

Central Minnesota Audubon  
212 17th Ave. S  
ColdSpring, MN 56320-4700

# Green-Backed Gazette

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 906  
ST. CLOUD, MN



## NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL MINNESOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

### Volume 45

October 2022



#### President's Letter... by Dan Kneip Bird Lists

Most birders make lists. Life lists, year liusts, day lists, county lists, the list of lists goes on. Some of us make lists of everything from daily or weekly "to do" lists, to grocery lists, to lists of books we read, and even lists of people to call. Jan Dunlap, a Minnesota author who spoke to CMAS in October, 2015 noted that both writers and birders make lists all the time.

When I googled the question, "Is making lists a compulsive disorder?" The response was "List making would be considered a compulsion because the list reassures the person with OCD and helps them to feel temporarily better, thus they never learn that they do not need the list to remember things." Obviously, Google never left the grocery list at home and tried to remember everything on the list once at the supermarket!

Why do we make bird lists? Is it because when we look at the list, we again experience the joy of the actual outing and sighting of the bird we listed? Is it our competitive nature when we compare our list with friends? Or is it that if our list includes date and location, we can use the list the next year to see where and what was seen and hope to repeat the sighting?

It is no small matter that all the recent advances in apps for birding such as Cornell's "Merlin" and "eBird", as well as others, are all about listing the birds you identify. These apps combine identification with date, time and location and thus our birding becomes a Citizen Science source of information.

From the eBird web page, we have the following information: *We bring together scientists, students, and people from all walks of life in the quest to generate new knowledge and conserve our shared natural world. eBird is a powerful resource for a wide range of scientific questions. eBird plays an increasingly important role in science and conservation. Applications of eBird data range from research and monitoring to species management, habitat protection, and informing law and policy.*

Of course, the original citizen science bird count and list is the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The CBC is the longest running citizen science survey in the world. The St. Cloud-Collegeville area has participated in the CBC since 1980. Whatever your reasons, enjoy your lists!

This month we will include an option on the e-mail distribution of our newsletter to opt-out of receiving paper copies and choose to receive only electronic copies. Presently, CMAS mails approximately 400 newsletters by USPS. Using the National Audubon roster and Mail Chimp software, we are also sending approximately 128 e-mailed newsletters to the same group. (cont. next column)



#### President's Letter, continued (from left)

We would like to reduce the number of newsletters that are sent by USPS. If you have an e-mail address and are satisfied with reading the newsletter on your computer or phone, please choose the paperless (electronic) option. If you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail and would like to do so, please forward your e-mail address to us ([dakneip@yahoo.com](mailto:dakneip@yahoo.com)) or include your e-mail address in your profile on the National Audubon website.

We are working on a Facebook page for our CMAS chapter. Thank you to Johnathan Fribley, who has volunteered to function as a moderator and help! We hope to have updated information shortly. We will also be asking for photos from all of our photography adept pembers.



#### Calendar

October 12, 2022

CMAS Meeting  
7 p.m.

St. Cloud Library, Bremer Room  
Speaker: Jason Selvog, Stearns SWCD  
Topic: Pollinators and Programs

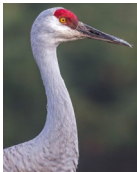


October 13, 15, 20, 22, 26 2022

Sandhill Crane Tour - Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

6:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Reservations required (reservations open on September 12 by emailing [sherburne@fws.gov](mailto:sherburne@fws.gov), calling 763-389-3323 or at SignUp)



November 16, 2022

CMAS Meeting  
7 p.m.

St. Cloud Library, Bremer Room  
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Lamb, SCSU

Topic: Amphibians and Reptiles of Central MN



December 17, 2022

Christmas Bird Count  
Details to come...



#### Central MN Audubon Society Officers

Dan Kneip, President (H) 320-761-8202  
Hank Schreifels, Vice President (H) 320-250-3390  
Open Position: Programs/Publicity  
Linda Peck, Conservation (H) 320-685-3365  
Nicki Blake-Bradley, Newsletter (H) 320-259-5524



Open Position, Membership  
Kathy Doyle, Treasurer  
John Peck, Member At Large  
Brian Jungels, Member At Large  
Audubon MN Office

(H) 320-470-0942  
(H) 320-685-3365  
(H) 320-469-0876  
1-651-739-9332



Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program  
Presentation by Michael Rogers, Stearns County Environmental Services



Stearns County implemented the Mobile Household Hazardous Waste program in 1996. Shortly after its start, Benton, Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties partnered with the program. The mobile unit currently makes stops in locations throughout the four county area for convenient household hazardous waste disposal.

