

The Cardinal

APRIL MAY 2016 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL MEMBER MEETING

“Climate Change in Minnesota”

with **Charles Umbanhowar Jr.**

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Does history repeat itself? Climate and ecological change at the prairie-forest border.

Charles’ talk will focus on climate change in Minnesota over the past 12,000 years, with particular focus on changes in plant communities and fire. His current work revolves around whether or not changes in the role of fire in the landscape are important to understanding the responses of past and present plant communities to climate.

Dr. Umbanhowar received a BA from Carleton College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He subsequently joined the Biology and Environmental Studies departments at St. Olaf College. Charles’ research interests are focused on the study of long-term ecological history and grazing, based on the analysis of lake sediment cores. This work has taken him from Minnesota and the Dakotas to Manitoba and Labrador in Canada, and to Mongolia.



MAY ANNUAL ELECTION & MEMBER MEETING

“The UNcommon Common Tern”

with **Annie Bracey**

Thursday, May 12, 2016

How tracking the movement of individual birds may be useful for conservation planning in the Western Great Lakes.

The Common Tern is listed as threatened or endangered in six U.S. states bordering the Great Lakes, including Minnesota (threatened). Information is lacking on prey availability, seasonal movement patterns and non-breeding habitat requirements of Common Terns breeding on Lake Superior and elsewhere in the Great Lakes. Using miniaturized data devices, scientists have begun to identify where birds are staging and wintering, and will soon be able to identify important foraging locations near their breeding colonies in Lake Superior. Ms. Bracey will discuss how this information may be used to identify factors that could potentially affect the populations’ survival and productivity.

Ms. Bracey is currently a PhD student in the Conservation Biology Program at the University of Minnesota, and a Research Fellow at the Natural Resources



Research Institute in Duluth. She has been working in the Great Lakes Region on various long-term monitoring projects for the past 5 years, studying wetland birds and amphibians. Ms. Bracey received her MS degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, by working

on a project related to bird window collision mortality. She is also interested in the conservation of migratory birds, and in the study of life-cycle biology, using tracking technologies to study migratory patterns.

Arrive at 6:45 for social time or 7:00 for the Program;
held at Fairview Community Center, 1910 Cty Rd B, Roseville.
Free and open to the public.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Chapter's Board Meetings are on the first Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit 35-E at Little Canada Rd, go east to Noel. Upcoming: **April 4, May 2.**

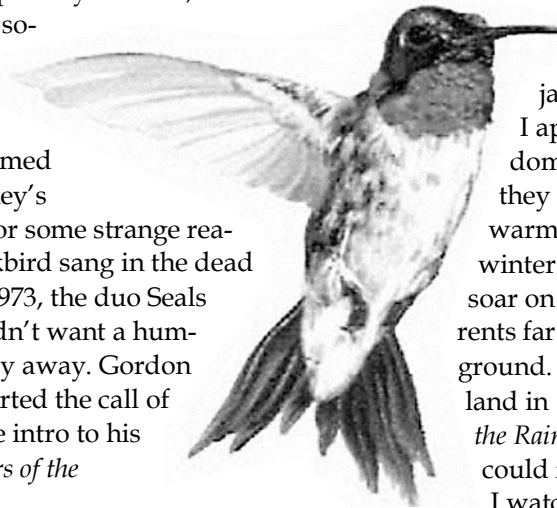
President's Message

"Song" Birds

Chestnut-brown canary, ruby-throated sparrow. Huh? These birds are found in the lyrics to the Stephen Stills song "*Suite: Judy Blue Eyes*," written for his then girlfriend Judy Collins, and performed by Crosby, Stills, and Nash. As Auduboners, we know that such birds do not exist, but musicians have been incorporating birds into their song lyrics for a long time. Here is a bit of a rundown.

