

The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2010 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

NATURE NOTES

Notes from our members about happenings in nature...

JULY 8, 2010 – I was privileged to see the wood ducklings leave their nesting box this morning – it was 32 days from the time I was aware there were eggs in the box; I had been out of town... After I saw them jump out, I ran to follow them down to our pond, but couldn't see tails nor feathers of them. My grandchildren and I had cleared a path for them so I followed that path. I stood on-shore searching the lake but saw nothing. After about ten minutes I heard the hen calling and saw her in the middle of the pond, but no ducklings. She swam around, calling and calling. I really started to worry that the ducklings had somehow gotten lost. But after what seemed like a long time, from the shore right in front of me, a little flotilla swam out to her. I finally was able to count them and there were seven. When I went back to the box, there was one egg that didn't hatch. I am so elated and grateful to have had this experience.

SPAS MEMBER LINDA KELLAR



Planes and Cranes – A Story of Hope for the Endangered Whooping Crane

with John Christian
Assistant Regional Director for Migratory Birds, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

September 9, 2010

The decades-long effort to reintroduce a second population of Whooping Cranes, this one in the eastern United States, is becoming one of conservation's success stories. John Christian, who works for the Service at the regional office at Fort Snelling, has an insider's view of the broad partnership of groups working on the reintroduction. John works closely with Operation Migration, the outfit that leads young whooping cranes via ultralight aircraft on their first migration to Florida.

In fact, John may even don the crane costume required of all those who work with the young birds to prevent their becoming imprinted on humans. He plans to tell about the dedicated people who faced amazing challenges to create a second migratory flock of cranes. The project has been described as "the wildlife equivalent of putting a man on the moon," but challenges remain.

Relevant Websites:

www.bringbackthecranes.org

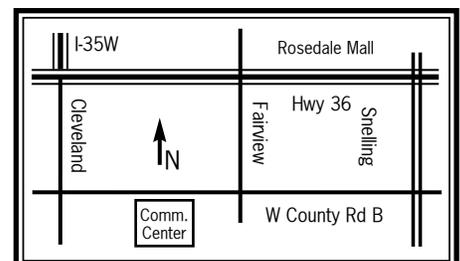
www.operationmigration.org

www.savingcranes.org

SPAS' E-Alert!

If you have email, sign up today for our online notification system! You'll receive announcements about upcoming events, information about current legislative happenings, and other Saint Paul Audubon happenings between issues of *The Cardinal*. When you change your email address, notify list manager Chase Davies of your new address, at ccdavies@aol.com. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Our meetings begin at 6:45 with social time, 7:00 PM for the program, at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, in Roseville. Free and open to the public. Free parking available. *Bring a friend!*



CHAPTER INFORMATION

Audubon Minnesota's Second Annual Chimney Swift Sit

This year, 300 volunteers throughout the state are needed to participate in Audubon Minnesota's *Second Annual Chimney Swift Sit* for an hour, August 6-9 or August 27-30.

Chimney Swift populations have declined 49 percent over the past 40 years. This species is important to the environment, as each day Chimney Swifts consume one-third of their weight in flying insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, making them a natural insect control. The data that volunteers collect will help us better understand the distribution of Chimney Swifts in Minnesota.

Here's how the Sit works: Participants "sit" for about an hour any evening from August 6-9 and/or August 27-30. They count chimney swifts as they enter a nighttime roosting place and record the data on their Sit participation form. Volunteers can count on one night or on several nights during the designated period.

For more information about the Sit and to download a participation form, go to <http://mn.audubon.org/events/714>.

If you cannot participate in the Sit but know of places where Chimney Swifts roost, please contact Ron Windingstad at rwindingstad@audubon.org.

In addition to the Sit, Audubon Minnesota is promoting Chimney Swift conservation efforts by educating chimney owners about the habitat needs of Chimney Swifts and facilitating the building of new structures specifically for use by these birds as nest and roost sites. The Chimney Swift was just declared an endangered species in Canada this year and we hope our efforts through research and education will help halt the decline here in Minnesota.