In 2012, Stearns County build a state-of-the-art household hazardous waste facility in Waite Park. The facility allows for free drop-offs from residential homes in the four county area. Businesses that generate very small quantities of hazardous waste also use the facility for a fee. Vehicles can drive in and out of the facility with staff available to unload hazardous waste.

A popular free re-use store is on site. Anyone can stop by and browse. There are paints, cleaning supplies, automotive fluids, and more items available.

Stearns County wants to help make it easy for citizens to reuse, recycle and dispose of hazardous waste properly.

In addition, the HHW facility also takes car seats, holiday lights, lead fishing tackle, and sharps (diabetic supplies). For a list of items accepted, visit: <https://dont-tosdropoff.com>



FAQ's: Where is the facility? Signs are posted with arrows near Fleet Farm in Waite Park. Check out the website for directions and current hours. <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/699/Reuse-Store>

Who can use the facility for free? Residents of Stearns, Benton, Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties.

Who has to pay for the facility? Businesses in the four county area that generate a small quantity of waste. Common examples include the disposal of fluorescent lightbulbs, solvents, or paints from businesses.

Is the re-use store really free? Yes! It helps reduce the waste that needs to be shipped in incinerated.

Be a recycling champion! Mike cautioned us to resist the urge to put any kind of plastic bags in with home recycling. Plastic films get caught in recycling equipment and cause machine malfunctions and delays. Save your bags and bring them to grocery stores and other locations for recycling. Better yet, use re-usable cloth bags. Plastic bags can only be recycled once.



Looking for ways to make a difference?

Donations are welcome for our fund to assist with continuing to print the newsletter and quality speakers to the meetings. If you choose to help out, please make out a check to Central MN Audubon Society (CMAS) and send it to our Treasurer, Kathy Doyle. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Feather anatomy: Feathers evolved from reptile body scales... they are made up of:

Calamus: the quill or end of the feather that attaches to the body

Rachis: the main stem of the feather (down the middle)

Barbule(s): individual parts that branch off the rachis.

Barb(s): hook at the end of the barbule that allows them to connect and stay strong.



Did you know... Fall Migration is ON!! The migration record goes to (drumroll please)... the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)! This enterprising bird flies 25,000 miles annually (from the Arctic to the Antarctic in the Fall and back again in the Spring to nest. The Arctic Tern could be traveling through Minnesota... watch for this 10-16" tern heading south flying in flocks for their "second summer". They are grey and white with a black cap, forked tail, red bill and feet. Arctic Terns can fly 22 - 25 mph! While migrating, they glide a lot and can even sleep while gliding! Arctic Terns can hover like hummingbirds!



Rehabber Reflections by Linda Peck



A Curious Encounter



Earlier on, as I started helping injured and orphaned wildlife, the MNDNR allowed one to rehabilitate skunks. Later that would not be allowed as skunks may be rabies carriers.

In one particular year, I had four young raccoons and two baby skunks. The skunks were kept on my porch in a large stock tank with a hide box. They are easy keepers because they are omnivores and opportunists. Also they are extremely cute. Yes, they can spray as babies. The trick to avoid getting sprayed is to move slowly - like a mild breeze overhead - and watch their behavior. At first, when disturbed, they will snort and stamp their front feet. One just slowly continues and places bowls with food in the tank. However, if they start to turn away and point their tail in your direction, it is time to back off. I never got sprayed and they quickly learned the routine and even stopped stamping their feet.

The four young raccoons were housed in a corral outside on our lawn during the day. At night they were brought to a box in a room in our house. The corral outside was made by John and had four wire sides with a top that was half solid wood and half wire. The solid half had a handle and hinges so that it could be lifted up and open the corral. The raccoons had food and water in bowls, also a hollow log, stump and rocks to explore. They played together, ate, climbed and investigated any new objects placed in the corral.

The skunks were ready to release. They were brought one-quarter mile away in a wooded area near the Sauk River and a corn field. They were supplemented with bowls of food for one week then left on their own. The raccoons meanwhile continued their outdoor time in the corral.

One day we were in our yard and saw two black and white mammals by our barn. The two skunks were ambling toward the corral. We immediately went inside to watch what might happen. It appeared that the skunks might just pass by the corral BUT the raccoons lined up on the side of the corral looking at the passersby. The skunks stopped and curiosity came alive. They walked over to the side of the cage and investigated. Paws and noses touched each other through the wire. Quite a sight! After a short time, curiosity had been satisfied and the skunks headed down to the river. The raccoons took a nap.

Local Membership Available: Some CMAS members may wish to only belong to and support our local Audubon Society, without belonging to National Audubon and receiving Audubon magazine. This option is available at only \$20 per year and local members do receive our Green-Backed Gazette. Please let Kathy know if you want this option. Thank you!