

Available at Ale for all -

A Field Guide *to the* Morris

Midwest and Visiting Teams



The STANDARD book for field identification

Sponsored by the Minnesota Morris teams
Jacki Bedworth, Editor

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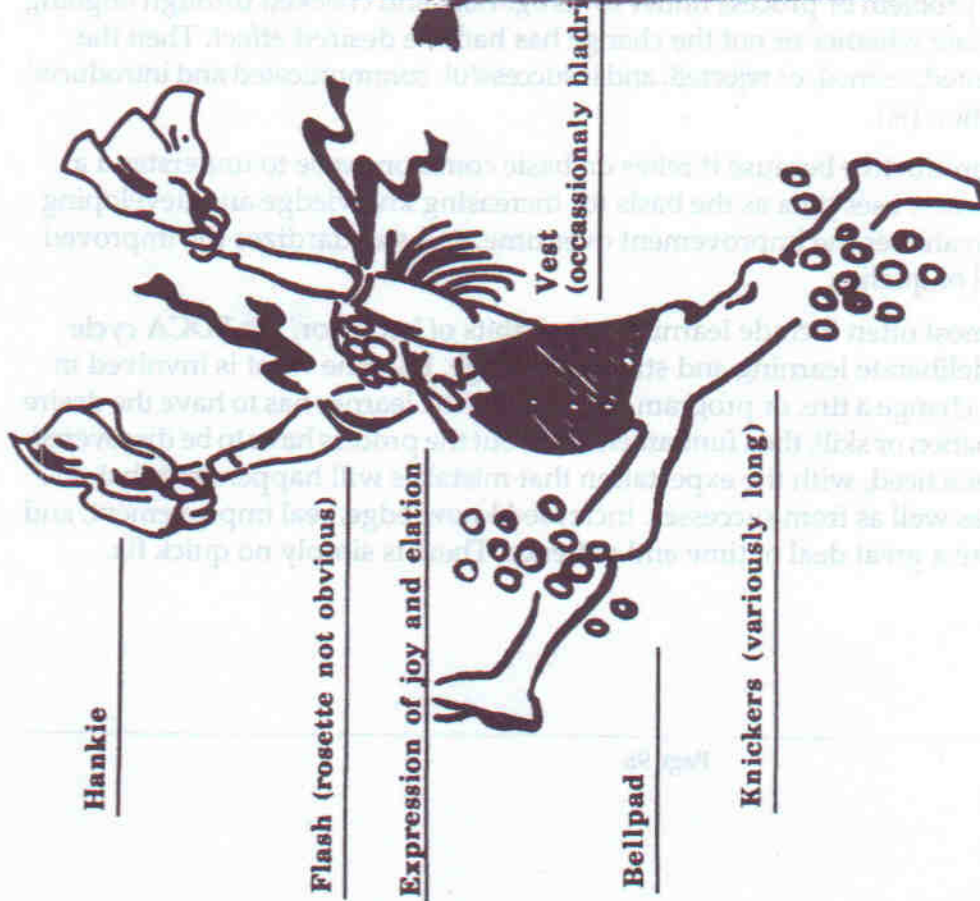
Introduction: How to Use this Guide

Veterans who have watched Morris for years will know how to use this guide. Beginners, however, should spend a few moments becoming familiar, in a general way, with the illustrations and the descriptions: the briefest examination will be sufficient to get an idea of the shapes of dancers and the groups to which they belong. In every case it is well to check identifications by referring to the text. The text gives aids such as range, habitat, habits, manner of dancing, etc. that cannot be pictured.

Far from helping only the beginner who can scarcely tell a Braggart from a Bell, it is hoped that the advanced Morris student will find this guide useful in recognizing the rarities that sometimes appear in our territory late every May. It is the discovery of rarities that puts real zest into birding for Morris, a zest that many of us would like to interpret as "academic zeal" rather than mere quickening of our capering blood.

Field birding for Morris, as most of us engage in it, is a game - a most absorbing game. As we become more proficient, we attempt to list as many teams as we can in an Ale. Of course, recognition is not the end and aim of Morris birding, but it is certainly a most fascinating diversion, and a tool which the person who desires to contribute to our knowledge of Morris might profitably learn to master.

A total of twenty-one (21) species of midwestern Morris dancers are included in this guide.



