

The Cardinal



FEBRUARY MARCH 2016 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY MEMBER MEETING

“Birds’ Nests: HOW do They DO that?”

with **Clay Christensen**

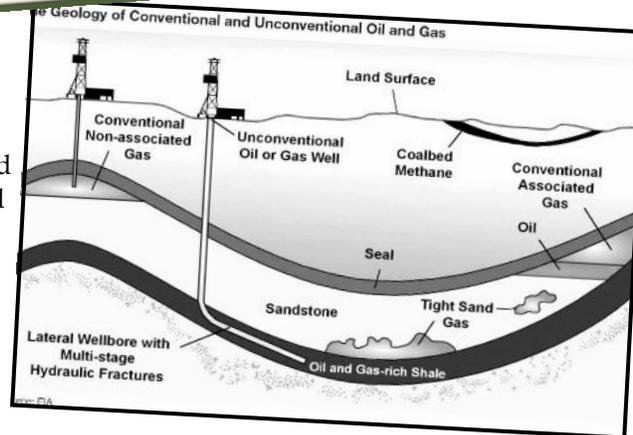
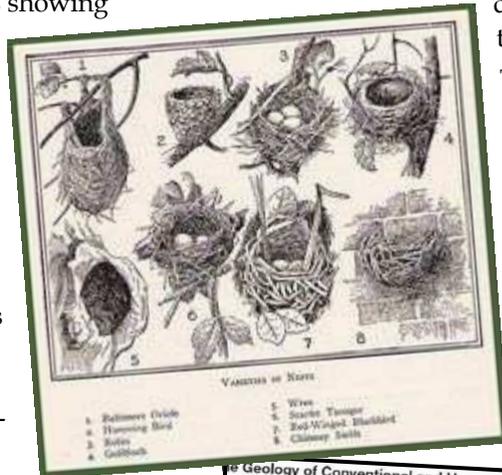
Thursday, February 11, 2016

How does a Baltimore Oriole make that graceful hanging nest so high up in the cottonwood tree? What is a woodpecker cavity nest like inside? Are there really birds that nest in tunnels? This talk includes photos of birds at their nests and diagrams showing how some of those nests are made.

Clay is the always-entertaining author of ‘The Birdman of Lauderdale,’ based on the many columns he has written for the local *Park Bugle* newspaper. Clay is also a highly-sought-after Field



Trip leader for the St. Paul Audubon Society, as well as the source of many a confused Barred or Great-Horned Owl that has responded to his darned good owl calls!



MARCH MEMBER MEETING

“Debunking ‘Fracking’”

with **Louis Ascher**

Thursday, March 10, 2016

There is a lot of confusion regarding oil and natural gas exploration. This confusion is often a result of the fact that there are three types of extraction: conventional oil and gas, tar sands oil, and fracking oil and gas. We will start by discussing all three types of extraction methods and then proceed to focus on fracking.

There is a great deal of complicated technical information about these three extraction methods, which can be overwhelming for most individuals. Louis Ascher has the ability to break down this information into an understandable format. He will provide an overview of, not only the three extraction methods, but the geology that led to the creation of the various oil and gas types. This will provide a more complete picture of this topic. It will be a very interesting, understandable and thought-provoking presentation on a subject that greatly affects our lives!

Over the last 30 years Louis has had a very strong interest in the areas of conventional and renewable energy and has greatly researched those areas. Louis is a retired researcher, statistician and instructor. He worked at 3M for 39 years and was known as a very practical, motivating and extremely entertaining/fun

instructor. He created and presented countless of classes on statistical, mathematical, and communication improvement subjects.

He now volunteers in organizations that deal with habitat conservation, climate change and renewable energy.

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

Saint Paul Audubon's Board Meetings are held at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit 35-E at Little Canada Rd, go east to Noel. Meetings are held from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Upcoming dates: **February 1, March 7.**

President's Message

Birds in History

I was a history major. I don't work in the history field, but history is how I make sense of the world around me. It helps me to put things in perspective, and it's always at my fingertips.