In 1976 Steve Miller wanted to *Fly Like an Eagle*, fighting hunger, homelessness, and poverty. Earlier, in 1968, on their so-called White Album, the Beatles performed Paul McCartney's "*Blackbird*." For some strange reason, this blackbird sang in the dead of night.* In 1973, the duo Seals and Crofts didn't want a hummingbird to fly away. Gordon Lightfoot inserted the call of the loon in the intro to his song "*Whispers of the North*."

Some songs use birds as symbols. Prince wrote "*When Doves Cry*" as a tribute to a relationship with singer Susan Moonsie. Included on the soundtrack for his movie *Purple Rain*, the song topped the pop music charts for five weeks and was blamed *Billboard* magazine's single of the year for 1984. Freedom is the inspiration behind the 1973 Lynyrd Skynyrd song "*Freebird*," which



ranks as one of classic rock's all time great jam songs.

I appreciate the freedom birds enjoy as they are able to fly to warm climates in the winter months and to soar on thermal air currents far above the ground. Like Judy Garland in "*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*," I wish I could fly, especially as I watch birds gliding high above the earth on air currents.

Do you remember the 1970 Simon and Garfunkel song "*El Condor Pasa*" and it's haunting melody? "I'd rather be a sparrow than a snail, if I could, I surely would..." Bob Dylan asked "how many seas must a white dove sail before she sleeps in the sand?" He was questioning President Johnson's Vietnam policies. Birds have served as musical symbols for many years.

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with twelve members, the Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities, and has around 2,800 members. Our Member Meetings are held from Sept.-Dec. & Feb.-May. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit www.saintpaulaudubon.org

ABOUT THE CARDINAL Published 6 times a year; articles are due on the 5TH of January, March, May, July, Sept, and Nov. Submissions may be edited. Send to hpbirdscouter@msn.com

Members may also receive the newsletter by downloading PDF's from our website.

CHAPTER PHONE: MESSAGE ONLY

For more info or questions about bird ID, please call 651-291-2596. Leave a message and we will return your call.

ADDRESS CHANGES Call 1-800-274-4201 or NAS website at www.audubon.org to notify the National Audubon Society of a change of address, to continue to receive *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*.

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Whimsical songs also include birds. Do you remember "*Rockin' Robin*?" Or you may recall The Trashmen singing "*Surfin' Bird*." Some of our younger members may be thankful they were born well after these two obnoxious songs ran their respective courses.

So birds have been part of the musical landscape for quite some time, and I suspect this will continue. Freedom, love, yearning, protesting, are all emotions associated by musicians in their lyrics, and avian imagery helps add drama. Some of the referenced birds are real species while others are the product of poetic license. Some inspire while others have us reaching for a way to stop the music. And I won't even mention "*Disco Duck*" or the "*Tennessee Bird Walk*" ...(!)

Jim Lindner, President

* Editor: Written in 1968. '*Blackbird*' was really about the struggle over civil rights. McCartney said later: "Let me encourage you to keep trying, keep your faith, there is hope."

2016-17 Chapter Budget & Explanation

The *Projected Income* for this fiscal year is expected to be similar to preceding years. Local dues revenue of about \$700 have been eliminated, but may be covered by additional contributions to the Fund Drive. Expenses are considerably higher since a major upgrade of the web site is required and additional capital equipment may be required for our monthly meetings. Since Villa Maria is closing on June 30, warbler weekend, the major item in the field trips lines under income and expenses, will require a new venue and/or other options. Expenses will be difficult to estimate until later in the year. The net loss for the weekend has been estimated at \$1,500 to allow some flexibility in finding an alternative location. The proposed budget shows a deficit of \$6,590. The deficit will be covered by our reserves.

Board and Officer Slate for 2016-17

Presented by Laurel Stiebler, Nominating Chair

President: Open: Nominations accepted from floor; job description below.

Vice President: Jim Lindner: Audubon member 13 years, Gem Lake City Council, water quality advocate.

Treasurer: Richard Newmark: Current Treasurer, retired chemist, active on Conservation Committee.

