

The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2015 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

The Science and Compassion of Wildlife Medicine

with **Phil Jenni**, Executive Director, Wildlife
Rehabilitation Center
September 10, 2015, 7:00 PM

Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Executive Director, Phil Jenni, will talk about the work of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center (WRC), one of the nation's leading veterinary clinics for injured and orphaned wildlife. The WRC has treated more than 9,000 wild animals every year, representing more than 185 different species.

In addition, WRC provides professional education to veterinary students from around the world and to other students interested in careers involving wildlife. WRC is also involved in activities that have national and even international significance with regard to protecting both wildlife and human health.

Wildlife medicine is a new phenomenon. Phil Jenni will outline some of the larger cultural trends that provide historical context for this rapidly growing field and how this emerging discipline is connected to other socio-economic patterns.

Finally he will address the issue of "non-native" species and talk about why WRC's overall mission is not only important but socially significant in today's world.

To find out more about the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, please visit:

www.wrcmn.org



Arrive at 6:45 for social time or 7:00 for the Program;
held at Fairview Community Center, 1910 Cty Rd B, Roseville.
Free and open to the public.

Butterflies, Birds, Even a Sphinx Moth!

The weather was beautiful when our 22 dedicated volunteers gathered at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) on June 27TH. Beginning with sunny skies, the morning temperature of 73° gradually rose to 79° with light breezes and partly cloudy skies by 2:00 PM.

Dean Hansen, our expert leader, gathered the group together and described the butterflies we were most likely to see. His knowledge and enthusiasm were invaluable!

Our team counted 28 species, and 229 individual butterflies. This is our highest number of butterflies since 2007, when we counted 480 individual butterflies. This is important information for the Army National Guard, who own the site, for the Minnesota DNR, and for the North American Butterfly Association. (NABA), to whom we submit our data. We hope this data will be useful in protecting AHATS from commercial development.

Did Joan McKernan squeeze in any time to look for butterflies? For the second year in a row, she did a masterful job of tallying the birds at AHATS. She reported seeing or hearing 38 species of birds for the day, including a Chestnut-sided Warbler, two Lark Sparrows, and an Indigo Bunting.

None of us tried to tally all of the Dragonflies and Damselflies flitting around, but Craig Mullenbach spotted and photographed a colorful Nessus Sphinx Moth (*at right*), and Dave Crawford took the photo of the Great Spangled Fritillary (*above*).

All participants have beautiful memories of a great day! Would you like to join us next year? Our count organizers are thinking of changing our date back to the Saturday *after the Fourth of July*. Dean Hansen believes we'll be more likely to see a larger number of species (and more wildflowers) then. Watch for our 2016 announcement!



- Dorothy Waltz, Butterfly Count Coordinator

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: **August 3, September 7.**

President's Message

State Birds

As I begin writing this, it is a beautiful Sunday evening. Officially, it is still spring, but the daytime high was about 80 degrees and I'm surrounded by a cacophony of lawn mowers.

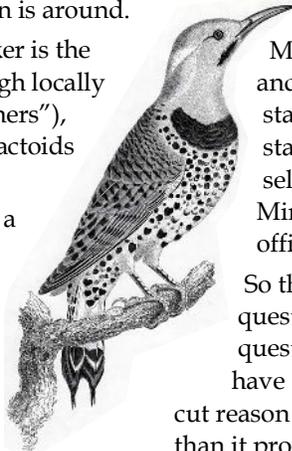
A Northern Flicker just caught my attention as it landed on a dead branch high in an old sugar maple in my front yard. The flicker is one bird I know by its song, if you can call it that. Flickers squawk more than sing, but I suppose that makes it easier for other flickers to know when one of their own is around.

I also know that the flicker is the state bird of Alabama (though locally they're called "yellowhammers"), which is one of those little factoids I have stored away.

When I was a boy, I had a bird book, the *Golden Field Guide* by Herbert S. Zim. For whatever reason, I decided that I needed to know which bird was the official state bird of each of the fifty states.

I soon realized that the small guide book did not have state birds for all states, so I waited until I got a more sophisticated guide to finish my list. Eventually I completed my list, and I still have that book and can access it when I need to identify a bird.

Fast forward to this lovely Sunday evening. Seeing that flicker led me to ask, when did states start naming state birds? Such a question may not reveal earth-shattering epiphanies, but it became my question du jour. It turns out that the state bird dates to 1927, when the legislatures of Alabama, Florida,



Maine, Missouri, Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming named official state birds. Arizona was the last state to name a state bird when it selected the cactus wren in 1973. Minnesota adopted the loon as its official state bird in 1961.

So that was the short answer to my question, but that brings other questions to mind. Why do we have state birds? There is no clear-cut reason for having a state bird other than it promotes a sense of identity and local pride. This answer only partially satisfies me. For Minnesota it makes sense. Loons' calls have beckoned generations of us to the north woods. I suspect the same may be true in Maryland where the Baltimore Oriole is more than just a baseball player, or Hawaii where the Hawaiian Goose is honored. But what about the Northern Cardinal, which is the state bird of seven states, or the three states who've chosen the American Robin for their state bird? While all birds captivate an Auduboner, is there really a mystical quality about such common birds? So the question remains only partly answered.

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

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*.

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But it doesn't matter why we have state birds. The real question is what can we do to insure all birds continue to have livable habitat? What can we do to assure future generations will be able to enjoy not only official state birds but all birds. That's where Audubon plays such an important role. We educate policy makers, we educate school children, and we employ citizen science and support other initiatives all to help assure birds will continue to amuse and amaze us into the future.