Ok, so why that introduction? Well, I've been looking for ways to use history to help me serve as your president. A few months ago I wrote about state birds. That helped me transition into writing for *The Cardinal*. Here is another thing I've been reflecting upon. Birds have played a significant role throughout history. From symbols to coal mines to miraculous deliverances, birds are as much of a part of history as economics and politics, and in some ways they've played a more intimate role with people.

The United States' founding fathers wished to adopt a national symbol. You may have heard of the three-way debate between supporters of the bald eagle Vs supporters of the turkey Vs supporters of the dove. This is actually a myth, though there is a grain of fact embedded within. In 1782 Congress flat-out rejected a design with both an eagle and dove on the Great Seal, and asked secretary Charles Thomson to incorporate various ideas from several committees. He chose the bald eagle as part of the seal. Ben Franklin was not convinced. Franklin wrote that the eagle was a "Bird of bad moral character, a rank coward." He added that the little kingbird "attacks boldly," driving the eagle away. Franklin promoted the turkey, who in spite of being what he



called "a little vain and silly," was a bird of courage who would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards." Despite such rigorous promotion, Franklin's fighting turkey did not find its way onto the Great Seal, though it did have a role on Thanksgiving Day.

The presidential seal, went through several iterations in the 1800s, many that included the bald eagle. The current version of the presidential seal dates officially to a 1945 executive order by Harry Truman.

Another blend of myth and reality involves the role of gulls in Utah's state history. In 1848, less than a year after Brigham Young led Mormon pioneers to Utah, insects, later identified as members of the katydid family, descended upon the crops and threatened the very life of the settlement that eventually became Salt Lake City. In truth these insects do on occasion swarm in areas of Utah and Nevada, so it's plausible. The story goes on that but for the miraculous appearance of California Gulls,

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. to 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*.

who ate the entire swarm, the Mormon settlement would not have survived.

Modern critical analysis has identified flaws in the legend. The gulls are somewhat native to the Great Salt Lake area. Historians suggest that the gulls were not as widespread as claimed, and that weather possibly played more of a role than the gulls did. Some pioneer journals mention frost, but no gulls. The story became the "Miracle of the Gulls," and the California gull was voted Utah's state bird.

Other interactions between humans and birds is more factual. In 1913 a Scot first proposed placing a canary (actually any warm-blooded animal would do) in coal mines to detect and warn miners of the presence of dangerous gases, namely carbon monoxide. Despite technical instruments to detect dangerous gases, miners routinely used canaries in coal mines throughout the twentieth century.

So birds have been part of our history since the earliest days. Legends have sprouted to embellish the nature of the relationship, but as with many myths, the truth is always somewhat present.

Jim Lindner, President

Saint Paul Audubon's Spring Warbler Weekend

May 6-8, 2016 (Reservation deadline April 6, 2016)

Many birders are aware that some of the world's best birding is available right here in Minnesota! During the spring migration one of the best locations for birds is along the north-south Mississippi and St. Croix River Flyway. Our annual Warbler Weekend is held near Frontenac, located on Lake Pepin, right on the flyway!

Our annual weekends over the last 30-40 years have averaged 130-135 species, including an average of 21-24 species of warblers. The Chapter's Field Trip leaders offer bird walks for beginners as well as more experienced birders. Several locations are always canvassed, including Hok-Si-La Park in Lake City, Well's Creek, and Frontenac State Park's prairie restoration project, bluff trail, and Sand Point trail (may require knee-high boots). A chalkboard records all sightings over the weekend.

Our destination is a former school that now hosts retreats. Registrations are needed 30 days in advance. No refunds for cancellations received after April 8th. This weekend has sold out for



several years, so please register early! There are meal tickets, and a \$12 commuter charge for people attending the evening lectures or coming to the meals who are not staying overnight. (All room reservations include 3 or 4 meals per person.) Please include an e-mail or enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation of your registration and to receive an agenda. Accommodations include dorm-style rooms and shared bathrooms (down the hall). Note the early registration deadline of April 6th. Please bring shoes or flip flops to wear in the building; muddy shoes are not allowed inside.

