

# The Cardinal

APRIL MAY 2015 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## APRIL MEMBER MEETING

### Up Close and Personal: A Microscopic Look at Contour Feathers

With **Mike Billington**

Interpretive Naturalist at The Raptor Center

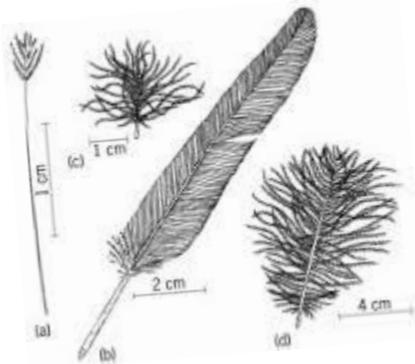
Thursday, April 9, 2015

Flight has captured the human imagination for thousands of years across cultures around the world. Birds have achieved the ability of flight through the evolution of their most important physical feature – feathers – a natural marvel that few people fully understand. Light contour feathers function in ways that are fundamental to survival. This presentation will explore the form and function of contour feathers, all the way down to microscopic level, using electron microscope images captured by Jeff Payne at 3M's Corporate Research Analytical Lab (CRAL).

Mike has been teaching environmental education for 17 years. He received his BA at Gustavus and his post-bachelors in Environmental Education at UMND. He has worked as a naturalist at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, and is currently working on his Master's degree in Learning Technologies at the University of Minnesota. This May will be the completion of his 7<sup>TH</sup> year as an Interpretive Naturalist at The Raptor Center.

To find out more about The Raptor Center, please click on the link:

<http://www.raptor.cvm.umn.edu/>



## MAY MEMBER ANNUAL MEETING

### No Free Lunch: The Ecological Impacts of Woody Biomass Harvesting

With **Dr. Michael Rentz**

Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology  
and Management, Iowa State University

Thursday, May 14, 2015

The topic of woody biomass harvesting is highly important and is especially applicable to public lands out west where there is a desire to reduce forest fire fuels.

Dr. Rentz will present the findings of his PhD research on the impacts of woody biomass harvest on small mammals and forest plants. Small mammals showed few strong responses. Unfortunately, native plants appear to suffer from this type of logging while invasive species benefit.

Mike is a life-long Minnesotan who now finds himself living south of the Minnesota border, as a new faculty member at Iowa State University. He is at home, however, in the rocks and trees of Northern Minnesota, especially the North Shore.

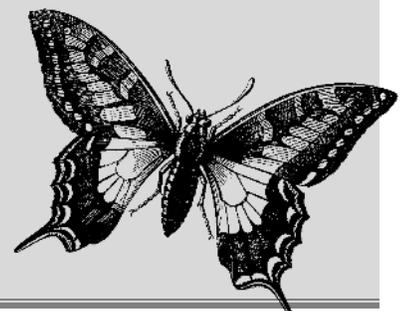


Buckthorn growing un-checked in metro area

Coming in Late June (date TBD, perhaps the 27th)

### North American Butterfly Census

See June July  
Cardinal for more  
information!



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. We like to travel, so there will be no February meeting. Upcoming dates: **April 6, May 4.**

### President's Message

*Happy Spring, Everyone.*

A few days ago it was below zero and winter seemed like it would never leave. Today, Conny's Ice Cream Stand is open and spring is in the air.

For birders, this is a special time of year as our migrants begin to come through and breeding season begins. Already, cardinals are singing and woodpeckers drumming, and we are probably all watching the DNR eagles raise their young [[www.dnr.state.mn.us/eaglecam](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eaglecam)]

Ducks are pairing up and flying around, and my local crows seem to be fussing and playing with each other quite a bit. Also, of course, the squirrels are chasing each other all around and creating the next generation of feeder robbers. What a miracle it all is.

Spring is a time of hope, as well. On the hopeful front in the Environmental World, I hope you all saw that baby galapagos tortoises were found on one of the islands for the first time in 100 years. Thanks to a rat eradication program arranged and paid for by caring humans, tortoise eggs finally had a chance to hatch. Also on the hopeful front, the number of wintering monarchs in Mexico was up from last year. Still not good, but many humans have become aware of the need to plant



more milkweed and other nectar rich wildflowers. Lets hope the monarchs have a good summer and their numbers increase even more next year.

