

The



Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2011 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Audubon Minnesota's Third Annual Chimney Swift Sit

Volunteers are needed to participate in Audubon Minnesota's Third Annual Chimney Swift Sit for an hour on any day during July 29-August 1, or August 26-29.

Chimney Swift populations have declined 54% 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 migrating Chimney Swifts in Minnesota.

Here's how the Sit works: Participants "sit" near a chimney they know or suspect has swifts, for about an hour any day between July 29-August 1, or August 26-29. They count/estimate the number of chimney swifts entering a roosting site, and record the data. Volunteers can count on one night or on several nights during the designated period. For more info and to download a participation form, go to <http://mn.audubon.org>. If you cannot participate in the Sit but know of places where Chimney Swifts are roosting, please contact Ron Windingstad at 651-739-9332 ext 14 or 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 Nova Scotia this past year and we hope our efforts through research and education will help halt the decline here in Minnesota.



SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

Rhino and Zebra Conservation in Namibia

With **Tara Harris**, director of Conservation for the Minnesota Zoo

September 8, 2011

Namibia's critically endangered black rhino and the vulnerable Hartmann's mountain zebra are the focus of two important conservation projects supported by the Minnesota Zoo. Zoo staffers are working in the



southwestern African nation to assist with efforts to turn around declines in these two species' populations.

Tara Harris, who holds a doctorate in biological anthropology, will discuss how the black market demand for rhino horn has led to a catastrophic decline. And, with only about 9,000 mountain zebras remaining, efforts are underway to create a sustainable population.

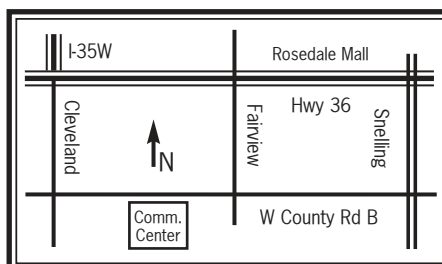
With a long history in Namibia, the Minnesota Zoo seeks to broaden its contribution to global conservation efforts. In Namibia zoo staff are joining forces with local

communities, local and international conservation organizations, and the Namibian government to support conservation efforts for these two iconic species.

Relevant web site:

www.mnzoo.org/conservation/conservation_world.asp

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

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. Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month unless otherwise noted, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Upcoming dates are: **September 12, October 3.** For more information or regrets, contact president Louis Asher at lbashernow@iphouse.com

Sign-Up to Go Paperless!

Go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org

In the left-side margin look for a button that says "Go Green. Want to save paper? Sign-up for the electronic *Cardinal* newsletter."

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Audubon Minnesota	651-739-9332
	www.mn.audubon.org
Nat'l Audubon Soc.	www.audubon.org

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with 12 members, the Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities area, and has around 2,600 members. We hold 9 Member Meetings a year. Feel free to contact those listed at left for more info, or write to SPASociety 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 may be edited. Send to hpbirdscouter@msn.com

THE CARDINAL Electronic Version Members may now receive the newsletter by download from the website. To sign up, contact Webmaster **Ben Wilson** online.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Audubon members who don't live in the East Metro Area who want to receive *The Cardinal* may send \$15 for a 1 year's subscription to **John O'Connell**, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, Saint 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.

A Note from our new Chapter President

I have been a member of Audubon for over 25 years. I knew that our chapter has a large number of dedicated volunteers, but I was not aware of the extent and breadth of their commitment and involvement. I have been on a steep learning curve and they have been my mentors and teachers. I consider it my job and pleasure to acknowledge these wonderful people and I will do so in various ways in the course of the coming year.

At the 2009 Minnesota Audubon fall conference, Senator Franken humorously said that he calls us "the bird people." He is right in many ways, and I do enjoy the outdoors and birding; but I am not

a birding expert by any means. In fact, the majority of our 2,600 chapter members (an impressive number, I might add) are probably more knowledgeable about birds than I will ever be. That is fine by me because Audubon is about much more than birding. As was stated in the December/January issue of *The Cardinal*, our mission "is to keep common birds common, and to protect species that are in decline." Habitat protection and the promotion of renewable energy, to name two issues, are therefore also part of our focus. There is a place and a need in Audubon for many different skills and talents.

I personally bring several talents to the table; 39 years of research and statistical experience, knowledge on renewable energy and a strong sense

of humor. You will definitely see the last talent in action! I also invite each of you to share your talents in our wonderful chapter by volunteering in areas of interest to you.

