

# The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2016 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

## Discovering the 'Audubon Center of the Northwoods'

with **Bryan Wood & Jeff Tyson**

**Thursday, September 8, 2016**

Our first program of the fall highlights the history and current array of program options to be experienced at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods, from natural history, team-building, to outdoor skills education.

Established in 1968, the Center is a private residential environmental learning center and green retreat on Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, Minnesota, only 90 miles north of St. Paul. Situated on over 535 serene acres, the beautiful and peaceful property is unique. It contains a variety of habitat and ecosystems, including old growth pine forest, deciduous forest, managed woodlands, wetlands, and restored prairie. They have been delivering environmental education programs since 1972. With K-12, college, adult, youth, and family programs, there is something for everyone.

Bryan Wood is the current Executive Director. He has been at the Audubon Center of the Northwoods for 9 years. Jeff Tyson has been the Center's Wildlife Coordinator for 11 years.

You will also meet one of their educational raptors, and hear its story.

**For more information:** [www.sudubon-center.org](http://www.sudubon-center.org)

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.

## Rebounding Piping Plovers

*Shortened and paraphrased from a recent StarTribune article by Francesca Cuthbert, Univ. of Minnesota professor in the Dept of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology.*

72 pairs at last count! Researchers have seen 5 pairs on the beaches of Lake Ontario, two pairs in Illinois, 1 pair was found at a new location in Wisconsin, and 2 males were recently seen on Park Point in Duluth. That may not seem like much to celebrate, but by the time the Great Lakes Piping Plover was finally protected in 1986, there were only about a dozen pairs remaining at 6 sites.

And yet, thanks to the powerful conservation tools provided by the Endangered Species Act and the work of many dedicated people, the plovers are recovering. They are not alone. The results of a new study done by the Center for Biological Diversity show that 85% of all U.S. continental birds currently protected by the Endangered Species Act are increasing or stabilized. Analysis of more than 1,800 population surveys for all 120 birds protected

under the Endangered Species Act showed good news for birds.

The study found, for example, that recovery for listed bird populations to sustainable levels would take an average of 63 years. Protected bird species have only been

listed for an average of 36 years.

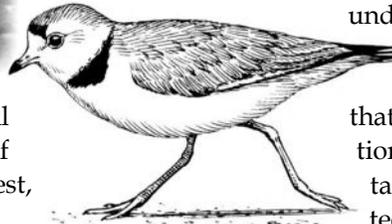
There's still a lot to do, but the work is already showing results. Since 1985, the Great Lakes plovers population has grown from 19 pairs to more than 70 pairs; the interior Least Tern is up 600% since 1985; and the Kirtland's Warbler has increased more than 1,000% since 1971.

"Those of us lucky enough to see the wonder of a Piping Plover skittering across the sand of our favorite beach," says Professor Cuthbert, "Is a tribute to the fact that we're evolving in our efforts to learn how to better share our environment with other species."

This news serves as a reminder of the role of the Endangered Species Act, which has prevented the extinction of 99% of protected species. Most are on the road (or the beach) to recovery.

**October 13TH Member Meeting: Pelicans and Cormorants**

**November 10TH Member Meeting: Shade-grown Coffee**



## 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, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Upcoming Mtgs: **August 1, September 5.**

## Annual Fund Drive Donors

*Our sincere thanks to all who donated to further the work of Saint Paul Audubon, to protect wildlife and birds in our area!*

**Egret, up to \$49:** Elwood & Judy Anderson, Marty Boehne, Monica Bryand, Eugene Carroll, Carol Carver, Dagmar Christensen, Elizabeth Danielson, Marjorie Davis, Nancy Fitzgerald, Barbara Fleig, Diane Fluegge, Patrica A. Flynn, Kenneth Harris (In memory of Dr. Jack Boylan), Daniel Hawkins, Jeff & Theresa Heimann, Nancy Johnson, Sharon M Karalus, Linda Kellar, Louis Kirkbride, Beverly Kramer, Bill Landis, Don Lee, Pat Lockyear, Ellen Lowery, P. J. Maeurer, Ruth Mason (In honor of Nicholas A. Mason), Sylvia McAlpine, Norman McClure, William & Bonnita Meingast, Krista Menzel, Phyllis Merrill, Gunilla Montgomery, Stan Nichol, Yvette Oldendorf, Mark Orłowski, Doris Petrie, John Petroskas, Mary Jean Proulx, Karen Reece (In memory of Maxine Grace Steinkraus), Deb Robinson, Martha Rogers (In memory of Robert Dalluge), Jan Schuler, Barbara Sellers, Marguerite & Edward Senninger, Kathy Sidles & Paul Gade, Linda Stancer (In memory of Greg & Cindy Sandkamp's moms), Barbara Stasz, Cheryl Steinmueller, Marcia & Burt Sundquist, Roy & Lois Swanson, Colleen Swedberg, Teresa Tennis, Winifred Tillmann, Michele Vaillancourt, Cecil C. & Judy L. Van Booven, Constance Van Valkenburg, Mary Jo Verschay & Mike Cardinal (In Honor of the 30th wedding anniversary of John Zakej & Bonnie Watkins), Dick Wakefield, Patricia Walker, Jaime Werkmeister, Mike & Janice Weum, Barbara Wojahn, and Tom Wright.