Secretary: Deb Robinson: Volunteer for Kids' Birding Camp; project founder and current advisor for the award-winning Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom; SPAS secretary since Oct. 2014.

New Board Members

Matthew Jacobson: Works to strengthen environmental stewardship as SPAS Conservation Committee Co-chair; Works as environmental planner for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association.

Joan Osgood: St. Paul Audubon is a strong organization; let's help keep that way. Involved with Audubon, and birding for ten years.

Nancy Uppgren: From a family of active Audubon members; self-employed; capital campaign volunteer for Ramsey County library.

Kyle Voitlander: SPAS Conservation Committee Co-chair; visual artist whose initial series brought him into the world of birds.

Continuing Board Members

Louise Eidsmoe, Barbara Lindeke, Colleen Swedberg, Laurel Stiebler.

Retiring Board and Officers: When you see them please thank them for their valued volunteerism! Vice President, **Crystal Boyd**; Board Members

Hannah Lagoon, and **Tom McCarthy**. We also wish to mention our esteemed Publicity Chair **Linda Goodspeed**, may she rest in peace.

What the Chapter's President Does

St. Paul Audubon is looking for a new president. Serving as president takes a little time beyond general board of director duties, but former presidents agree that serving in this role is a rewarding experience. The president sets the agenda and presides over board meetings and Member Meetings. Aside from meetings, the president serves as a primary contact for people who may reach out with inquiries about ideas they may have, questions about chapter happenings, or simply

asking when meetings are held. The president also writes a short article for *The Cardinal*, which may be about current conservation or habitat preservation issues, or, as you can see on p. 2, sometimes simply a bit of pure fun! On occasion, Audubon Minnesota or National Audubon may reach out to ask about an official stand on a conservation issue. If desired, the president may set goals for the chapter. All told, duties may take of 10-12 hours per month, including meetings.

2016-2017 PROPOSED Budget

Approved by Board, March 7, 2016

INCOME

Education & Program Committees.....	\$700
Field Trips & Warbler Weekend	\$16,000
Total Committee Income	\$16,700

Donations.....	\$500
Fund Drive.....	\$11,000
Total Donations Income	\$11,500

Dues from National Audubon	\$6,700
Total Dues Income	\$6,700

Grants/Div's. from Endowment Fund	\$2,000
Interest & Dividend Income	\$50
Total Grants/Dividends Income	\$2,050
Total 2010-2011 Income.....	\$36,950

EXPENSES

Fund drive	\$550
Membership Recruitment	\$300
Misc & Contingency.....	\$150
Operating Expenses	\$600
Telephone Line.....	\$550
Web Page.....	\$2,500
Equipment	\$1,000
Total Admin. & Oper. Expenses.....	\$5,650

Butterfly Count	\$200
Conservation Committee.....	\$2,000
Education Committee	\$500
Field trips and Warbler weekend	\$17,500
Programs	\$2,700
Total Progs & Field Trip Exp.	\$22,900

Art & Design	\$1,100
Labels & Postage	\$2,700
Printing.....	\$8,000
Total Newsletter Expenses.....	\$11,800
Grants.....	\$1,000
Audubon Ctr of North Woods.....	\$2,000
Other Orgs.: MEP & MOU	\$190
Total Support to Orgs. Expenses	\$3,190
Total 2010-2011 Expenses.....	\$43,540
Gain/Loss.....	<\$6,590>

Spring & Summer Field Trips

*Again this year, we offer 2 **evening** Field Trips to observe the secretive American Woodcock*

Woodcock Courtship Flights

Wednesday, April 20, 8:00-10:00 PM

The perennial attraction: Experiencing the deep-dusk-displays of the courting American Woodcock's death-defying-dives.