In Minnesota, Gov.

Dayton has proposed and is supporting an effort to increase the size of buffer zones around our waterways. This would be a boon to our birds and insects as it would add substantial wild land in the state.

I hope you all plan to join us at some Audubon event this spring — an evening program, a field trip, the Villa Maria Warbler Weekend on May 8-10, or the Landscape Revival Plant Sale in Roseville on June 6. Working together, our club and others interested in the environment can make things better for all the creatures of the world. Meeting together is the first step. Please plan to come join us so we can unite together in our efforts.

*Enjoy this glorious season of new*

### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Conservation Chair Open	
Field Trips Chair Chase Davies	651-633-1663 <a href="mailto:ccdavies@aol.com">ccdavies@aol.com</a>
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Audubon MN	651-291-2596 <a href="http://www.mn.audubon.org">www.mn.audubon.org</a>

### 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 2,700 members. Our Member Meetings are held from Sept. to May. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit our website at [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org)

**ABOUT THE CARDINAL** Published 6 times a year; articles are due on the 5<sup>TH</sup> 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 a PDF from the website.

**LOCAL SUPPORT** Audubon members who don't live in the Metro Area but who wish to receive *The Cardinal* may send \$15 for a 1 year subscription to **Saint Paul Audubon Society**, PO Box 7275, St. Paul MN 55107

### 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](http://www.audubon.org) to notify the National Audubon Society of a change of address, to continue to receive *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*.

## Some New Bird Books

List from Jim Williams, "On The Wing," [www.StarTribune.com/wingnut](http://www.StarTribune.com/wingnut)

**North American Guide to Birds**  
second ed., Sibley, ~ \$25

**Penguins: The Ultimate Guide**  
Princeton U., \$35

**Hummingbirds: A Life-sized Guide to Every Species**, Harper-Collins, \$30

**Latin for Bird Lovers**  
Timber Press, \$25

**Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds**, U of WI Press, \$35

**Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds**  
Columbia U Press, \$17

## Saint Paul Audubon Society Annual Meeting Information

### 2015-2016 Proposed Budget Highlights

The Projected Income for this fiscal year is expected to be similar to preceding years, except that income and expenses for Field Trips (including Warbler Weekend) have been increased \$5,000. This weekend usually breaks even except for the fees for the speakers. The proposed budget shows a deficit of \$5,000 to allow funding of additional projects next year – suggestions to the SPAS Board are welcome. The deficit will be covered by our reserves.

### Board and Officer Slate for 2015-16

*Presented by Laurel Stiebler, Nominating Chair*

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

**Vice President: Crystal Boyd:** Native bee researcher for MN-DNR. Attended SPAS meetings since 2014, holds MS from U of CO, Boulder. Grant writer, informal educator, bee researcher.

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

**Secretary: Deb Robinson:** SPAS board since 2013; Volunteer for Kids' Birding Camp; project founder and current advisor for the award-winning Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom; Acting SPAS secretary since Oct. 2014.

#### New Board Members

**Loiuse Eidsmoe:** SPAS member for over ten years. Serves on Condo Assn Board and Board for Lake Atitlan Libraries. Retired grant writer for Wilder Foundation.

**Hannah Lagoon:** New member of SPAS, with a passion for pollinators! Has interned as DNR bee researcher.

**Colleen Swedberg:** SPAS member for several years. World traveler. Parks & Rec. Commissioner, volunteers weekly to feed homeless in Mahtomedi.

Open Board Position:

*At the May Annual Meeting we will call for nominations from the floor for the open board position.*

**Continuing Board Members:** Linda Goodspeed, Barbara Lindeke, Tom McCarthy, and Laurel Stiebler.

**Retiring Board and Officers:** When you see them please thank them for their valued volunteerism! Secretary, **Mary Beth Smith**; Board Member, **Craig Andresen**. Thank you also to **Mark Bearss** for his many years as the SPAS Programs Chair.