**Bluebird, \$50-99:** Bonnie Anderson (In honor of Val Cunningham), H. Mead Cavert, Susan Jane Cheney & David Arbeit, Thomas & Jacquelyn Farm, Susan Fuller, Bill & Sally Hague, Elizabeth Henderson, Patricia Hoglund, Jan Leite, Howard Markus, Carol Mizuno, Judy Olsen, Dale & Linda Otteson, James Pearson, Carol Perkins (In memory of Steve Zilmer), Leslie Pilgrim, Molly Redmone & Steve Ring, Deborah Reynolds, George Samer, Robert Sherman, Denis & Nancy Stoddard, Paul Tuckner, Constance Van Valkenburg (In memory of J. Wade Van Valkenburg), Renee Valois (In honor of Robert & Sharon Valois), Michael & Martha Willett, William Zelm.

**Cardinal, \$100 and above:** Linda Amrein, Roger & Margie Anderson, Craig Andresen, Barbara Ankrum, Don & Meg Amosti (In honor of Craig Andresen), Jan Baker, Char Brooker (In honor of Don Amosti), Deborah Brown (In memory of Sam [Richard] Kem), June C. & H. Mead Cavert, Bonnie Comer (In memory of Anna P. Bauer), Stewart Corn & Ellen Ferrari, Bill Cunningham, Val Cunningham & Rog Bergerson, J. E. Davidson, Chase Davies, Jacalyn Eastman, Karen Eckman,

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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; be ready to write down other phone numbers to call.

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

## President's Message

Another spring has come and gone and we are settled into the familiar rhythms of summer. Trips to the lake, hiking, camping, fishing, gardening, weddings, and of course, bird watching are hallmarks of the season.

In the avian world, this is the time to raise second or third broods, fledge, and stay cool under the sweltering summer sun. Many of our feathered friends are beginning to prepare for the long journey south. Though sometimes hard to discern during the doldrums of summer, change is in the air.

Change is happening here at Saint Paul Audubon as well. Jim Lindner's

tenure as President has come to a close, and I, like many others, am grateful for his dedication and service to the chapter, and our community, in this position. As the new chapter president, I hope to build on the work that Jim, the board, and our dedicated members have accomplished. So, as summer fades (slowly I hope) into fall it is my hope to see you all at our first Member Meeting in September, to get involved with a chapter committee, or simply share your interest in birds with friends and family.

Thanks for all you do for birds in the East Metro and I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming months!

*Matt Jacobson*

Patty Flynn, Florence Gleason, Jody Hauer, Lucy & Jeff Heegaard, Donald Janes & Marilyn Thompson, Kristine Kaplan, Constantine Koutsouvas, Charles & Hope Lea, Jim & Amanda Lindner, Barbara Lindstrom, Sue & Tom McCarthy, Dave & Jane Moline, Jeffrey Nelson, Carole Nimlos, Debra & Marschall Smith, John Stoklosa, James Thommes, Robert Titzler, Karen Westphall, David & Beverly Wickstrom, Ann Wynia, and John Zakej.

## The Blooming Prairie at Long Lake Regional Park

**MID-SUMMER: TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 7-9:00 AM**

**LATE SUMMER: TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 7-9:00 AM**



Enjoy delightful summer prairie plants at this restored prairie. It is mature and notably diverse. Birds, butterflies, and other pollinators rely on these native plants for their very existence. Come to all the dates to catch the full season of prairie grandeur! Meet leader Chase Davies at Long Lake Regional Park in New Brighton.

**DIRECTIONS** (Keep up with summer road construction schedules...) From the 35W exit at Hwy 96, go west. At T with Old Hwy 8, turn left (s). Park entrance is ~ 1/4 mi. on right. Meet in first parking lot on RIGHT side of entry road.

**REGISTRATION** None required

**DIFFICULTY** Moderate, paved walking paths, low hills

**LEADER** Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

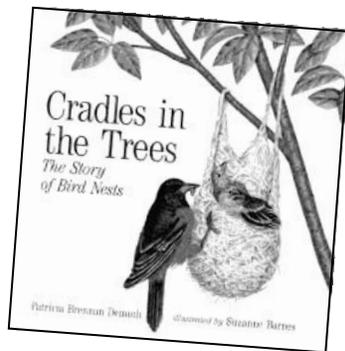
### Book Review

## Cradles in the Trees: The Story of Bird Nests

By Patricia Brennan Demuth

© 1994, Macmillan, Nonfiction, 32 pages. For 6-10 year olds. Fully illustrated.