This is such a fun hunt! Once a year, our Chapter receives permission to be on the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) to view dives from heights beyond imagination as the male woodcock woos on-looking females. They are not easy to see, and they only perform at dawn and dusk. Sunset is at 8:05; Moonrise is at 6:44. The moon will be 98% illuminated. The sound of his wings making a trilling and thrilling vibration help to pinpoint his landing spot from which he calls plaintively in his 'Popeye' voice: *peent peent*.

And what does she do? Join us and observe! Bring a flashlight with a strong, bright light. Dress for standing as the evening temperatures cool.

AHATS is a locked secure area, so the group must move in and out all together. Access and use of AHATS is currently restricted to persons 18 years of age and older. Arrive a few minutes earlier than 8:00 PM. We will walk from the Readiness Center to the viewing site.

DIRECTIONS From Hwy 96 and Hamline, go north on Hamline about 1/4 mile, straight ahead and through the gate at Ben Franklin Road, then left into the large parking lot of the "Readiness Center - MN Army National Guard" building, which is a two-tone brown building with REDDISH BROWN trim.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADERS Julian Sellers, at juliansellers@msn.com, and Clay Christensen, at clay.christensen@comcast.net, 651-631-0949

Call only if you need additional info, email preferred.

Woodcock of Rush City

Thursday, April 21, 8:00-10:00 PM on site

The American Woodcock song and sky dance are more than remarkably entertaining. American Woodcock both breed and migrate through this peaceful, prime habitat in the St. Croix River Valley.

The American Woodcock is an incredible woodland shorebird with unique adaptations for seeing, feeding, and courting. They pay little attention to bird watchers as courting males spiral high, then fall, twittering, to land in nearly

the same takeoff place. Viewers normally have had their choice of several pair to approach for closer observation of the Sky Dancers in this easily-accessible area. (Of course there are no guarantees, wild birds being what they are even when so single-minded.) We will discuss the unique qualities of these birds, and what makes this place so special for both resident and migrant populations.

Sunset is at 8:05; Twilight at 8:37; Moonrise is at 8:43. The moon will be 99% illuminated.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS Spring ground is commonly damp, so wear boots or shoes that can get wet; bring a folding chair or plastic bag to sit on, and an extra jacket for cooling temperatures. There are no facilities at the site. There is no bad weather/rain date. Optional: Bring a very strong flashlight to help spot the birds, binoculars for other birds. We will leave together.

CARPOOLING We will meet at the site. Contact leader with name, phone, and email address **by April 19th** if you need/want a ride or are willing to give a ride.

Leader will give out contact information so folks may arrange their own transportation group.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Easy 2-4 block walk, and well worth the drive.

DIRECTIONS Drive time from the northern junction of 35W/35E to the site is 40 minutes. Drive north on I-35 to exit 159 for Rush City. Turn right (east) onto 4th Street/MN 361. Travel through Rush City to the only stop sign and turn left (north) onto Bremer/old 61/Forest Blvd/Cty 30. Travel 2.25 mi., pass granaries, Rush City Airport, correction facility, and a yellow 2-story farm house. Turn right (east) onto 530th street/Cty 56/Cty 3. You will drive 3 mi. from Co 361 to your destination: after 1.5 miles the paved road becomes good firm gravel, one mile farther you will cross Rock Creek (cement bridge), your destination is .5 mile further. We will park on the wide, firm shoulder just west of River Rd, near the St Croix River.

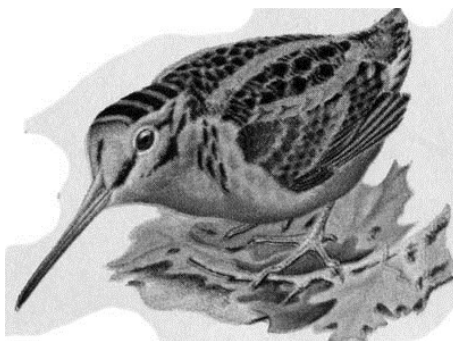
LEADERS Chase Davies, 651-633-1663, and Ed Davies, 612-819-1196. Call Chase with questions. On April 21st, use 651-246-9754.