### 2015-2016 PROPOSED Budget

*Approved by Board, March 3, 2015*

#### INCOME

Christmas/Butterfly Counts .....	\$100
Education & Program Committees .....	\$525
Field Trips & Warbler Weekend.....	\$14,000
Total Committee Income.....	\$14,625
Donations.....	\$500
Fund Drive.....	\$8,500
Total Donations Income.....	\$9,000
Dues from National Audubon .....	\$6,500
Local Dues .....	\$300
Total Dues Income.....	\$6,800
Grants/Div's. from Endowment Fund .....	\$2,000
Interest & Dividend Income .....	\$45
Total Grants/Dividends Income.....	\$2,045
Total 2010-2011 Income .....	\$32,470

#### EXPENSES

Fund drive .....	\$500
Membership Recruitment .....	\$200
Misc & Contingency.....	\$100
Operating Expenses.....	\$100
Telephone & Web Page .....	\$1,050
Insurance.....	\$330
Total Admin. & Oper. Expenses .....	\$2,280
Special Projects.....	\$3,000
Birdathon & Butterfly Count.....	\$250
Conservation Committee.....	\$500
Education Committee .....	\$500
Field Trips and Warbler Weekend.....	\$14,500
Programs.....	\$3,000
Exhibits .....	\$150
Total Programs & Field Trip Expenses.....	\$21,900
Art & Design.....	\$1,100
Labels & Postage.....	\$2,000
Printing.....	\$9,000
Total Newsletter Expenses .....	\$12,100
Audubon .....	\$1,000
Other Orgs.: MEP & MOU .....	\$190
Total Support to Orgs. Expenses.....	\$1,190
Total 2015-2016 Expenses.....	\$37,470

### Are you watching "NATURE 365"?

World-renowned photographer Jim Brandenburg has another series for nature-lovers... Type "Nature 365" into your browser, watch the trailer, and click to be added to the list of us watching these short daily videos... Sublime.

## Spring & Early Summer Field Trips (3 pages...)

### Woodcock Courtship Flights

**April 30, 8-10:00 PM,  
Arden Hills Army Training Site  
(AHATS)**

Deep dusk displays of courting woodcock involve death defying dives. This is a fun 'hunt!' Once a year, Saint Paul Audubon is given special permission to be on the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) to view the Woodcock's dives from heights beyond imagination, as the male woos on-looking females. They are not easy to see as they perform at dawn and dusk. The sound of his wings making a trilling and thrilling vibration will help to pinpoint his landing spot from which he calls plaintively, "Peent peent peent..." Will she answer?! Bring a flashlight with a strong, bright light. The roads can be dusty or muddy, so prepare for conditions. We may be sitting in one spot for a while, so dress warmly.

Arrive a few minutes early to meet and form carpools in the parking lot of the Arden Hills City Hall. AHATS is a locked secure area, so the group will move in and out together. Birders must be 18 years or older. No reg. req'd.

**Arden Hills City Hall parking lot, 8:00 PM sharp**

### Spring Birds & Blooms at

**Nerstrand "Big  
Woods"  
State Park**

**Saturday, May 2,  
8:30 AM at Park**

There is nothing so sublime as a fine spring day at Nerstrand.

Kinglets, Red-headed Woodpeckers and other migrants; Bloodroot,

Ginger. We will seek and enjoy all who appear.

**DIRECTIONS:** Park is SE of Northfield,

1-1/2 hours south of St. Paul. Take I-35 to Ex. #69 for Hwy 19, into Northfield. At junction with Hwy 3, go south to Hwy 246, follow it ESE another ~10 mi., following signs to the Park.

**Fee area: Annual or Daily State Park sticker.** Wear good shoes and bring a hiking staff to help on the bluff trail. You don't want to miss the spring ephemeral bloom display!! Practice using the macro button on your digital camera. Bring your lunch; we usually watch Eastern Bluebirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers while we eat.

**Level Moderate: bluff descent**

**Leader: Chase Davies, ccdavies@aol.com**



### Rush City Woodcock Evening of May 2, 2105

Watch, listen, and learn about peenting woodcock this peaceful, prime migration and breeding area in the St Croix River Valley.