New for 2016: For the first time, dinner is available on Friday evening at 6:00 PM, *optional*. Note a decreased rate for couples sharing a double bed in 2016. Gluten free or vegetarian meals are available - indicate on the reservation form. Camping at either Frontenac State Park or Hok-Si-La Park.

Socializing, snacks, coffee and information on Friday at 7:00 PM precedes a presentation by **Francisco Muñoz** on *Birding in Nicaragua*. Francisco will present many images of Nicaraguan birds as he describes his passion for birds and environmental conservation, and tells stories about his numerous efforts to do censusing of bird species in very difficult conditions. He is the co-author of the new field guide to the birds of Nicaragua (in English and Spanish) with excellent color plates of the over-650 species of birds known to occur in Nicaragua.

Viewing Chimney Swifts as they gather at dusk, and an owl walk follows the lecture (bring your lawn chair, a flashlight, and wear a dark sweatshirt).

Saturday evening's lecture features SPAS member **Monica Bryand**. She is working on a project through National and Audubon Minnesota to capture photos of the 166 species threatened or endangered by climate change. She currently has photos of over 100 species, and will tell stories about her travels around the state.

Copies of Saint Paul Audubon's booklet on Native Plants and other brochures will be available.

Registration is on a first-come first-serve basis but with preference given to those staying for the weekend. Note the limited number of accommodations at each level - there are 28 single rooms; 10 rooms with double beds for couples; and 25 rooms with twin beds (including 10 with 3 beds). Thank

Warbler Weekend Registration Form

Quantity	Options	Amount (per person)
___	Friday supper — Optional (per person)	\$ 15 \$___
___	Full Wknd Adlt: 1 dbl bed for 2 + Sat & Sun meals	\$135 \$___
___	Full Wknd Adlt 2/3 beds (shared rm) + Sat & Sun meals	\$165 \$___
___	Full Wknd Adult single + Sat & Sun meals	\$195 \$___
___	Fri night Adlt one dbl bed for 2 + 3 meals on Sat	\$ 90 \$___
___	Fri night 2/3 beds (shared rm) + 3 meals on Sat	\$105 \$___
___	Fri night single & 3 meals on Sat	\$120 \$___
___	Sat night Adlt 1 dbl bed for 2 + Sat & Sun meals	\$105 \$___
___	Sat night 2/3 beds (shared rm) + Sat & Sun meals	\$115 \$___
___	Sat night single + Sat & Sun meals	\$130 \$___
___	Child 6-11 (sharing with adult)/night	\$ 35 \$___
___	Child 12-17 (sharing with adult)/night	\$ 40 \$___
___	Commuter (not staying overnight)	\$ 15 \$___
___	Saturday Breakfast	8:00 AM \$ 10 \$___
___	Saturday Lunch Buffet	Noon \$ 10 \$___
___	Saturday Dinner Buffet	5:30 PM \$ 15 \$___
___	Sunday Brunch Buffet	10:00 AM \$ 15 \$___

(Prices include registration fee. No refunds for missed meals.)

Total (check payable to: Saint Paul Audubon Society) \$___

Name _____

Names of roommates/spouse (in shared/couples room) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email (required, OR, self-addressed stamped envelope) _____

Phone: Day _____ Eve _____

Please include one registration form for each room; all prices are per person.

Send check to **Saint Paul Audubon Society**, c/o Tess Rizzardi, 122 W. Winifred St., St. Paul, MN 55105 No refunds after April 8th. For more information please call 651-246-5277 or, preferably, send email to tessmoni.rizzo@gmail.com

Our Annual Fund Drive

Reminder

This is the only time of year that we seek your support for the great work done by the Saint Paul Audubon Society. You will not receive a phone call or a postal mail solicitation. And you will NOT receive another request for a donation with your Thank You note. For the informational article regarding our Fund Drive, please see the December January issue of *The Cardinal*. To donate, simply submit a check for your contribution in the remittance envelope provided with the December January issue, OR, you may use the box on this page, OR, you may donate on-line at www.saintpaulaudubon.org.