What a delightful introduction to the wonder of bird nests and nest-building practices! Discussion includes materials used; location; roles of males/females; and human 'nest etiquette.' The illustrations are large and detailed; language is direct and concise. Examines the practices of a variety of birds' nests, mostly seen in the Midwest. This book will elicit awe and respect and rouse the scientific curiosity of younger readers.



Submitted by SPAS Member Katie Johnson

## Cornell Labs' Citizen-Science Branches Out

The lab is famous for its Citizen Science projects like FeederWatch during fall and winter, eBird listing, and nest cams for several species during warmer months. They have many other projects for us to help with. One is centered around improving habitat around our homes, which includes providing tips and ideas for great wildlife landscaping, at [habitatnetwork.net](http://habitatnetwork.net). *Check it out and report back!!*

### Conservation Corner:

## Things That Make Our World Go 'Round

As a long-time environmental advocate, I've had many opportunities to watch "sausage" being made in Saint Paul. It is true what they say about The Golden Rule: 'Those with the gold, rule.' It is amazing to me how many lobbyists will be hired by corporations or special interests to get just what they want from legislators or other officials. It is even more amazing to me that they often get it. Why is that? Well, often the swirl of special interests are operating in a vacuum - they take up all available space with their partial truths and self-interested angles. The public's interest is hardly ever represented.

Once upon a time, being an elected official was called "public service." That's a nice notion. I even know a few public servants. They're endangered. They need our help.

The antidote to special interests is the same thing that helps our public servants: *Your Involvement*. There is only one effective way to counter the corrupting effect of money in our political process: *People*. Many people. Organized and persistent.

People who are speaking for children. People who are speaking for birds and wildlife. People who are speaking for the right to clean water. People who speak for future generations.

In short, people who will speak up *for the common good*.

Do you follow 'leave no trace' camping ethics? Do you believe your children and their grandchildren have a right to enjoy clean water, healthy populations of birds and wildlife and a habitable planet? Do you try every day to minimize your impact on our natural resources?

We need you to demand that our public officials act in the best interests of all of us, not just today, but for tomorrow and generations into the future.

We Minnesotans are facing a multi-generational decision. It's called PolyMet. This is a proposed copper-nickel sulfide ore mine at the headwaters of the St. Louis River, which drains to Lake Superior. PolyMet promises 350 jobs for twenty years to the Iron Range economy, and thousands of acres of wetland destruction and centuries of toxic water pollution for our descendants to deal with.

The Governor has figured out that a similar risk posed by another mine close to the Boundary Waters Wilderness does not represent *the common good*. He said he'd not permit the Twin Metals mine to proceed. But he's not yet decided whether the risk to Lake Superior, 10% of the globe's entire fresh water supply, is sufficient for him to put a halt to PolyMet.

It is hard for politicians to bat away the swarm of special interest lobbyists, swirling around them: 350 jobs for 20 years seems alluring... until you think of future generations. They stand to gain *nothing*, but lose a lot. Can you step up and speak for the Common Good? Will you? Call the Governor today, at **651-201-3400** (or post a message on his Facebook page - he reads it!) Tell him: PolyMet is *not* for the Common Good - please put a stop to it!

Either we speak together, or the Gold will Rule.

SPAS Member Don Arnosti

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## SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

### August September 2016

Next Deadline 9/5/2016

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!*

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## CALENDAR

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### August

Board Meeting ..... 1  
FIELD TRIP: Long Lake Reg. Park ..... 2  
Mid-summer blooming prairie  
FIELD TRIP: Long Lake Reg. Park ..... 30  
Late summer/early fall on prairie

### September

Board Meeting ..... 5  
Member Meeting: Aud/Northwoods ..... 8

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 3795  
Twin Cities, Minnesota

## Our Chapter's Conservation Committee

Busy Committee!

- On July 16<sup>TH</sup> Gail Buhl and Amber Burnette of the Raptor Center banded one female and three male American Kestrel chicks at Lake Elmo Regional Park. They fledged around the end of June/beginning of July.
- The committee planned to participate in a burdock pull at the Como Outdoor Classroom over the summer – a report on that happening will be seen in this space soon.
- Boy and Girl Scouts who wish to do bird-related Eagle and Gold Projects may petition this committee for grants to help pay for their project materials. The most common projects of this type are bird houses, nest boxes, and swift towers.

For more information, please contact the co-chairs, see box on p.2.

## State of the Birds 2016

This report has become even more timely and valuable this year, the first to include *all* of North America. Go to [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org) to read and digest the facts within.

The hope is that this report will inspire you to become involved in the continental effort to preserve and restore habitat. Of the nine habitats being monitored, birds are in “steep decline” in five, and “mixed status” in four. The report made extensive use of data collected by tens of thousands of birders who use software such as eBird; the data was used to generate animated models of how a species uses the whole continent over the entire year. View them at [bit.ly/stateofbirdsmaps](http://bit.ly/stateofbirdsmaps).