American Woodcock are incredible shorebirds with unique adaptations for seeing, feeding, and courting. Especially when courting, they pay little attention to bird watchers when spiraling high in the twilight during their 'Sky Dance.' We usually have had a choice of several pair to approach for close observation in this easily accessible area. (Of course we must add that there are no guarantees, wild birds being what they are.) We will chat about what makes this place so special for both resident and migrant woodcock populations.

Time: 8-10:00 PM at the site; we will all leave together as headlights may disrupt the show.

#### Special Instructions

Spring ground is commonly damp: wear appropriate boots or shoes and a folding chair or plastic bag to sit on.

Bring a jacket for use as temperatures cool. Optional: a very

strong flashlight, binoculars. There are no facilities at the site. No rain date.

#### Carpooling

Contact Chase Davies with names, phone, and email address by April 26 if you need/want a ride or are willing to give a ride.

#### Driving Directions

Drive time from northern junction of 35 W and 35 E to the site is 40 minutes at the posted speed limits.

Drive north on I-35 to Exit 159, for Rush City. Turn right onto 4TH Street / MN 361. Travel through Rush City to the stop sign and turn left (north) onto Bremer/HWY 61/Forest Blvd after a couple bends. Travel 2.25 mi., pass granaries, Rush City Regional Airport, a correction facility, a 2-story yellow farm house. Turn right (east) onto 530TH street/County 56. Go 3 miles: after 1.5 miles the road becomes good firm gravel, one mile farther you will cross a cement bridge. Your destination is a half mile farther, with roadside parking. 40 miles and 40 minutes from Jct of 35E and 35W.

*See next page for Warbler Weekend.  
Registration ends April 8th...*

### Old Cedar Avenue Bridge

**Saturday May 16, 7 – 11:30**

One of the very best birding locales in the state; close to St. Paul! We'll check the Bass Ponds and Long Meadow Lake, (waterfowl, waders...) The Minnesota 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 I-494, near Int'l Airport/MOA, take 24th Ave exit, go south. 24th becomes Old Shakopee Rd, and soon veers to west. Go past Hwy 77/Cedar Ave, turn left or South onto Old Cedar Ave, which deadends into parking lot for Bridge and trails complex. Meet 7:00 AM, Sears, or 7:30 AM at the Bridge.

**Leader: Paul Spreitzer,  
paul.spreitzer@gmail.com**



## Early Birding

### Tuesday AM's, May & June!

Walk from 7:00 – 9:00 AM. Meet at site. Maps on website.  
Contact leader for questions. Please join us!

#### May 5

**Crosby Lake Regional Park** on Mississippi River, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul. Meet at parking lot.

**Leaders:** Lynda White, birds@moosewoods.us;  
Chase Davies, ccdavies@aol.com

#### May 12

**Murphy-Hanrehan Reg'l Park**, Prior Lake.  
2-hour birdwalk with optional extension.

Carpool from Sears: 6:10AM or meet at park at 7:00.  
**Leader:** Bill Stjern, norskestar@comcast.net

#### May 19

**Reservoir Woods**, Roseville. Very popular!  
(Parking is on north side of Larpenteur Ave. between Dale and Rice. Park closely, it's small and well-used).

**Leaders:** Ellen Lowery, ellen.lowery@gmail.com;  
Clay Christensen, clay.christensen@comcast.net

#### May 26

**Afton State Park**, 6959 Peller Ave S, Hastings, MN 55033. Meet at Park. I-94 to Hwy 95 south, to Hwy 22 east to park entrance. Fee Area.

**Leaders:** Bill Stjern, norskestar@comcast.net  
Chase Davies, ccdavies@aol.com

#### June 2

**Wargo Nature Center**; Celebrate Anoka County's "Year of the Bird." 7701 Main St, Hugo, MN 55038.

**Leader:** Holly Peirson, hpbirdscouter@msn.com

#### June 2

**Long Lake Reg Park**: Let's see how birds have changed behavior since the park has been environmentally cleaned by our own Craig Andresen! 1500 Old Hwy 8, New Brighton, MN 55112

**Leader:** Chase Davies, ccdavies@aol.com

#### June 9

**Benson Prairie**: Recreating a prairie for wildlife, including birds. From White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. drive No. on Hwy 61, turn left (west) on Cty Rd J, then immediately left (south) 1/2 mi. to Otter Lake/Bald Eagle Lake Park. Mowed trails.