Nerstrand Big Woods'

Birds and Blooms

**Saturday, April 30,
8:30-12:00 noon**

Our annual walk when bright spring flowers carpet the bluff-side woodlands, with resident and migrant birds flying and chattering overhead. Come and we'll see what has popped into bloom or is feeding or flying above us along our walk down to Prairie Creek. Usually, but not always, spring ephemeral flowers far outnumber the migrants



Spring & Summer Field Trips

in this remnant of the Big Woods. Woodpeckers, kinglets, creepers, bluebirds, other migrants... Bloodroot, hepatica, wild ginger, trout lilies... How far we travel along the creek depends, among other things, on the weather, interest, and water levels.

SUGGESTIONS Bring a 10-power loupe or borrow one from Chase. Consider either or both flower and bird field guides. Exercise your camera's macro capabilities. Bring a bag lunch and watch Bluebirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers while picnicking after the walk.

DIRECTIONS Take I-35 south from cities to Hwy 19 (east) into Northfield. Turn right (south) onto Hwy 3, go a very short way, then east onto Hwy 246. The road winds and turns a bit, then eventually goes south. Good signs indicate the right turn (west) onto Cty Rd 29 for the entrance to Big Woods State Park.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS Meet in the large parking lot by the entrance of Big Woods State Park. FEE AREA: Day pass or a MN State Park Annual Pass.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Easy to Moderate with very leisurely descent to Prairie Creek (includes some stairs) and return.

LEADER Chase Davies, 651-633-1663 (email or call only if you need additional information)

Here are 2 great opportunities for walks on May 14!

Old Cedar Avenue's Long Meadow Bridge

Saturday, May 14, 7:30–11:00 AM

One of the very best birding locales in the state; and so close to St. Paul! We'll check the Bass Ponds, Long Meadow Lake, (waterfowl, waders...), and view construction progress on the "new"

walking bridge. The Minnesota River flyway makes this a great spot for migrating passerines. We will walk east from the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and return. Bring binoculars and scope if you own them.

DIRECTIONS Traveling west from St. Paul on 35E, then west on I-494, near Int'l Airport/MOA, take 24TH Ave exit, go south. 24TH becomes Old Shakopee Rd, and soon veers west. Go past Hwy 77/Cedar Ave, turn left or south onto Old Cedar Ave, which dead-ends in the parking lot for the bridge and Minnesota River Valley NWR trails complex. Meet 7:00 AM, SW corner of St. Paul Sears lot at Marion St., or 7:30 AM at the bridge.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADER Paul Spreitzer, at paul.spreitzer@gmail.com



Tuesday Mornings in May (and June!)

*All Tuesday Walks are from 7:00 to 9:00 AM unless noted.
No registration required. Meet at the sites. Bring water.
Contact Leaders only if you need additional info.*

May 3: Crosby Farm Regional Park

Early warblers and other passerine migrants. Southwest of downtown St. Paul on Shepard Rd. Meet in the parking lot. Bring a field guide and water.

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADERS Linda Whyte, 651-690-4838, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

May 10: Silverwood Regional Park

Passerine migrants, wetlands. St. Anthony/New Brighton. 2500 Cty Rd E, just west of Silver Lake Rd. From 35W, take Cty Rd D/37TH Ave. west, turn north (rt) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on Cty Rd E for ~1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the main parking lot. Paved trails. Restrooms available. Bring a field guide and water.

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADERS Reenie Lundgren, 612-965-1232, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

May 17: Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park

Prior Lake. Hardwood forest; one of best birding areas in TC Metro. Focus on songs/calls of nesting birds. Trails may be muddy; there are hills, and biting insects. Take 35E to Hwy 42. West on 42 about 2 mi. At bottom of hill, turn left onto Burnsville Parkway. Con't for ~2 mi., turn left on Hwy 75, then immediately left into parking lot. Bring water.

