

# The Cardinal

FEBRUARY MARCH 2015 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## FEBRUARY MEMBER MEETING

### New Challenges Facing Minnesota's Bats

With **Christi Spak**, Zoologist,  
Minnesota Biological Survey, DNR Ecological  
and Water Resources

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Minnesota is now on the leading edge of *White-nose Syndrome*; a fungal disease that has killed nearly 7 million hibernating bats in the United States and Canada since its discovery in New York in 2007. With bats playing such an integral role in the ecosystem, consuming thousands of insects each night, the effects of this epidemic are likely very far-reaching.

The ecology and biology of Minnesota's bats will be discussed; along with information about this disease that threatens their survival, and, the latest research on cause and effect, with new hope for ways to limit the spread of this deadly disease.

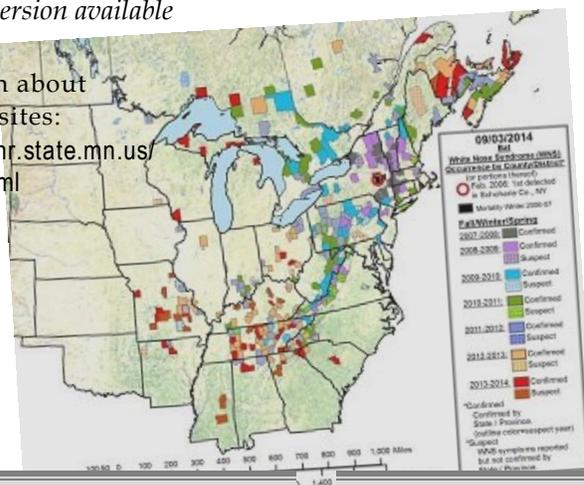


#### For more information on White-Nose Syndrome:

[www.whitenosesyndrome.org](http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org)  
(map shows suspected and confirmed white-nose syndrome sites; color version available on website.)

Information about Minnesota sites:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/wns/index.html>



## MARCH MEMBER MEETING

### Golden Eagles in Minnesota

With **Mark Martell**, Director of Bird  
Conservation, Audubon Minnesota

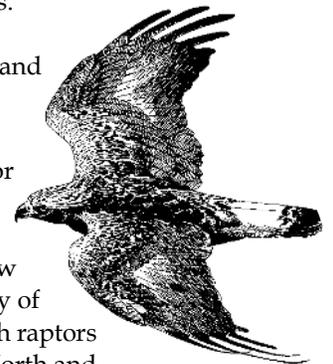
Thursday, March 12, 2015

Golden Eagles are one of the most spectacular birds in the world. They are rare but regular migrants and winter residents in Minnesota and other portions of the eastern United States.

Recently, a small but regular population has been wintering along the Mississippi River. Audubon MN and the National Eagle Center in Wabasha have a plan to learn more about these birds. Using satellite telemetry, they are tracking birds to determine winter ranges, fall and spring migration routes, and summer breeding areas.

Researchers have learned that the birds use the same winter roosting sites in multiple years. The Golden Eagle breeds in northern Canada from the coast of Newfoundland to north of the Great Slave Lake, 3,000 KM to the west.

Mark Martell has been the Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon Minnesota for the past 12 years. Prior to that, he was a Research Fellow at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. He has been working with raptors in Minnesota and various places in North and Central America for over 30 years and has been studying Golden Eagles since 2009.



#### To learn more about this topic:

<http://mn.audubon.org/golden-eagle-conservation>



Look for the Loon on your Minnesota Tax Form; Give generously for wildlife!

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.

Upcoming Member Meeting Topics:  
April: Contour Feathers Close Up  
May: How Biomass Harvest Impacts Wildlife

## 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: **March 2, April 6.**

### President's Message

Dear Friends: Today I write while we are gripped by below 0 temps; tough on us and our cars. Amazing that chickadees and goldfinches and woodpeckers (and the s@#\$ squirrels) at my feeders seem to handle it so well and cheerfully.

I'm coming to the end of my two-year term as SPAS president. It has been good for me to have something to be involved with and to be kept interested and busy with the world around me. I've been impressed at how much our chapter does. I had been involved with the Education Committee's *Como Park Kids' Bird Camp* and with the



National Park Service's *Big River Journey* (see story on back page.)