Typography of a Morris Dancer
Showing terms used in this guide

Mayfield Morris and Sword

Black knickers affected to camouflage grass stains and to make hips appear smaller. Raspberry-colored, fitted v-neck, waist length vests chosen to attract as much attention as possible. Known to change plumage when not dancing due to reversible nature of vests. Long ribbons of varied colors on hats and arms express and differentiate individuals. Black brimmed hats often carry hitchhikers of other species (e.g. bears of the teddy variety) at the back. Commonly sing "The Chicken Song," and are famous for their lasagna feasts. While residents of Palo Alto, range from Santa Cruz to Seattle. Migratory to nearly anywhere as long as beer is available for to imbibe.

c/o Alisa Jensen
2291 South Court
Palo Alto, CA 94301
415/ 325-4076

Registrant:
Alisa Jensen

Maroon Bells Morris

Plumage highly variable. Most males are reddish overall, brightest on crown and rump; but may be pale rose or scarlet or largely yellow. Most females are yellowish-olive; may show patches of red. Adults have large heads and short notched tails. Fairly common, inhabit coniferous woods. May nest at any time of the year, especially in southern range. Highly irregular in their wanderings, dependant on cone crops. Any subspecies may turn up almost anywhere. Irruptive migrant. Has bred as far south as Georgia. Distinctive call, given chiefly in flight. Song begins with several two-note phrases followed by a warbled trill.

c/o Dennis Barrett
2351 South Clayton
Denver, CO 80210
303/ 744-8682

or c/o Steve Winograd
303/ 447-8578

Registrants:

Dennis Barrett
Mary Carr
Anna Hall
Bill Hall
Carol Hall
Ryntha Johnson
Lesley T. Julian
Nancy Sauer
Rodney Sauer
Stephanie Schmitz
Steve Winograd

Rocky Mountain Morris and Sword Dance Team

Nearly made extinct after the events of the last aleing season. Population of mated pairs and offspring recovering in native habitat around Fort Collins, Colorado. Captive breeding program recently initiated after flock numbers began to decline. Program reportedly successful, perhaps due to calcium rich diet of hot fudge sundaes and cheese cake. A much larger flock predicted for the 2002 field season. Blue and yellow plumage selected for baldrics because it "looked pretty in the store." (sic!) Good taste and judgement exhibited in choosing cellist as musician.

Ravenswood Morris of Chicago

Large birds with long, heavy bill and long, wedge-shaped tail. Most common call is a low, drawn-out croak. At close range, note thicker, shaggier feathers on throat. Found in a variety of habitats, including mountains, deserts, and rugged coastal areas. Numerous in western and northern parts of range; uncommon and local, but spreading in Appalachians.

c/o Linda Garfield
623 Sheridan Avenue, #1
Evanston, IL 60202
708/ 864-7206 or
312/ 443-3537

Registrants:

Douglas Allchin
Rayna Allsberg
Andrew Bullen
Linda Garfield
Bryan Griffith
Elliot Jackson

Bloomington Quarry Morris

Large, stocky and noisy with large bill. Black tail and wings, with prominent white patch on inner wing. Wing linings yellow. Bill pale yellow or greenish by spring. Yellow forehead and eyebrow on adult male. Gray-ish tan female has thin, dark whisker stripe, white-tipped tail; white patch on inner wing smaller than male's. Loud strident call. Breeds in mixed woods; in the west mainly in mountains. In winter, frequents woodlots, shade trees, feeders. Winter numbers vary greatly from year to year. Range is expanding in the east.

c/o Don Ulin
909 West 9th Street
Bloomington, IN 47404
812/ 333-9084

Registrants:
Lee Curtis
Mary Dart
Amy Letson
Bill Letson
Jonathan Marmouze
Martha Marmouze
Don Ulin
Sue Wyss
Kelly

Castlewood Morris

Small population resident in Lexington, Kentucky since 1981. Have trouble maintaining possession of paper, but are properly apologetic in baldric and discovered. Reportedly colorful in baldrics and bellpads woven in greens and yellows. Multicolored ribbons at shoulder or upper arm. Flower garlands seen as headgear on occasion. Black knickers and shoes.

c/o Sandy Robertson
321 Lafayette Avenue
Lexington, KY 40502
606/ 269-2542

Registrants:
Liz Balke
Marion Molle
Laura Parsons
Bill Penn
Joslyn Quinn
Sandy Robertson
Jim Roscher

