s that simple. You don’t need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.
- Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your sightings via our website or download the free eBird Mobile app to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists before 14 May to be included in our initial results announcement.
- Watch the results roll in: During the day, follow along with bird observations from more than 200 countries in real-time on our Global Big Day page.

MRVAC & REFUGE BIRDING TRIPS

Refuge Bird Watching Treks

May 5 (Sunday) — Rapids Lake Unit Visitor Center
 May 12 (Sunday) — Bloomington Visitor Center
 May 19 (Sunday) — Bass Ponds Trailhead
 June 2 (Sunday) — Bass Ponds Trailhead
 June 16 (Sunday) — Bloomington Visitor Center
 June 29 (Saturday) — Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Trailhead
Each walk runs from 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

May brings us a mix of migratory songbirds to study. We will be searching for birds that visit the refuge during their spring migration on this walk. With luck we'll observe some warblers that stop at the refuge during their spring migration, along with some species that nest there. Bring along your binoculars and a field guide and dress appropriately for the weather.

Registration for refuge walks is available on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge website. Please indicate in your registration if you would like to receive a birding summary and species list from the walk. Registration is required online at the following link:

www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/events

Refuge Field Trip Locations & Addresses

- Bass Ponds Trailhead
2501 86th St. E., Bloomington, MN 55425
- Bloomington Visitor Center
23815 American Blvd E., Bloomington, MN
- Rapids Lake Unit Visitor Center
15865 Rapids Lake Road, Carver, MN
- Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead
9551 Old Cedar Ave. S., Bloomington, MN

Click here for refuge trail maps or visit www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota-valley/visit-us



Hok-si-Lah Warbler Migration

Saturday, May 11, 7:30 a.m.
 Steve Weston — 612-978-3993
 Field trip is free and open to the public

Join us for this traditional field trip that we've been taking for over 30 years! We never know what we will find. We will meet at Hok-Si-La Park (2500 U.S. Hwy 61, Lake City, MN), located just north of Lake City. Bring a lunch if you want to stay for some afternoon birding. This trip requires moderate effort, with some walking on trails. No reservations are required.

Lake County Birding Days

Thursday-Friday, May 16-17, 2024, 6:00 am
 Craig Mandel — 952-240-7647
 \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members

On this trip we will spend time looking for migrants along the shores of Lake Superior in Lake County. Some of the locations we may bird include George Crosby Manitou, Tettegouche State Park, Gooseberry Falls State Park, the Beaver Bay Castle Danger Sewage ponds, Black Beach and Bay side parks, and Iona's Beach SNA. We'll also check out a number of birding locations in and around Two Harbors. Please contact Craig to register.

Washington County Birding Days

Thursday-Friday, June 13-14, 2024, 7:00 am
 Craig Mandel — 952-240-7647
 \$35/non-MRVAC members; \$25/MRVAC members

Join us for a couple of days exploring Washington County. We'll be searching for some of the specialty birds that nest in the county. Some of the locations we may bird include Lake Elmo Regional and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Parks, Afton and William O'Brien State Parks, Grey Cloud Dune, Chrystal Spring SNA, and Falls Creek SNA. Please contact Craig to register.

Dakota County Prairie Birds – Schaar's Bluff

Sunday, June 2, 7 a.m.
 Steve Weston – 612-978-3993
 Field trip is free and open to the public

Let's do some summer birding on the prairie! After a short hike at Schaar's Bluff Picnic Area, we will drive the prairies of Dakota County in search of grassland and other species. Bring a lunch if you want to stay for the afternoon's birds. This trip will require little physical effort and we'll be birding mainly at roadside stops. No reservations are needed.

Miesville Ravine

Sunday, June 16, 7:30 a.m.
 Steve Weston – 612-978-3993
 Field trip is free and open to the public

We'll start out on the upper trail looking for nesting warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Acadian Flycatchers, Wood Thrush, and other southern Minnesota woodland birds. Bring lunch if you want to stay for the afternoon when we will bird some of the less visited corners of this remote park. This trip will be moderate effort. No reservations are needed. Meet in the north parking lot at 27970 Orlando Trail in Cannon Falls, MN.

REGIONAL PROGRAMS OF INTEREST



Three Rivers Park District
Various Locations

Mondays Are For The Birds

Lowry Nature Center in Victoria

May 6 | 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

May 13 | 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

May 20 | 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

May 27 | 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Join naturalist Kirk on this popular series of four Monday morning bird hikes. All levels of birders welcome. Bring your own binoculars or borrow a pair from the nature center. We will begin hiking promptly at 7. These walks are for ages 10 and up and are free to the public.

Early Morning Bird Walk

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park in Brooklyn Park

May 11 | 6 a.m. – 8 a.m.