I was aware of the classroom visits that **Steve Johnson** makes and that **Karen Eckman** and others had done for many years. When I joined the board, I learned of the huge success of the *Native Plants* booklet published by **Val Cunningham** and **Susan Solterman** and members of the Conservation Committee, as well as the *Landscape Revival* that they organized, and the *neighborhood wildlife corridor projects* as well.

I had taken part in the *Christmas Bird Count* organized by **Bill Stjern** and had enjoyed *Frontenac Warbler Weekends* that **Deb Bachrach** and **Richard Newmark** work so hard to organize and manage.

### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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### 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*.

I had gone on *field trips* lead by our members, including **Chase Davies** and **Clay Christensen**. **Tom McCarthy** and **Linda Goodspeed** do such good work to choose and publicize our *Monthly Member Meetings*.

I knew **Val Cunningham** and **Sharon Shinomiya** were taking care of bluebird trails in Como Park, and that **Craig Andresen** has a long trail at AHATS, and has built several Chimney Swift towers. I learned that **Julian Sellers** looks after 4 kestrel nest boxes placed around the East Metro Area.

**Susan Fuller** and 3-4 others meet every other month to mail *The Cardinal*, which **Holly Peirson** does such a good job of writing and editing.

The 12 of us who are officers and board meet most 1<sup>ST</sup> Mondays of the year to take care of the needs of the chapter. Several SPAS members, including **Don Arnosti**, were members of Audubon MN's Environmental Issues Committee; educating an always-changing batch of Legislators on the value of the environment; this is now done under the aegis of the Isaac Walton League.

I know that members of the Minnesota River Valley and Minneapolis Audubon Chapters are impressed with all our chapter gets done.

Thanks to generous supporters, we have a healthy budget and could afford to do more, but we need you, our members with ideas and motivation to get involved. As I prepare to turn over the presidency to my successor, I take pride in what we do, but I wonder what else we might want to try. I wonder if all of the things we've done continue to be worthwhile and of interest to our members and worthwhile to the birds and the environment.

On these cold days it's nice to be inside looking out upon nature; seems like a good time to take stock. I'd be happy for any of you to share your ideas. Do other organizations you are members of do things that would suit us as well? Got new ideas? Feel free to call or email. Maybe, we are great just as we are. Let me know what you think.

*Barbara Lindeke*

### A 'Flash of Serendipity...'

Editor: Oh, the things you find while researching articles... On the MN DNR website I ran across some Journal-like entries written for the MN Conservation Volunteer by employees who spend their days surveying Minnesota's landscapes... As you read these gems you'll also learn more about the Minnesota Biological Survey. The first story tells how a young, newly-minted naturalist became a searcher for a form of moss called *Splachnum rubrum*, also known as umbrella moss or parasol moss. It took 26 years to find it... <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazineissues/2013/nov-dec/landscape2.html>

### Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators

by Jim Arnosky

Sterling Children's Books, 2011, 33 pages

**From the dustcover:** What's that flying overhead? A bald eagle? A vulture? A pelican? You'll know once you've seen these magnificent birds, with their tremendous wingspans, razor-sharp claws, and powerful beaks.

**From the introduction:** . . . See detailed illustrations of more than sixty life-

size winged predators – from hawks to herons, osprey to owls. Acclaimed naturalist and illustrator Jim Arnosky will bring out your inner explorer as he explains why there are no feathers on a

vulture's head, which bird is the deep-diving champ, what makes an owl's wings perfectly silent in flight, and much more. These birds make it easy to believe that dinosaurs never really died off, but are living today: as eagles, hawks, owls, vultures, herons, and pelicans.