Ann Arbor Morris and Sword

Male's glossy, colorful plumage and sleek crest are distinctive. Head pattern and bill colors are retained in drab eclipse plumage. Female identified by short crest and large white tear-drop shaped eye patch. Juvenile resembles female but is spotted below. In all plumages, flight profile is distinctive: large head with bill angled downward; long squared-off tail. Female's squealing flight call is also distinctive. Fairly common in open woodlands near ponds or rivers. Casual during winter throughout most of breeding range, especially in mild winters.

c/o Allen Dodson
336 Roe Stree
Plymouth, MI 48170
313/451-0489 (h)
454-7743 (w)

Registrants:
Tory Butterworth
Allen Dodson
Dawn Elzey
Jeanne Hanisko
Mike Hitchner
Greg Meisner
Carol Mohr
Nawal Motawi
Teresa Schulz
David Torgaff

Grand Rapids Reformed Morris

Embarrassing body parts covered well by long white pants and poorly by blue baldrics edged in black. Significance of baldric colors somehow related to extinct municipal flag. Bell ribbon colors variable, relating to personal preference, political affiliations or phase of the moon. Black socks and shoes, perhaps related to team's preferred food - chocolate. Ranges in summer to ball diamonds and Batt's cabin; retires in winter to old folks home. Expressions of love for each other often heard and evidence of great team spirit often expressed.

c/o Starr Eby
1138 Orchard S.E.
East Grand Rapids,
MI 49506
616/243-0894

Registrants:
Starr Eby
Glenn Hendrix
Dave Strong
Rachel Strong
Sandy

Keweenaw Stoutwoods Morris

Basically plumed in long white pants, species is comprised of a scattered flock of mixed fledglings who blindly follow competent leader. Reversible green and red vests adorned with red and green rosettes symbolize the team's evolution from a Christmas meeting of Unitarians. Individual political affiliations and beliefs are represented by miscellaneous and optional buttons, badges, placards and billboards. Headgear widely variable. Black or blue socks commonly seen in black shoes. Team members frequently seen feeding and/or drinking in Shuttles Bar, Calumet.

c/o Jill Vander Meer
505 Oak Street
Calumet, MI 49913
906/ 337-5062 (days)
289-4843 (eves)

Registrants:
Donna Armistead
Will Gibson
Sylvia Matthews
Shuli Rayberg
Linda Reinhardt
Dennis Sotola
Jill vander Meer

Bells of the North

Unusual plumage: fitted v-neck vests, fronted with bright red calico, backed with white. Flashes when in movement. White knickers, formerly white socks, and dirty white, wrinkled hankies. Black shoes; red laces rarely seen. High incidence of mating with MTM and Ramsey's Braggerts species has been observed. Three male and one female offspring produced in last year. Summer range centers about the standard statistical metropolitan area of Minnesota's Twin Cities, or wherever high cholesterol ice cream can be found.

c/o Linda Fritchel
49 Sheridan Avenue, So.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
612/ 377-8037

Registrants:
Jacki Bedworth
Carole Broad
Carol Buche
John Cavanaugh
Mary Coy
Lynn Madow Dennis
Judy Dworkin
Kate Eggerman
Lisa Friedlander
Linda Fritchel
Libbie Henderson
Beth Hennessy
Penny Hinke
Denise Kania
Daniel Kirschen
Laurie Levin
Sarah Maas
Mary Olson
Karen Peed
Anne Marie Peterson
Sarah Purdy
Shannon Russell
Jan Schlamp
Kay Schoenwetter
Julia E. Schult
Karen Smudski
Miriam Arachne Volpin

Minnesota Traditional Morris

Heavily barred with dark brown, cinnamon, and pale buff above and below. Short rounded tail is all dark in male, barred in female. Male has flehy yellow-orange eye combs. Both sexes have elongated neck feathers, longer in males and erected during courtship to display inflated golden neck sacs. Courting males make a deep sound, known as "booming," like the sound made by blowing across the top of an empty bottle. Found in areas of natural tallgrass prairie interspersed with cropland.

c/o Rick Nagler
2368 Bourne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
612/ 644-5463

Registrants:

Kirk Bachler
Tom Barnes
Dave Berner
Tim Dennis
Pete Dombrowsky
Debra Goodlaxson
Leah Goodlaxson
Seth Goodlaxson
Tomas Goodlaxson

Ted Hodapp
Brian Humphrey
Jim Kiehne
Larry Klueh
Arthur H. Knowles
Jim Leedham
Harriet Mather
Peter Mellom
Rick Nagler
Larry Paulson
Leif Petersen
Chris Peterson
Rudd Rayfield
Dave Rutledge
Craig Smith
Ed Stern