DIFFICULTY Medium to Strenuous

LEADER Bill Stjern, 651-458-1542. Leader will continue with folks who can stay until 11:00 AM.

May 24: Afton State Park

Afton/St. Croix River. Grand oaks and delicate prairie flowers grace the rugged, rolling landscape. FEE AREA. Meet in the State Park's parking lot.

DIFFICULTY Moderate

LEADERS Bill Stjern, 651-458-1542, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663. Leaders will continue with folks who can stay until 11:00 AM.

May 31: Grass Lake & Snail Lake

Grasslands, wetlands, deciduous woods. Meet in the parking lot south of Gramsie Road at Mackubin Street.

DIFFICULTY Moderate

LEADERS Julian Sellers, 651 698 5737, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663.

'Tuesday's' box continued on next page

Spring & Summer Field Trips

Tuesday Mornings in May (and June!)

All Tuesday Walks are from 7:00 to 9:00 AM unless noted.
No registration required. Meet at the sites. Bring water.
Contact Leaders only if you need additional info.

June 7: Benson Prairie

White Bear Lake. Restored prairie, nesting grassland birds. Go north of WBL on Hwy 61, go left (west) on Cty Rd J, turn left (south) on frontage rd, go .5 mi. to Bald Eagle Lake Park parking lot. Bring water and bug spray for ticks.

DIFFICULTY Moderate; walking on mowed grass trails.

LEADERS Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949, and Ellen Lowery, 651-429-8624

June 14: Woodview County Open Space

Roseville. Remarkable diversity for an urban area. Small parking lot (park closely together) is on north side of Larpentur Avenue between Dale and Rice. Wide paved walks prevail; other wide unpaved possible, depending on weather and bird activity.

DIFFICULTY Moderate; walking on mowed grass trails.

LEADERS Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949, and Ellen Lowery, 651-429-8624

*A note to the Tuesday Mornings in May (and June!) Walkers:
Please consider writing about your experience and
submitting photos for the June July Cardinal!*

Maplewood Nature Center

Saturday, May 14, 8:00 – 10:00 AM

Wooded land and water deep within the metro area are prized by migrants and residents alike. This is an opportunity to walk the trails and see the sights and hear the sounds of Washington County's Maplewood Nature Center.

DIRECTIONS 2659 E. 7th Street. On Century Avenue, look for the Nature Center sign, turn west onto East 7th.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADERS Karen Cramer, at kaycee765@comcast.net, and Ellen Lowery, at ellen.lowery@gmail.com



Woodland Birds, Lebanon Hills Regional Park

Saturday, May 21, 7:30–11:00 AM (7-12 if carpooling)

Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan is a terrific place for migrant and resident songbirds! Join friendly birders seeking

the sounds and colors of springtime in a section of this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. We will walk maintained woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. Recent sightings in this area include Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush.



DIRECTIONS To Carpool, meet at SW corner of St. Paul Sears parking lot on Marion Street at 7:00 AM or be at the Holland Lake entrance of the Park at 7:30. From St. Paul, take 35E south. Exit at Cliff Rd/Cty Rd 32, go east approx. 2 miles. The park entrance is on the north boundary, just west of Holland Lake.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Strenuous: for distance and hilly terrain

LEADER Paul Spreitzer, at paul.spreitzer@gmail.com.

Bird Belwin Conservancy

Saturday, June 4, 7:00 AM – 12:00 noon

The Belwin Conservancy, in eastern Washington County, maintains large areas of prairie, woods, and oak savanna. We will first walk through a wooded area to the 135 acres of grasslands of the Stagecoach Prairies, a haven for open-country bird species, including Vesper and Lark Sparrows.



We will also stop at the bison observation platform to take in the view of the 140-acre prairie where bison graze during the summer months. In both areas, we'll hope to see American Kestrels making use of nest boxes installed by Belwin and Saint Paul Audubon.