Regards, Louis B. Asher

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.

Calling all Communicators

Here's your chance to put your communication skills to use! Saint Paul Audubon needs someone (or two someones) to help publicize our chapter's monthly meetings. What's required is a short write-up of upcoming meetings to share with *The Cardinal* and with local media. The time commitment is minimal for this very important task, and all communications are sent via the Internet. Please contact chapter president Louis Asher at lbashernow@iphouse.com to indicate your interest. We need someone in place by the end of October.

AUDUBON APPLAUSE



Here are 3 people who were essential to the success of the Landscape Revival - Native Plant Expo & Market in Roseville on June 4TH: (l to r) **Kim Gordon, Sharon Shinomiya, and Val Cunningham.**

Thank you, Kim, for your contributions of graphics for our logo, poster, banners, and lawn signs. Your work gave a professional image to the event.

Sharon, your advertising efforts were incredible. The Friend's Sale ad placement in the catalog was great.

And Val, your inspiration and leadership of the Expo made it much more than just a plant sale.

KAREN ECKMAN



THANKS • FIELD TRIPS

Monthly Morning Walks

Wednesday's, August 10 & Sept. 14, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

Rachel C. Lilly Preserve

Join us for a midsummer or end-of-summer walk to see what is happening on property special enough to be put into conservation easement with the MN DNR. Visiting a special place repeatedly is often recommended, for with the familiarity of a special place one develops interest, love, and care for its many seasonal and annual faces. You may learn ways to explore your own special places.

DIRECTIONS: Located on Hwy 110 between Dodd Road and Delaware Avenue in Mendota Heights. Parking is available at Mendota Heights United Church of Christ, 680 MN Hwy 110, 55118, on the south side. Park near the red barn. Children 8 and older with adults are welcome.

For information about the preserve: www.co.dakota.mn.us/CountyGovernment/Projects/FarmlandNaturalArea

For a trail map of the area: www.dodgenaturecenter.org/attachments/Lilly_map.pdf

Dress for the weather and be prepared for bugs. There might be brief off-trail excursions depending on what is happening in the natural world.

Difficulty Easy

Leader Linda Whyte, 651-690-4838, birds@moosewoods.us

Evening at Tamarack

Tuesday, August 23, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Come to explore the happenings of a mid-summer evening at Tamarack Nature Center. Diverse habitats give many choices of where to look and listen for life in this suburban area. Since there is no telling just what we might find, consider bringing binoculars, a 10x loupe, and/or camera. The walking is easy, mainly on woodchip-covered trails.

Difficulty Easy

Leaders Chase Davies, 651-633-1663, ccdavies@aol.com

Ellen Lowery, 651-429-8624, ellen.lowery@gmail.com

Birds and More at Maplewood N.C.

Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 - 9:00 AM

Come to explore an urban woodland on an autumn morning at Maplewood Nature Center. We will look and listen for birds and other life in this area that surrounds a small, shallow lake. Migrants may include some of what Roger Tory Peterson called 'Confusing Fall Warblers.'

Since there is no telling just what we might find, consider bringing binoculars, 10x loupe, and/or camera. The walking is easy, mainly on woodchip-covered trails.

Difficulty Easy

Leader Chase Davies, 651-633-1663, ccdavies@aol.com

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

August September 2011

October November Deadline 9/5/2011

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.

AUGUST

Chimney Swift Sit Jul 29-Aug 1
 Field Trip: Dodge NC 10
 Field Trip: Tamarack NC 23
 Chimney Swift Sit 26-29

SEPTEMBER

Member Mtg: Namibian Conservation . . . 8
 Board Meeting 12
 Field Trip: Dodge NC 14
 Field Trip: Maplewood NC 20

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Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Danger

In the arctic tundra of eastern

Russia, a sparrow-sized shorebird is facing extinction — and a few scientists are doing all they can to save it. In recent years the Spoon-billed Sandpiper's population has dropped a staggering 25% per year. Fewer than 200 pairs now remain. Shorebird experts from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and Birds Russia are enacting an emergency plan to begin a captive breeding program.

The Spoon-billed Sandpiper is likely the most critically endangered bird species in the world. It breeds on remote coastal tundra and migrates to through key staging sites in Kamchatka, Korea, and Japan. It winters across South China, Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

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")