Search for birds and the insects they might be eating on this gentle walk along the Mississippi River. We will look and listen for migratory warblers and other songbirds while visiting the dam, forest edge and marsh. Binoculars provided. All levels of interest are welcome. Reservations required by two days prior at bit.ly/4aHFqwx

Twilight Bird Walk

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park in Brooklyn Park

May 11 | 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

What do birds do when the sun goes down? Are they asleep? Are they finding food? Where are they hiding? Let's get out on the trails to find out! Binoculars provided. Reservations required by two days prior. Everyone attending this program must register and pay. Participants ages 11 years and younger must be accompanied by a registered adult. Reservations required at bit.ly/3xMizBi and program fee is \$6 per person.

Bird Banding

Lowry Nature Center in Victoria

May 18 | 9 a.m. – noon

See wild songbirds safely trapped, studied and banded with numbered rings. Discuss what scientists learn from these banded birds. Drop in anytime for this free program.



Deep Portage Learning Center
Hackensack, MN

Deep Portage Birding Day

2197 Nature Center Dr NW, Hackensack, MN

June 8 | 6:30 a.m. start

Spend a day traversing the many habitats of Cass County. Enjoy the camaraderie of fellow MRVAC members as we attempt to identify at least 100 species in a single day. Target species include Eastern Whip-poor-will, Bobolink, Winter Wren, meadowlarks, Red-headed Woodpecker, and nearly 20 warbler species. This trip is led by Dale Yerger, Josh Sweet, Jill Sweet, and Jared Little. The event takes place rain or shine.

Registration is limited to 12 MRVAC members so that we can keep a reasonable caravan size. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Participant cost includes a \$25 trip fee and a lodging fee of \$50 per night spent at Deep Portage. The trip fee includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Dinner is on your own, but microwaves and refrigerators are available for use and there are several restaurants within driving distance. Participants can choose to spend 0-2 nights at Deep Portage (Friday evening through Sunday morning).

Email Josh Sweet to register or for more information at jhsweet0201@gmail.com. The fee is \$25 per person and an additional \$50 per night for lodging if required.



City of Burnsville
Burnsville, MN

Native Plant Sale

100 Civic Center Pkwy., Burnsville, MN

May 18 | 9 a.m. – noon

Native wildflowers, ferns and grasses will be for sale from multiple vendors. This is a farmer's market style event where vendors operate their own market stalls and are paid separately. Some vendors also offer the option to pre-order (pre-orders due by May 12 and picked up on the day of the event). Some vendors only accept cash or check. We are open rain or shine. This is located in the parking lot across the street from City Hall and is open to the public. Find more information at www.burnsvillemn.gov/NativePlants.



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

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter Membership Form

To join the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter (MRVAC), please complete this form and mail it with a check made payable to MRVAC. Memberships are \$20 for individuals, \$15 for students, and \$100 for sustaining members.

Membership Coordinator

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
PO Box 20400
Bloomington, MN 55420

You can also join MRVAC online at www.mrvac.org.

Yes! Please enroll me as a member of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. I will receive the *Trumpeter*, MRVAC's newsletter, along with notifications of chapter meetings and field trips. Memberships are renewable annually.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check one:

- I would like to receive the *Trumpeter* newsletter and other updates via email.
- I would like to receive a printed copy of the *Trumpeter* newsletter by USPS mail.

Volunteering (optional):

- I am interested in volunteering for MRVAC. Please contact me.
- Areas of Interest:
 - Field Trips
 - Conservation and Environmental Action
 - Habitat Restoration Work
 - Activities with Children
 - Join the Board
 - Other:

The Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Thank you for joining!

Birder Lingo Fun: Group Names

Wouldn't it be something if you could remember all these charming and often informative names for groups of birds? A few really struck me. How about you? I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did researching them. Here are a few to amplify your birder conversations and have some fun.

- Finches: charm, trembling.
- Flamingos: flamboyance, stand.
- Game birds: Covey, bevy, pack.
- Geese: skein, wedge, gaggle, plump.
- Godwits: omniscience, prayer, pantheon.
- Goldfinches: charm, treasury, vein, rush, trembling.
- Grosbeaks: gross.
- Gulls: colony, squabble, flotilla, scavenging, gallery.
- Hérons: siege, sedge, scattering.
- Hummingbirds: charm, glittering, shimmer, tune, bouquet, hover.
- Jays: band, party, scold, cast.
- Kingfishers: concentration, realm, clique, rattle.
- Larks: bevy, exaltation, ascension, happiness.
- Loons: asylum, cry, water dance.

Stay tuned in the next edition for more unique bird group names! *Thanks to Bob Brereton for this fun piece.*