DIRECTIONS To carpool, meet at SW corner of St. Paul Sears lot on Marion Street at 6:30 AM or at 7:00 at the park. From St. Paul, go east on I-94 to Hwy 95/Manning Ave. Go south on Manning 250 yards to Hudson Road. Turn left (east) on Hudson Road, go 3.4 mi. to Stagecoach Trail South. Go right (south) on Stagecoach Trail 1.4 mi. to 11TH Street South. Go left on 11TH Street to trailhead parking on the right.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Moderate to Strenuous, with hills and possibly hot sunshine. Bring water.

LEADER Julian Sellers, at juliansellers@msn.com (contact only if you need additional info).

Birding at Sunfish Lake Park, Lake Elmo

Saturday, June 18, 7:00–10:00 AM

Sunfish Lake Park is a large, hilly, mature woodland with some wetland openings. At this time of year we may have an interesting list with a mix of migrating and nesting species. Of course sightings cannot be guaranteed, but recent sightings have included Scarlet Tanager and Wood Thrush, both of which usually nest in larger woodland areas.

DIRECTIONS Drive on I-694 to Exit 55 (just south of MN 36), for Hwy 5, go east, then bear left onto Stillwater Lane. After ~ 100 yards, turn left (north) at the Sunfish Lake Park entrance sign. Meet in the parking lot.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Moderate, well-defined walking paths

LEADERS Linda Kellar, 651-275-0461, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

*Look for more summer Field Trip opportunities
in the June-July Cardinal*

Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo & Market

Saturday, June 4TH, 9:00 – 3:00

Cub Foods' outdoor pavilion at 1201
Larpenteur Ave, St. Paul.

This information and sale day offers gardeners one convenient location to shop for Minnesota native plants from 12 local growers, and, to learn how to use the plants from metro area conservation organizations.

The goal of *Landscape Revival* is to promote the use of native plants by educating about their benefits for wildlife habitat, pollinators, and water quality. The event is sponsored by the Saint Paul Audubon Society, the Capitol Region Watershed District, Wild Ones, Blue Thumb, and the Ramsey/Washington Metro Watershed District.



Cardinals Fighting Windows

A recent caller to the chapter's Q&A line wanted to know how to stop Northern Cardinals (and others) from fighting their reflections. Two websites came to mind...

The first gives a comprehensive list of ways to help the birds relax during nesting season.
<http://www.wild-bird-watching.com/Cardinals-Windows.html>

The second is a TED Talk by Joanne Eckles, Audubon Minnesota's Lights Out mastermind. Well worth watching!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xD_7n0WJ1Y

Thank you, GLS Companies!

In the December-January *Cardinal* article about the chapter's American Kestrel nest box project, we misstated the name and location of the company that has donated used aluminum printing plates for us to use as predator guards. The donor's company name is **GLS Companies**. They are located in Energy Park in St. Paul. GLS recently donated another batch of used aluminum printing plates that we use to discourage animals from climbing nest box poles. *Thank you, GLS!*

Living in Denial

We've had a lot of crazy weather in recent years – weather that does not follow the established patterns that many of us who are north of half a century recall from our childhood. But this year seems even more of a ride. We had a winter with little snow or cold. Ice-out on local lakes occurred 3-4 weeks ahead of the norm. The DNR Eagle Cam showed eagles laying eggs in January!

A few years back, the birds did that when we were having a "cold" (normal) winter, and the eggs froze. Last year, the eaglets survived. This year, in mid-March, the three young seem to be thriving. Maybe they're on to this climate adaptation thing? I put a tap into my maple in the third week of February, and the sap was flowing strongly. This was three weeks earlier than average in my 30 years of records. Unfortunately, we flew through the sap season with just a handful of suitable days. Now the buds are opening and the sap has already turned – during what 30 years ago would have been the heart of the season.