**Reviewer Comments:** You need not be a child to appreciate this amazing, jaw-dropping picture book of raptors! In fact, you may discover the agelessness of a well-written, researched, and illustrated picture book. Some drawings are life-size, and many sections include spectacular fold-out pages to bring the

### Saint Paul Audubon's Spring Warbler Weekend

May 8 - 10, 2015 (Reservation deadline is April 8TH)

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. All rates have increased approximately \$10/day for 2015. Camping is available at nearby Frontenac State Park. Dinner is on your own on Friday (many restaurants in Red Wing and Lake City). There will be social time with snacks, coffee, and birding information on Friday at 7:00 PM, followed by a presentation from Audubon Center of the Northwoods Program Director **Jill Baum**. She will highlight the spectrum of experiential learning opportunities at ACN. Viewing Chimney Swifts as they enter the chimney at dusk and an owl walk will follow the lecture (bring flashlights and dark sweatshirts!)

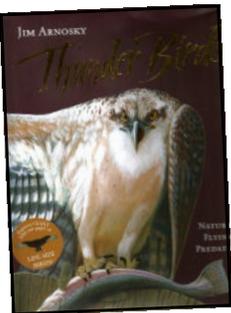
Saturday's lecture features **Crystal Boyd**, bee specialist with the DNR's Minnesota Biological Survey. Her talk is titled "What's the Buzz About Native Bees?" Copies of Saint Paul

Audubon's booklet on *Native Plants* and other brochures will be available. Registration is limited to SPAS members until March 20TH, then open on a first-come first-serve basis. For more info please contact Deb Bachrach via phone at 651-690-4130, or send an email to [deb.bachrach@yahoo.com](mailto:deb.bachrach@yahoo.com).

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

reader face-to-face, eye-to-eye, heart-to-heart with these magnificent creatures. Birds portrayed include eagles, hawks, and falcons; owls; vultures; herons and egrets; pelicans; and loons, cormorants and gannets. Not to be missed!

SPAS MEMBER & FORMER TEACHER  
KATHRYN JOHNSON



#### 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 Edgcombe 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](mailto:deb.bachrach@yahoo.com)

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**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

## February – March 2015

Next Deadline 3/5/2015

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.

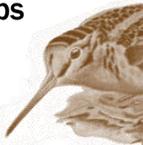
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**Our Spring Field Trips  
begin in April with  
waterbirds, and the  
thrill of the trill!**

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**CALENDAR**

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### February

Member Meeting: Helping Bats .....12

### March

Board Meeting ..... 2

Member Meeting: Golden Eagles.....12

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

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

**Time Dated Material  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## The BIG River Journey

Each fall, several of our chapter members go on a journey. On the Big River. For a day. They run between Harriet Island and Fort Snelling. With 120 4TH-6TH graders! The teachers and students do special curriculum pre- and post-field trip to learn about river ecology. During their day trip, the Jonathan Padelford is staffed for various stations. Here are last fall's stations, with some of the childrens' comments included.

**Archaeology:** "I learned about the Dakota and Ojibwe. They would go cut down trees and carve canoes, and use the waterway to trade stuff."

**Aquatic Insects & Water Quality:** "You can tell [how much or little] the river is polluted by how many bugs there are."

**Cultural Confluence Hike:** "I learned that floods cause damage to nature that lives beside the Mississippi River. One of the diseases is the witch broom. It is usually caused from fungus. The trees will spread branches all over to fight the disease."

**Floodplain Forest:** "There was this big tree and the flood cut it right in half. It weighed about 933 pounds."

**River Birds:** "I learned that the river is very important for birds; they use it for a migration route and for food."

**River Geology:** "We learned about the "mystery of the waterfall" –it moved because the sandstone disintegrated!"

**River Ecosystems:** "Otters live in a tree root that water washed out. We looked in binoculars for good places for otters to live."

**Riverboats & Piloting:** "Science and math are important if you want to be a riverboat pilot."

**Soldier Hike:** "I loved that we got to hike like soldiers and we had to listen to the commands that we were given."

**Watershed Stewardship:** "It was cool to see everything in the water and on the land. I was amazed to see what people throw into lakes and rivers."



SPAS member **Brian Goodspeed** is often the organizer and leader for this event. He is a *Mississippi National River and Recreation Area* Park Ranger. Saint Paul Audubon is trusted with staffing the **River Birds** station. Our volunteer River Rats have been **Steve Johnson, Barbara Lindeke, Jeannie Porrazzo-Carroll, Jeanne Randall, Cheri Steinmueller, and Dick and Gloria Wachtler.**