Jim Lindner, President

Tips for Better Birding

- At home, read Field Guides, learn ranges and habitat needs. Learn as many songs as you can — that is key to knowing what is there before you use optics.
- Use *Impressions*: Focus on behavior, perching attitude, flight style, and non-changeables like leg length and wing shape rather than plumage.
- Leave the Field Guide in your pocket or your car while out in the field. Take notes instead: Time of day, weather,

Saint Paul Audubon Committees

In the next few issues of *The Cardinal*, we will highlight some of our committee work, for those of our members who may not attend Member Meetings regularly to hear announcements about current plans, happenings, etc. Our first is the very active **Conservation Committee**.

This group has been one of our most active. They wrote the extremely successful pamphlet on *Native Plants*. Thanks to Thomson Reuters, over 25,000 booklets were printed. To date 15,000 have been donated to various groups in the twin cities, as well as to nurseries.



This committee also helped start the **native plant sale** at the Landscape Revival which occurs on the first Saturday in June each year and attracts several thousand people purchasing plants from over 15 vendors.

The committee sponsored a program on the effect of pesticides on bees at Macalester College in 2014 which attracted over 200 people and spread the word about the impact of neonicotinoids on bee populations.

The committee has also sponsored the construction and monitoring of kestrel nests.



Other activities by the Conservation committee include testifying at the MN PCA (Pollution Control Agency) about their Environmental Awareness Worksheet (EAW) on the Canadian Pacific plan to fill wetlands along the Mississippi River.

The committee will resume meetings this fall and is looking for new members to join and learn how to be active on environmental issues in the state and particularly in the East Metro Area. Passionate individuals may propose projects, and initiate them upon approval of a grant by the committee. Watch the SPAS website calendar at www.saintpaulaudubon.org, become an SPAS 'friend' on Facebook, or watch for an *E-Note* regarding the first fall meeting. If you are not on the chapter list to receive E-Notes (sent on an as-needed basis to alert members of happenings, during winter perhaps Member Meeting cancellations due to weather, etc.), please send an email to Chase Davies at ccdavies@aol.com.



Our annual 'past & present' gathering of Board and Officers and family members at our June Picnic at Long Lake Regional Park.

An Evening at Ramsey County's Vadnais Sucker Lake Regional Parks

Thursday, September 10, 6:30-8:30 PM

Come see what birds and other animals are active at dusk. Study flight patterns, listen for evening roost twitter. Last year we found a family of owls as they began to feed their young. Join leader Holly Peirson for a leisurely walk, mostly on accessible pavement. **DIRECTIONS:** Meet in parking lot at northwest entrance of Sucker Lake Park, off Rice Street just south of Hwy 96. No registration or fee necessary.

Leader: Holly Peirson, hpbirdscouter@msn.com



Audubon Applause

We would like to acknowledge and thank

Deb Bachrach for her leadership in organizing *Warbler Weekend* for the past 5 years; **Dean Doering** for managing our Annual Fund Drive, and for writing

thank-you's to all of the donors; **Chase Davies** for another great year of such amazing field trips; and **Val Cunningham** and **Susan Solterman** for their SO capable, knowledgeable leadership of the Conservation Committee for so many years.

what is the bird doing, eating... Is it calling or singing? (*Remember the cadence—do NOT play a song while in the field*). What type of habitat are you in... Is it deciduous, conifer, field, shore, lake? Etc. Etc.

- Use a lower-power binocular (7-8) with a wide field of view.
- If you own a scope, make sure you know how it works.
- Use the "clock" method for telling others where the bird is if it's in a tree; if in open country, find a visual landmark to

describe location. Move slowly through the landscape. Try standing in 1 spot to let the birds get used to your presence.

- Dress for the weather, in layers, with warm, waterproof footwear. Stash raingear, hat and gloves in your birding bag. Wear un-colorful clothing. Always have a water bottle nearby.
- Enjoy the spectacle! Don't worry about ID'ing every species; let some 'get away' for next time!

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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August – September 2015

Next Deadline 9/5/2015

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!*

CALENDAR

August

Board Meeting..... 3

September

Board Meeting..... 7

Member Meeting: WRC..... 10

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

**Time Dated Material
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Nature Short

On a trip to huge Rainy Lake and Voyageurs National Park this past month, we enjoyed close-up looks at a Herring Gull who was begging for food. It called plaintively and came to sit quietly on the water for over an hour, within 15FT of our boat as we ate dinner.

Around dusk, 3 loons went past several times, allowing for close viewing and photos. The 4th loon had babies under its wing and disappeared long before dark. We didn't succumb to the press for a handout. After a short rainfall, we could hear the loons calling long into the night. It's worth any price to get up to the northland to experience that!

– Holly Peirson

**BOOK REPORT****Butterflies: A Complete Guide to Their Biology and Behavior**

Dick Vane-Wright, Cornell Univ. Press © 2015, \$20.



Found this book just the other day. So far it is filled with great information that I didn't know, such as, there is a species of 'large blue' butterfly whose caterpillars chemically tricks ants into taking them into their nest, whereupon they begin to feed on the ant larvae, or, trick ants into feeding them!

This new guide is quite comprehensive, covering species from all over the world. Those who are hooked on butterflies will thoroughly enjoy this book.