Moonwood Morris

New species. First observers have reported a snazzy looking group, resplendent in baldrics of silver on dark blue. Patch of dark blue with silver moon and tree, hence the species name. (Nifty, huh?) Much admired for their molting into white Bermuda shorts and short sleeved shirts during muggy Minnesota summers. "Homo hankies" of pink logo on white. While the team is an adaptation of the Twin Cities gay and lesbian community, they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and are an equal opportunity employer.

c/o Dan Heine
3445 - 42nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612/ 724-5849

Registrants:

Michael Bonacci
Karen Browning
Rena Cade
Jacki Crawford
Mary DeLaquil
Libby Gardner
Sally Gordon
Dan Heine
Mary Kladlec
Kies Moore
Carol Ormand
Ruth Temple
Kevin Wilson

Ramsey's Braggarts

Occasionally migrates west of the Mississippi River, outside of preferred native habitat to Minneapolis (metropolis of sin, degradation and much less road construction). Vests - please, no! Baldrics - heavens, never! Braces - yes, indeed! Simple, elegant plumage of kelly green rosettes centered with yellow at upper left arm and on braces over left breast pay homage to ancestral species known as MTM. Prefer to wear white tennies, yet will sing about anything and everything green. Bibulous upon Summit Pale Ale. Known to feed extensively on fries and hot fudge. (n.b. simultaneously?) Special characteristics worthy of note include talent, grace and a certain puffy attitude.

c/o Steve Parker
3309 - 33rd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612/ 721-8532 (h)
641-1009 (w)

Registrants:
Jim Brickwedde
Peter Brickwedde
Sam Brickwedde
Steve Parker
Michael Shewmaker
David Sielaff
Elizabeth Skogan
Erik Skogan
Jack E. Skogan
Kirsten Skogan

Uptown-on-Calhoun

First mixed team in the Twin Cities. Exhibits previously unknown and original behavior named after the neighborhood of Minneapolis in which they supposedly practice. (The name of this habitat is pronounced Upton.) On a good day, have been known to range between FF and F#. Color and design details of purple and gray baldrics complicated and bizarre, but here you go anyway ... purple and gray badge represents proposed state flag and includes a yellow Star of the North, a blue band for the skies and lakes, a white wavy band for the snows of winter, and something green to signify forests and fields. A moon replaces the star on the badge worn on the back. Purple and gray reportedly affected because they look neat together. Like wow, is this all significant and cosmic!

c/o Kim Seibert
3121 Chowan Ave South, #356
Minneapolis, MN 55416
612/ 925-2864

Registrants:
Tom Baxter
Stan Bookout
Kim Seibert

Capering Roisters

Tricolor baldrics of black, yellow and red whose significance is for some mysterious reason related to a being called Shewmaker. Red patch at crossing of baldrics shows Red-winged Blackbird, an avian species mistakenly admired by the team's first squire. Armband and occasional bellpad ribbons also tricolored black, yellow and red. Straw hats with black, yellow and red ribbons as well. White trousers, socks and hankies. Rare mutants with black socks can also be observed. All songs performed uncommonly badly; located easily from racketing sounds. Caution: has been reported to eat anything that can't run away. Home range, St. Louis, Missouri or wherever the winds blow them.

c/o John Long
4907 Pershing Place
St. Louis, MO 63108
314/367-9017

Registrants:

John James
Ken Johnson
Joel Lewis
John Long
Pam Price
Rinoel W. Reagan
John Shewmaker

The Merry Heymakers

They don't do windows and they don't do Bampton. Will eat anything that isn't green and doesn't try to eat them first. In honor of their hobby (a scarecrow) members bedeck themselves in long, straight vests of green and brown calico stripes. No members of the species known to be named Toto. Long white pants attempt to cover what isn't hidden by vests. Rainbow braces used by some to keep as much as possible attached together. "Pretty" rainbow ribbons adorn armbands and hats. Aw, shucks.

c/o Carol Doms
1643 N.E. Vivion Road
Kansas City, MO 64118
816/ 454-5862

Registrants:

Chris Booth
Cathy Brumley
Gary Brumley
Jeff Campbell
Carol Doms
John Lowther
Storme Maynard
Joe Root
Lynnel Rowan
Janet Stewart
Tom Stewart