**Leaders:** Ellen Lowery, ellen.lowery@gmail.com  
Clay Christensen, clay.christensen@comcast.net

More field trips,  
next page



### Spring Warbler Weekend

**May 8 - 10, 2015** (Reservation deadline is April 8TH)  
(For a more informative announcement, see the February March Cardinal)

During spring migration one of the best places to be looking for birds is along the north-south Mississippi and St. Croix River Flyways. Our annual Warbler Weekend is held on Lake Pepin near Frontenac, right on the flyway! Our annual weekends over the last 30-40 years have averaged 130-135 species, including 21-24 species of warblers. The Chapter's Field Trip leaders offer bird walks for all levels of birders.

Our retreat's location accepts registrations up to 30 days in advance and does not make refunds for cancellations received after April 8TH. Last year the weekend was over-subscribed, so please try to register early. To guarantee sufficient food, we use meal tickets. There is a \$10 commuter charge for those attending the evening lectures or coming to the meals who are not staying in the Villa overnight. If you would like confirmation of your registration,

include an email, phone, or enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. Camping is available at Frontenac State Park. Dinner is on your own on Friday (many restaurants in Red Wing and Lake City).

Thank you for your registration and we look forward to seeing you and to the repeat of many a wonderful spring Warbler Weekend!

#### Warbler Weekend Registration Form

Quantity	Options	Amount
___ Full Wknd - Adult	sgl \$190 shr \$160	\$ _____
___ Fri night+3 meals	sgl \$110 shr \$95	\$ _____
___ Sat night +4 meals	sgl \$120 shr \$105	\$ _____
___ Child 6-11 (sharing with adult)/night		\$60 \$ _____
___ Child 12-17 (sharing with adult)/night		\$60 \$ _____
___ Commuter (not staying overnight)		\$10 \$ _____
___ Saturday Breakfast	8:00 AM	\$10 \$ _____
___ Saturday Lunch	Noon	\$10 \$ _____
___ Saturday Dinner	6:00 PM	\$15 \$ _____
___ Sunday Brunch	10:00 AM	\$15 \$ _____

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

**Total** (check payable to Saint Paul Audubon) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day ph \_\_\_\_\_ Eve ph \_\_\_\_\_

Names of People attending \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your checks to **Saint Paul Audubon Society** c/o Deb Bachrach, 1163 Edgumbe Rd, St. Paul, MN 55105. **No refunds after April 8.** For more information please call 651-690-4130 or send an email to deb.bachrach@yahoo.com

## Maplewood Nature Center

**Saturday, May 16, 2015, 8-10:00 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.

**Leaders:** Karen Cramer, [kaycee765@comcast.net](mailto:kaycee765@comcast.net), and Ellen Lowery, [ellen.lowery@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.lowery@gmail.com)

## Woodland Birds at Lebanon

**Saturday, May 23, 7:30 AM to Noon**

Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a terrific place to look for migrant and resident songbirds! Join us for a morning of birding in this beautiful 100-acre park in Eagan. We'll hike woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails (*somewhat strenuous at times*). Carpool from Sears in St. Paul, meet at the Holland Lake entrance, intersection of Lexington and Cliff Road.

**Carpool 7:00 AM, Sears SW corner or 7:30 AM at the Park.**

**Leader:** Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309



**Spring is coming, let's talk about plants!**

**Saturday, June 6, 9:00am - 3:00pm**

Sale Location: Cub Foods Community Pavilion, 1201 Larpenteur Ave. W. Larpenteur & Fernwood, Roseville.

Landscape Revival Native Plant Expo and Market is the spot to shop for native plants from 12 native growers in one convenient location. Area conservation organizations will also be on hand to teach gardeners why natives are important and how to create stunning landscapes that benefit wildlife, pollinators and clean water. Choose native plant species that are well adapted to our conditions to build spectacular gardens that are in harmony with nature!