THANK YOU once again!

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CHAIR DEAN DOERING

Saint Paul Audubon Society

Annual Fund Drive

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for the Saint Paul Audubon Society to be used for:

\$_____ Annual Operating Fund \$_____ Endowment Fund
\$_____ Habitat Protection \$_____ Wherever Needed

This gift is given:

___ in memory of _____

___ in honor of _____

Thank You Very Much for Your Support

Donor Name _____

Address _____

Phone / Email _____

If your contribution was given in memory of or in honor of someone, we will gladly send an acknowledgement card to:

Name _____

Address _____

Please send your check to: Dean Doering, 1901 North Victoria St., Roseville, MN 55113, **or**, you may go to the SPAS Website at <http://saintpaulaudubon.org> and click on "Support Us."

Our Chapter Needs YOU!

What will the catalyst be, for YOU to become involved as a volunteer with our chapter? Will it be Global Warming? Neonicotinoids Vs Bees? Restoring Habitat? Minnesota's water issues? Field Trips? Bird ID information? Learning more about environmental issues at our great Member Meetings? In addition to becoming active to learn about these topics, we the current leadership and volunteer base, need YOU to consider your strengths, and join one of the efforts outlined below!!

Finance Committee

This committee is looking for someone to serve as an assistant treasurer for a year or two in preparation for serving as treasurer. Are you interested in helping SPAS with this key endeavor? No financial background is required, but access to a computer and knowledge of Excel is essential. The present treasurer has served over 10 years and it is time for a change. The treasurer, along with the finance committee, proposes the budget each year, invests the Chapter's funds, picks up the mail every couple of weeks, pays the bills, and prepares a treasurer's report every few months. Contact **Richard Newmark** at ranewmark@yahoo.com to join or for more information.

Field Trips Committee

More members are needed to lead field trips during the spring, summer, and fall. The Field Trip Committee is made up of the Chair and the leaders of the Field Trips.

The first step towards becoming a field trip leader is simply to become familiar with an area that you like to walk in, bird at, etc. The *primary* duty of the leader is to know the area, and to begin and stop at the advertised times. The *secondary* duty is to assist in finding and identifying birds and other aspects of nature as appropriate, and, over time, to learn enough about the area and its birds to add "color" commentary as appropriate. So therefore, our field trip leaders have various skills: some are basic birders, some are birders by ear, some like short trips, some long, some will lead a caravan, others will meet at the location.

We work up the spring/summer schedule by mid-February for publication in the April/May newsletter. The Chair gathers and publishes the particular info for each trip on the website and in the newsletter.

The current Chair is serious about training her successor. One needs to be a good communicator and have basic or better computer skills, **but does not have to be a trip leader**. Additional trip leaders would allow more offerings, perhaps in different seasons or with multiple goals. Contact **Chase Davies** at ccdavies@aol.com.

Newsletter Committee

Members are needed to prepare articles for inclusion in *The Cardinal*. The types of articles to submit are: Book Re-

views, Nature Notes (something cool that happened to you while out in nature), research and provide in-depth, non-political articles on a wide range of environmental and conservation topics, thanks for volunteer work well-done, etc. Send articles to newsletter editor **Holly Peirson**, at hpbirdscouter@msn.com. Contact the Editor for more information.

Hospitality Committee

These wonderful people provide treats and beverages for the Member Meetings. If anyone would like to assist in bringing sweet treats, breads, fruit, nuts, hummus, or cheese and crackers to a meeting, please contact Bonnie Anderson at bonniejanderson@q.com.

A Count to Remember!

December 19th dawned clear with no wind, but it was the coldest day of the winter so far. The sun and lack of wind made the conditions bearable for the 71 dedicated volunteers who participated in our 72nd St. Paul North Christmas Bird Count.