For more information about Chimney Swift conservation, visit the events page at <http://mn.audubon.org>



Audubon Applause

Every summer our chapter does a Butterfly Census. **Dorothy Waltz** coordinates this for our chapter: she gathers participant info at meetings and through email, sends out packets with where and when to meet, plus a list of what butterflies and birds we might see, and where to get some great butterfly nets. She also contacts our 'resident' lepidopterist, **Dean Hansen**. After the census, she gathers all the data, then sends the list to the *North American Butterfly Association*, and sends the compiled list out to all who participated. Whew, another great volunteer effort accomplished. Thank you, **Dorothy and Dean!**

All summer long, Programs Chair **Mark Bearss** and Field Trips Chair **Chase Davies** have been working hard to bring us the next years' happenings. More to come in future *Cardinals!* *We appreciate every volunteer.*

BOARD MEETINGS

Saint Paul Audubon's Board Meetings are held at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit 35-E at Little Canada Rd., go east to Noel, across from City Hall.

For more information or regrets, please contact president Bruce Bevis at bruce.bevis@thomsonreuters.com The upcoming meetings schedule can be found on the SPAS website, at www.saintpaulaudubon.org, click on Calendar.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON

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(Outgoing Message Only — take down numbers given to call for info)

Audubon Minn. 651-739-9332
www.mn.audubon.org

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with around 12 members, Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities area, and has around 2,400 members. We hold 9 Member Meetings a year. Feel free to contact anyone listed at left for more information, or write to Saint Paul Audubon Society at PO Box 7275, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107 or visit our website at www.saintpaulaudubon.org

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Cardinal is published 6 times a year. Articles are due on the 5th of January, March, May, July, Sept, and Nov. Submissions are subject to editing. Send copy to hpbirdscouter@msn.com

LOCAL SUPPORT

If you are an Audubon member and don't live in the Saint Paul area, but would like to receive *The Cardinal*, please send \$15 for a 1 year subscription to John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please call 1-800-274-4201 to change your address for National Audubon Society mailings, including *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*, or to sign up for Audubon's paper-free renewal program.

National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

CONSERVATION

Tar Sands Symposium: Minnesota's Dirty Oil

Wednesday, September 22ND
6:30 PM

U. of St Thomas
O'Shaughnessy Auditorium
St. Paul

For building and parking directions go to <http://webapp.stthomas.edu/CampusMaps>. Reception with info tables from 6:30-7:00 PM.

Presentaters are:

Simon Dyer, Oil Sands Program Director, Pembina Institute, Calgary. Co-author of *'Death by a Thousand Cuts: Impacts of In-situ Oil Sands Development on Alberta's Boreal Forest'* and *'Haste Makes Waste: The Need for a New Oil Sands Tenure Regime.'*

Clayton Thomas-Muller, Mathais Colomb Cree Nation, Manitoba. Activist for indigenous rights and environmental justice.

Defends against sprawling infrastructure including pipelines, refineries and extraction.

Michael Noble, Executive Director of Fresh Energy, Minnesota. How Minnesota's fuel consumption supports this destructive energy source.

SPAS is co-sponsoring this event along with nine other local and national enviro organizations. For more info, please contact Susan Solterman Audette at 651-260-7040, or ssolterman@gmail.com

Birders: Volunteer at the State Fair!

August 26 - September 6

Two volunteers are needed for each of three 4-hr shifts for the 10 days of the fair. The shifts are (9:00-1:00, 1:00-5:00 and 5:00-9:00. The 9:00 AM team will set up and the 5:00 PM team will store materials in the DNR building. Birding experts are not necessary, but some knowledge is a good thing! Free tickets to enjoy your Fair "stick food" fix included.

To volunteer, contact either Jen Vieth or Thomas Maiello:

jennifer@carpenternaturecenter.org
thomas@angelem.com

Tar Sands = Dirty Oil

BY SUSAN SOLTERMAN AUDETTE

With the bird and marine life losses from the recent Gulf Coast oil spill, we've all learned that deep water off-shore drilling is a high-risk venture for big oil companies. What many of us don't know is that the oil we use in Minnesota comes from an equally destructive and disturbing source—the Alberta Tar Sands. Our fossil-fuel needs make the cost of oil and coal consumption high regardless of the source.