Learn more at <http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events/2015/06/native-plant-expo-and-market>

## Hanging out at the Fish Market: A Galapagos Tale

In the Galapagos Islands, you don't go out of your way to see a sea lion. On many islands, they're everywhere: on the beaches, at the pier, even sleeping on park benches. But I didn't know that yet, and I heard that one was hanging around the local fish market. I wanted to see him.

This was our first day in the Galapagos, last November. After flying 600 miles due west of Ecuador, we'd landed on San Cristobal Island and were spending a few hours in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital city of Galapagos province, while we waited for our Road Scholar touring ship to arrive.

The fish market was a surprise in itself. It was nothing more than a single table near small fishing boats docked on the ocean side of a street lined with tourist shops. There a vendor was chopping up a huge fish, the last of the day's catch. She sold the chunks quickly and prepared to scrub down the counter. Sure enough, the sea lion was there, as were half a dozen brown pelicans, plump ones intent on getting fishy scraps or a bit of slime. Our group leader had instructed us to stay at least three feet from any animal, including birds, and – heaven forbid – not to feed any wildlife. But this vendor *straddled* the sprawling sea lion as she scrubbed the counter top. The job comes first, she seemed to say. One pelican, perched level with my hips and inches from my body, was so still I was tempted to reach down and grab him like a chicken. I took photos instead!



This was the first moment I realized the value of being in a place where the animals do not fear (or perhaps never have feared) humans. It's widely believed that the reason lies in the remoteness of the islands – volcanic outcrops nearly 600 miles west of Ecuador. Thousands of years ago, when the islands became habitable, animal and insect species from the mainland swam, flew, or were carried there, some probably on natural vegetative rafts propelled by ocean currents. The scarcity of predators allowed the new inhabitants to evolve into the species that fascinated Charles Darwin in 1835 and later fed his theory of evolution.

Not that life on the Galapagos was always easy for some species, notably the Galapagos tortoise. By 1700, pirates were landing on the islands (they had been "discovered" in 1535) and using them as a base for their raids. They, and later, whalers, packed the superabundant tortoises into the holds of their ships, where they provided live meat that could survive for months without food or water. During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century alone, as many as 200,000 tortoises may have been taken, causing their extermination on some islands.

Animals brought by the Europeans also took their toll. Goats, pigs, donkeys and cattle attacked vegetation that native species needed for survival. And some animals feasted on the small birds and the eggs of various species. Despite efforts to exterminate these invaders, they still prey on endemic species on some of the islands.

But despite all this, most species remain unafraid of humans and even seem oblivious to their presence. Unafraid animals mean that amateur photographers can make do without a giant zoom lens. But much more important, this lack of fear enables the tourists to watch animals go about their daily business as if the human weren't there. We saw scores of sea lions, as relaxed as napping house cats, while they nursed their young. From a dinghy, we saw a lone sea lion on a sandy spit of land who struggled to give birth while two Galapagos hawks perched nearby. (We



returned later to see the new mom snuggling her pup.) I watched a yellow warbler on the ground three feet from me, probe a newly vacated turtle nest for bits of tasty food. And I delightedly photographed a frigatebird, red pouch not inflated, who rested three feet away on the side of our ship, seemingly oblivious to the crowd that had gathered.



The Galapagos Islands are truly a living laboratory, for scientists, nature lovers and humble birdwatchers like me. If you have a chance to visit, grab it for a truly rewarding experience.

Article and Photographs by St Paul Audubon Member and Mailing Coordinator Susan Fuller

## You're Invited!

### Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom Dedication, May 20 at 11:30 AM, at Como Park

The community-driven Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom (CWOC) project, has been a Saint Paul Audubon Society (SPAS) supported project since 2006.