A total of 12,539 hardy individual birds were sighted spread among 57 species, which was the same species total as for 2014! The total birds represented roughly 1,000 more than last year, probably due in part to the incredibly warm El Nino fall we had enjoyed.

Truly unusual highlights were 2 Saw-whet Owls found in Reservoir Woods, our first Tufted Titmouse since 1998 found near Kaposia Park in South St. Paul, and 10 Cackling Geese in the North Oaks area. Other notable appearances included a Broad-winged Hawk, 1 loitering Merlin, 2 Northern Shrikes in the AHATS area, 3 wintering Brown Creepers in two different areas, and one of our feeder watchers had 3 Common Grackles visiting on count day. Another highlight were the 96 Trumpeter Swans found in four of the count areas—a testament to the hardiness of this species and the foresight of the Minnesota DNR non-game wildlife program in reintroducing them to the state.

Sincere thanks go out to our 15 team leaders and all the participants that once again gave the CBC an entire day during the hectic holiday season. With little fanfare, they did an admirable 'job,' as always! If you wish to see the full tally spreadsheet, send an email to our CBC Coordinator, **Bill Stjern**, at norskestar@comcast.net.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, December 17th, 2016**, and join us for the fun and camaraderie of finding birds hanging around near the winter solstice!!!

Linda Goodspeed, Volunteer Extraordinaire

Linda was born on June 23, 1952, in Moorhead, Minnesota. As a student in high school she participated in the first Earth Day (bye-bye colored toilet paper!) Linda earned a BS in Chemistry at Moorhead State University, and eventually found her way to a career in environmental chemistry. In 2000 she changed careers and accepted employment as a computer programmer with the Saint Paul Companies (now Travelers Insurance). Here she truly found her niche. She loved her job and her co-workers. Linda remained with the firm for the rest of her life.



Linda married in 1978 and in 1986 delivered a son, Michael Crawford.

Some years after that marriage ended, she married Brian Goodspeed in 1996. Brian & Linda soon purchased a cabin in Palisade, Minnesota. There they became very interested in native plants, wildlife, and especially, the birds. The Indigo Bunting was Linda's favorite visitor.

In 2004 Linda & Brian relocated to Falcon Heights. There, they discovered Saint Paul Audubon and enjoyed the monthly meetings. Linda joined the board in 2014. She wrote promotional descriptions for the Member Meeting guest speakers and submitted them to *The Cardinal* and the St Paul Audubon website, local newspapers, and other media.

Linda passed away at home on January 1st, 2016. She was comforted and surrounded by family, after battling lung cancer for almost two years.

St. Paul Audubon's "Family" of volunteers will dearly miss Linda's enthusiasm and smiling face at meetings and field trips. May she be forever watching and listening to the birds she loved so much.

Adopt a Garden

A public garden in St. Paul's Como Park needs volunteers to help with maintenance chores twice a year, spring and fall. You may have seen it: It's the native plant garden on the north side

of the Como Lakeside Pavilion, host to pollinators in warm months and birds throughout the year. The garden is very popular with the thousands of walkers

and bikers who circle the lake each year, and is a good tool for educating about native plants, and about pollinators.

In fact, St. Paul Audubon funded the plantings in this handsome garden, and members of our Conservation Committee have kept it looking spiffy for the past nine years. Now the chapter is seeking helpers—with or without green thumbs—to donate eight hours a year or less to help the City of St. Paul, which lacks the funds for upkeep.

Please contact Val Cunningham at writers2@comcast.net or Matt Jacobson (Conservation Committee co-chair) at matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com to learn more or sign up. We need more chapter members to grab their trowels and head over to Como Park this spring!

The Landscape Revival – Native Plant Expo and Market

This info and sale day offers gardeners one convenient location to shop for Minnesota native plants from 12 local native growers and learn how to use the plants from 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 Saint Paul Audubon, Capitol Region Watershed District, Wild Ones, Blue Thumb and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District.