Prairie Waves Morris

Easy to identify. Unusual plumage of blue denim "jeans," brown fitted, v-neck vests, red (!) hankies and socks. Rainbow ribbons and rosettes appear at random. What would the Brits think of these birds and their mutant, designer-style plumage?! Residents of Omaha, Nebraska, team now includes two licenced and certified mead-makers.

c/o David Nichols
3501 North 49th Street
Omaha, NE 68104
402/ 455-9137 (h)
280-2986 (w)

Registrants:

Alice Love
Katherine Neary
David Nichols
Kantlin Nichols
Michael Nord
Ed Taylor
SuAnn Witt
Kathleen Zuchniak

Greenwich Morris Men

In some seasons, small numbers wander hundreds of miles west of normal coastal range around Jersey City, New Jersey. (Which exits?) Well camouflaged with plumage of long brown pants enhanced with yellow and green baldrics, rosettes and arm ribbons. Betty, when encouraged or provoked, will lecture endlessly on just about anything in this universe or the next. Available for hire for assorted and sundry ritual, royal and civic fetes. Reasonable rates available, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

c/o Dennis King
276 3rd Street, #3
Jersey City, NJ 07302
201/ 795-2326

Registrants:

David Beede
Paul Friedman
Gary Harman
Dennis King
Doug Kingston
Art Munisteri
Ray Schneider
David Simonoff

Original Olentangy Morris and Sword

Indigenous to Columbus, Ohio. Population probably represents merging of two different species. Plumage highly variable beyond and above long white pants. Identification of this team in the field might be difficult. During field season, look for either royal blue colored vests, festooned with yellow, green and red rosettes; or brown baldrics adorned with yellow patch, featuring the state bird in red (Cardinal) and the state tree (Buckeye) in brown. Hankies, socks, and shoes thankfully normal in color.

c/o Michael V. Darby
5145 Cobblestone Drive
Columbus, OH 43220
614/ 459-0151 (h)
292-0912 (w)

Registrants:
Michael Darby
Leslie Scott

Great River Morris

This species has an affinity for a medium-sized predatory, aquatic life-form named "Marvin." Also has a propensity to collect and manipulate small plastic devices. Large, brightly colored hats useful as aid to rapid identification in large, mixed flocks. During summer is horizontal on planet Earth; also migrates whenever convenient to wherever he's welcome. Green and yellow knickers reported to keep legs covered. Braces should come off mouth this summer. One green sock, one blue, one whatever. Hankies mottled. High top shoes brightly colored. Prefers eating food, and known to commonly sing out with "Whaaaat?" "What's next?" "Where (what) am I?" or "Ooops, sorry!" Indigenous to LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

c/o Jeffrey Mancil
917 Grove Street, #2
LaCrosse, WI 54601
608/ 784-1810

Registrants:
JEFFREY MANCL, squire
Jeffrey Mancil, foreman
Jeff Mancil, bag man
Jeff Mancil, slob
Jeff Mancil, poor slob
Jeffrey Mancil, muscian
Ffej LcNam, fool

Oak Apple Morris Dancers

Founded in 1906 by Fred Astaire, they have a long and proud arrest record. Original members were raised in captivity after their mother was shot by a hunter. Over the years the team has grown in stature and girth, and recently appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. The Simpsons, and before the UN General Assembly. Team members of all sexes wear what they call green vests and white knickers because these terms so amuse English visitors. Awarded the 1952 Nobel Prize for Confusion, incorporated in Switzerland, and licenced to beg in Madison, Wisconsin, the team was purchased in 1988 by the Japanese industrial giant, Origami. Past team members include Martha Graham, Rose Kennedy, and Studs Terkel. The team will represent East Germany in the 1991 Winter Olympics, performing Bledington, Fieldtown, and Fallingdown.

c/o John Stott
4161 Hiawatha Drive
Madison, WI 53711
608/238-3847 (h)
873-6651 (w)

Registrants:

Kathy Collen
Cynthia Cress
Esther Diamondstone
Mark Fulton
Kerstin Haug
Frances Hough
Barbara James
Lilith James

Kathy Kaiser
Matthew Katinsky
Whitney Kelting
Joe Laurence
Lynn Noel
Daniel Popowich
Rachel Popowich
Steve Runge
Patricia Sanford
John Stott
Don Thompson
Michael Tuten
Ruth Urban
Carey Woodward
Asja Young
David Young

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Annual Midwest Morris Ale

Twin Cities, Minnesota
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Sincere and humble apologies are offered to the memory of
Roger Tory Peterson.