On May 20th, supporters, students, and community members will gather outdoors for the dedication, on the south side of the Como Woodland between the Kilmer Memorial Fireplace and the Como Park Pool. *(In case of rain, the ceremony will be held just across the street north of CWOC, on the corner of Midway Parkway and Horton Avenue in the Como Picnic Shelter.)*

Tim Chase, Murray Middle School teacher and Environmental Educator of the Year (2014), will be the keynote speaker. After the ceremony students will plant a tree near the Kilmer Fireplace and take part in a habitat restoration activity in the woodland (likely a garlic mustard pull - supporters are welcome to help, so bring your garden gloves if you can stay and lend a hand).

A weekday was chosen so Great River School (GRS) students would be able to attend. GRS adopted CWOC as their "School Forest" several years ago, and they have spent many service learning hours and class hours in the Como Woodland. Indeed, the CWOC project has benefitted from the GRS's support right from the beginning. Other area schools, such as Como Park Sr. High,



Crossroads Elementary and Murray Middle Schools, are among those that frequent the Como Woodland.

In October and November 2014, SPAS funded a series of arts/science workshops for an elective class of Great River School students. Volunteers Susan Jane Cheney, Chase Davies, Teri Heyer, Barb Lindeke, and Deb Robinson helped the students with the bird habitat portion of the workshops, while scientific illustrator and artist Vera Ming Wong lead the artist's portion.

The students learned about birds and bird habitat, sketched habitat drawings in the field, did bird cutouts in the classroom, and then an educational poster was constructed from the students' art and research. Student artist Annika Quinn's Red-bellied woodpecker cutout art was chosen to be the new logo for the Como Woodland: (they can be seen and heard in the woodland during all seasons). The posters will be available to area schools with the hope of getting more students out to CWOC to learn about birds and habitat found in urban woodlands. But why stop there? Many other educational subjects could benefit mightily if offered in an outdoor setting.

Come to Como Park on May 20 to celebrate and dedicate the outdoor classroom that would not have become a reality without community support and volunteer effort.

More information on CWOC's background and its location at:

[www.comowoodland.org](http://www.comowoodland.org)

Article and Photo by SPAS and CWOC Member Deb Robinson; Logo by Annika Quinn



"GRS bird workshop": SPAS volunteers and Great River School students birding during SPAS-sponsored workshop in Como Woodland.

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**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

## April – May 2015

Next Deadline 5/5/2015

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!*

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**CALENDAR**

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### April

Board Meeting..... 6  
Member Meeting: Feather Close-ups..... 9  
FIELD TRIP: Woodcock..... eve of 30

### May

FIELD TRIP: Nerstrand St Park..... 2  
FIELD TRIP: Woodcock..... eve of 2  
**Board Meeting**..... 4  
TUES: Crosby Lake Reg. Park..... 5  
Warbler Weekend ..... 8-10  
TUES: Murphy-Hanrehan ..... 12  
**Member Meeting: Biomass Harvest** ..... 14  
FIELD TRIP: Old Cedar Avenue..... 16  
FIELD TRIP: Maplewood Ntr. Center..... 16  
TUES: Roseville Reservoir Woods ..... 19  
Como Classroom Dedication ..... 20  
FIELD TRIP: Lebanon Hills ..... 23  
TUES: Afton St Park ..... 26  
TUES: Long Lake Reg Park ..... June 2  
Landscape Revival Plant Sale..... June 6

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

**Time Dated Material  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Online & Paperless!!

SPAS is on Facebook! Please 'Like'  
us at: [www.facebook.com/saint-paul-audubon](http://www.facebook.com/saint-paul-audubon)

Have you signed up to 'Go Local?'  
See the local sponsorship box at  
right.

Have you signed up for paperless  
renewal for National Audubon, and  
SPAS? Go to: [www.saintpaul-audubon.org](http://www.saintpaul-audubon.org) and look for the GO GREEN  
button.

### St. Paul Audubon Society Local Sponsorship

Yes! I want to be a sponsor of my local chapter, Saint Paul Audubon, by donating \$15, for which I will receive *The Cardinal* newsletter and other online news. Please fill in the personal information, make a check for \$15 out to Saint Paul Audubon Society, and send it to the address below. *Thank You Very Much!*

I'm a NEW member! Please send my Welcome Packet right away!

I currently receive National's *Audubon* Magazine.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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