Annual Audubon Crane Festival

Kearney, Nebraska, March 17-20, 2016

500,000 Sandhill Cranes (and always a possibility of a Whooping Crane or two), 200,000 or more ducks and geese... Viewing blinds for cranes and Prairie Chickens! Make your reservation Today! For more info and to register, go to <http://nebraskacranefestival.org/>

BOOK REVIEW

The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon

Written by Jacqueline Davies, Illustrated by Melissa Sweet, Boston: HoughtonMifflin Co., 2004, 32 pages

Available in local libraries; online as new/used; also as an E-book.



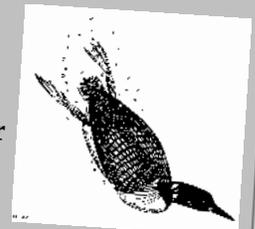
In an effort to keep his son John James out of Napoleon's war, Papa Audubon sent his young son to his farm in Mill Grove, Pennsylvania. It was there that John James continued to engage his interest in birds (learned from his father in France, where he grew up), most specifically pursuing his nagging questions about bird migration and theories of hibernation, which abounded at this time (one prevailing theory, touted by Aristotle two thousand years earlier, held that small birds grouped together and hibernated *underwater* over the winter!). JJA, in 1804, became the first person in North America to band a bird, which established as fact a complex theory: that many birds return to the same nest each year, and their offspring nest nearby (a behavior called *homing* today).

This story is well written, with fascinating illustrations that teach the illustrator's technique as well as expand the text. We meet JJA as a young man who is determined to pursue his questions and solve animal behavior riddles by devising simple homespun experiments and documenting the results – the scientific method in action. Young children (up to age 10?) will meet JJA as one of the people we honor today, a child just like them, who pursued his questions and interests about the natural world with great curiosity, ingenuity, and dedication, and challenged prevailing myths of his time.

Reviewed by St Paul Audubon Member Kathryn Johnson

Coming in April/May Issue of *The Cardinal*:

- ◆ Our Spring & Summer Field Trips
- ◆ Our Tuesday Mornings in May walks!
- ◆ April Member Meeting: **Ecological History**
- ◆ May: Annual Election + Member Meeting: **Terns!!**
- ◆ **Look for the LOON on your Minnesota Tax Forms**





Audubon Applause

The MOU Paper Session on December 5, 2015, was very well supported by SPAS members and friends who set up, served, and cleared the dregs and crumbs after the morning and afternoon breaks. Coffee, tea and hot spiced apple cider accompanied the 9 dozen muffins (split into 18 dozen halves), 6 dozen raised donuts, 40 donut holes (where did the others go?), and 12 dozen cookies. **Chase Davies** did the purchasing and was helped at the Bell by: **Linda Amrein, Tom Bell, Karen Eckman, Barbara Lindeke, Richard Newmark, Hedera Porter, Bonnie Sample, and Linda Whyte.**

The first Saturday of 2018 at the Bell Museum is the next time SPAS is on the schedule to do this service for MOU. It is fun, and educational, too, if you check out the exhibitors or attend sessions when not working.

Looking for Osprey

The osprey population in the Twin Cities has grown to over 100 known nests since a reintroduction project began in 1984! The *Twin Cities Metro Osprey Watch* is monitoring all known Osprey nests in the eight-county metro area as part of a long-term behavioral and productivity study. This has become a big job, and we need your help! If you see a new osprey nest or ospreys carrying sticks, please send a report to osprey.mn@gmail.com.

If you are interested in volunteering to watch over a nest during the breeding season, please contact us. Ospreys are increasingly nesting on man-made structures such as cell towers, ball field light poles, transmission towers and telephone/power poles, so keep looking up! To learn more about ospreys and the Twin Cities Metro Osprey Watch, visit their Facebook page or blog at www.ospreywatch.blogspot.com.

The Great Backyard Bird Count

February
12-15, 2016



What Does My 'ism' Have to do With Bird Conservation?

Winter is a time for inner contemplation as we watch our favorite feeder birds gorging themselves on suet and oily seeds in the cold outside our window. The Downy Woodpecker has no time to consider *who* is doing *what* to *whom*, in her struggle to find the necessary calories to live through the cold months. But I do.