Our world is changing, and rapidly. Birds and other parts of nature that have an ability to adapt are doing their best. One thing that does not seem to be adapting is our political process. It seems that the "lesser angels" called forth from all of us by certain political candidates are dominating at the Minnesota legislature. In just one day, I've seen:

- Hearing/Passage of bill to extend installation of buffers on drainage ditches for ten more years; (SF 2503)
- Hearing/Passage of bill to prevent DNR from banning lead in Wildlife Management Areas (HF 3209);
- A House "Environment" committee vote to strip out Outdoor Heritage funding for 2,500 acres of forest land protection by the White Earth Band (who pledged full public access).

Meanwhile, the renewable energy advocates are just trying to hang on to good policies, which have resulted in a strong interest in solar and wind as alternatives to fossil fuel energy generation. In an election year, the grip of corporate lobbyists is strong, due to the wash of cash required to run a campaign. The Governor, who is not running for any office again, felt compelled to hold a fundraiser the day before session began. (State law prohibits fundraising during the legislative session – we must keep up appearances!)

Friends, nature is speaking to us! We have altered the climate and birds and their habitats are doing their best to adapt to it. Meanwhile, we're deep in denial. There is only one cure for what ails us: **get involved**. I hope you'll join me in demanding more and better from our politicians. Our birds are depending on us. Our grandchildren are depending on us...to end the denial.

SPAS Member & Guest Columnist Don Arnosti

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275
WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

April May 2016

Next Deadline 5/5/2016

Welcome...

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

We're a chapter of the
National Audubon Society.

Our mission is to conserve and restore
natural eco systems, focusing on birds,
other wildlife, and their habitats
for the benefit of humanity and
Earth's biological diversity.

*Please Check our Website
for Calendar Updates!*

CALENDAR

April

Board Meeting	4
Member Meeting: Climate Change.....	14
EVENING TRIP: AHATS Woodcocks.....	20
EVENING TRIP: Rush City Woodcocks ...	21
FIELD TRIP: Nerstrand State Park.....	30

May

Board Meeting	2
TUES AM Birding: Crosby Lk Reg Park.....	3
Warbler Weekend	6-8
TUES AM Birding: Silverwood Park.....	10
Member Annual Mtg: Common Terns....	12
FIELD TRIP: Maplewood Nature Cntr.....	14
FIELD TRIP: Old Cedar Avenue area	14
TUES AM Birding: Murphy-Hanrehan.....	17
FIELD TRIP: Lebanon Hills Reg Park....	21

TUES AM Birding: Afton State Park.....	24
TUES AM Birding: Grass Lk/Snail Lk	31

June

Board Meeting/Potluck	2
FIELD TRIP: Belwin Conservancy	4
Landscape Revival: Native Plant Expo.....	4
TUES AM Birding: Benson Prairie	7
TUES AM: Woodview Open Space	14

Look for more summer events in June/July Cardinal

Our Chapter's Conservation Committee

Saint Paul Audubon's Conservation Committee is currently seeking **native plant and native bird experts** and enthusiasts to assist the Audubon Minnesota Center with the roll-out of a new web-based tool to help residents determine what native plants would benefit birds in their neighborhoods. We are also seeking **gardeners** to assist with care of our native plant garden at the Como Park Pavilions. Any interested parties may contact Matt Jacobson or attend our monthly meetings. *Committee meeting times and locations will be posted on the Chapter's Website Calendar.*

Please contact Co-chairs Matt Jacobson at matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com or Kyle Voigtlander at kylevoigtlander@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved with bird and nature conservation in the East Metro Area!

Coming in June/July Issue of *The Cardinal*:

- ♦ Summer Field Trips
- ♦ Kid's Summer Birding Camp at Como
- ♦ Butterfly Census at AHATS (date TBD)
- ♦ Book Reviews



Look for the LOON on Minnesota Tax Forms (let's work to grow the % of Minnesotans who donate to the Non-Game Wildlife Program!)