As consumers and advocates for birds, each of us has a personal responsibility to know the true cost of our energy sources. Tar sands oil is located beneath 35 million acres of Boreal forest in Alberta, Canada.

Since the mid-1990s, steady development and destruction of the forest have made Alberta the United States' number one supplier of oil. Extraction of the bitumen sand that contains the oil under the forest requires that four tons of earth be moved and two to five barrels of water be used to steam, extract and move each barrel of oil excavated. In addition, this type of oil extraction replaces a carbon sink — the Boreal forest — with a high-carbon emission process, a problem that prompted Canada to decline Kyoto treaty goals

for carbon emission reductions.

About half of all birds that migrate through the US nest in Boreal forests. The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that deforestation from tar sands development may result in 166 million birds lost in the next 50 years. There was a blatant example of the devastating impact of Tar Sands mining in the Spring of 2008 when 1,600 ducks died in poisonous ponds while en route to nesting grounds. Tailing ponds, waste dams filled with sand and crud, displace more than 50 square miles and appear as an appealing water source to migratory birds.

Energy companies that build pipelines have been quick to get permits for building more and more new pipelines, creating infrastructure that fragments forest and wetlands and jeopardizes wildlife and bird habitat. Last April, 210 gallons of oil leaked from an Enbridge pipeline into wetland on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation here in Minnesota. (The spill was discovered only after a wildfire started!)

The rapid loss of Boreal forests, dirty tailing ponds, impacts on water quality and consumption, pipeline leakage, and the carbon intensity of tar sands oil provide ample evidence that Minnesota must demand less toxic, more sustainable energy sources for its transportation needs.

Opportunities to Watch Bird Banders at Work

Carpenter Nature Center, SE Washington Co., 4TH Fridays, 8 - noon. For info and directions, call 651-437-4359.

Lowry Nature Center, Carver Park Reserve, NC Carver Co., on 3RD Saturdays, 8 - Noon in summer, 9 - Noon in Winter. Free to public.

Ritter Farm Park, Lakeville, also has banding dates; check with the city Parks and Rec. Dept.

Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, Anoka Co.; for dates and times to www.springbrooknaturecenter.org

You may watch and may also be allowed to release birds. Dress for the weather!

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275
WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG
August September 2010
August September Deadline 9/5/2010

Welcome... To the Saint Paul Audubon Society. We're a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our Mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity.

CALENDAR

AUGUST
Chimney Swift Sits6-9, 27-30
State Fair26-Sept 6
SEPTEMBER
Board Meetingchk website
Member Meeting: Whooping Cranes9
Symposium: Tar Sands Oil22

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 3795
St. Paul, Minnesota

Time Dated Material
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

North Shore Migration Watchers Needed...

A Story of Turbines, Towers, and Birds...

The North Shore of Lake Superior is one of the premier migration routes for raptors and passerines in all of North America. Fall migration numbers are estimated in the 100,000's to millions, indicating a massive bird movement that has been previously underestimated. Given today's energy needs, many alternative forms of energy are being researched.

Volunteers are currently needed to count daytime migration, to record dawn and dusk flights, and stopovers.

For more information about this project or to become involved in the conservation of the North Shore corridor, please visit the website at www.hawkridge.org or send an email to Anna Peterson at apeterson@hawkridge.org

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
Address
City State Zip

Please sign gift card:
Mail to: Saint Paul Audubon, c/o John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119

National Audubon Society Membership C9ZM030Z

Yes! I will become a new member or give a new gift membership in the National Audubon Society. I will receive Audubon Magazine and Saint Paul Audubon's The Cardinal newsletter. Please fill in the form, make a check for \$20 out to National Audubon Society, and send it to the address below. Thank You Very Much!

Name
Address
City State Zip

Please sign gift card:
Mail to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250
(Write on envelope: "Attention: New Membership — please process immediately")