I wonder what barrier our human "isms" place in front of our little feathered friends? Sexism, racism and all our other "isms" separate people into us and them, we and they. If I can discount the worth of another *human*, based on their differences from me, does that make it easier to discount the significance of another *species* – say, that Downy Woodpecker?

Conservation is about Love and Understanding. I love birds. I want to understand more about them, so I learn about their habits and habitats. Then I act to protect those I love. Much like family. Simple.

Why am I concerned about "isms?" As I listen to the rhetoric of many politicians running for high office, I hear expressions of the lowest fears and most base feelings towards other people: immigrants, Hispanics, women. If we hate and fear other *people*, do we have room for the love, understanding and care for birds and other wildlife?

Recently three senior women Minnesota Senators, including the northeast metro area's Bev Scalze, announced that they were not running for reelection. All are champions of conservation. I believe that an important factor in their decision to step back from public service is the corrosive sexism of their own caucus leadership in the Senate. Nothing overt – but obvious to a close observer.

This is the same leadership which last year undercut water quality standards to favor mining, eliminated the Citizen's Board overseeing the MPCA because it dared to ask for an environmental impact study on a proposed dairy with the waste output of a city of 50,000 people, and which, in a year of surplus, raided funds set aside to clean up closed landfills. Birds and the environment were rolled over by people full of "ism"s.

People who are prepared to care for and love people, and birds, need to step forward and say "enough!" We need people of good will to represent us in public decision-making. March 1st marks the Minnesota caucus for all political parties. Go there. Speak up. Step forward. We are counting on you. My Downy Woodpecker is, too, though she has her head in a block of suet at the moment.

SPAS Member & Guest Columnist Don Arnosti

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

February March 2016

Next Deadline 3/5/2016

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.

*SPAS Members: Please Check our Website
for Calendar Updates!*

CALENDAR

February

Board Meeting..... 1
Member Meeting: Bird Nests..... 11
Conservation Committee: 23

March

Board Meeting..... 7
Member Meeting: Fracking..... 10
Conservation Committee: 22

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

**Time Dated Material
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee will meet this February and March to prepare for spring and summer projects. We are in the process of placing interactive Audubon *Important Bird Area* signage on public land within the Mississippi River Twin Cities IBA.

Our projects focus on developing interactive Audubon IBA signs at the St. Paul and Ramsey County Regional Parks in the Mississippi River Twin Cities IBA, producing web content to interact with the signs, monitoring kestrel nest boxes, establishing a purple martin colony, conducting bird surveys in city and regional parks, and designing an illustrated bird guide for Ramsey County.

If you are interested in birding, citizen science, have web development experience, like to build nest boxes, or have artistic inclinations, then the Conservation Committee is for you! Meetings will be held at the Ramsey County Public Library, in Roseville (NE corner of Hamline and Cty Rd B) in the Community Room on February 23RD and March 22ND from 7-8:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Co-Chair Matt Jacobson

"The Messenger" Movie

From the New York Times Review: "...*The arguments are persuasive, the message from the birds powerful, and the film a rich and satisfying call to action that is presented with some novel ideas for how to restore the ecological balance.*"

For thousands of years, songbirds were regarded by mankind as messengers from the gods. Today, these creatures – woven inextricably into the fabric of our environment – are vanishing at an alarming rate. Under threat from climate change, pesticides and more, populations of hundreds of species have dipped dramatically. As scientists, activists and bird enthusiasts investigate this phenomenon, amazing secrets of the bird world come to light for the first time in this acclaimed and visually thrilling documentary. Find out what's killing our songbirds, and what can be done about it. As in ancient times, songbirds may once again be carrying a message to humans – one that we ignore at our own peril.

Produced and directed by **Su Rynard**, an award-winning film-maker whose interest in ecology, natural history and science has informed and inspired her recent projects. Also online, check out a short video of the film crew using a wind tunnel to get footage of songbirds in flight!