

The Cardinal

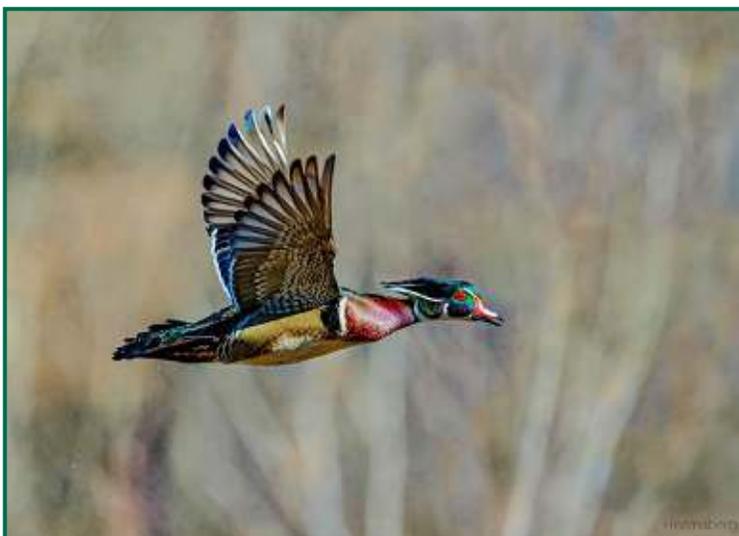
OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2022 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Upcoming Monthly Meetings via Zoom

Saint Paul Audubon Society's monthly chapter meetings are being switched back to all-online for October and November, due to unforeseen circumstances. These meetings, held the second Thursday of the month, September-May, begin with brief chapter announcements, and are followed by presentations by experts on a range of topics. Here are the presentations for October and November.

October 13: David Heemsbergen presents "Lessons Learned in Two Parts: Photography and Habitat Establishment." Part one will be a discussion of how preparation, practice, and patience can make taking photographs more enjoyable, and how it is not necessary to be in an exotic location to capture images that tell a story you will want to share with family and friends. With a few exceptions, he will present images taken in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Part two is about the experience David and his wife, Jan Morlock, have had establishing pollinator habitats, including mistakes and successes! They have three pollinator habitats ranging from a 15-foot triangle to a 42-acre field, providing evidence that any size area will attract pollinators with the proper native plants. David will show images of the habitats and some of their new "friends" that live there.



Wood Duck in flight. Photo by David Heemsbergen

David grew up on an Iowa farm, graduated from Cornell University, and returned to Iowa where he farmed for a number of years. Later he worked in sales and marketing in the ag industry and then spent roughly ten years working internationally, starting as an ag specialist for the Agriculture Bank of Papua New Guinea in the Peace Corps, and then holding various ag development positions in Bulgaria, Armenia, Uganda, and Moldova. He now spends his time working on their farm in Menomonie, Wisconsin, practicing photography, and volunteering.

November 10: Aaron W. Morris presents "Mega-herbivore carrion ecology in East African savannas." Aaron W. Morris is a Ph.D. candidate in Conservation Sciences—Wildlife Ecology and Management at the University of Minnesota. His current research focuses on savanna elephant carrion ecology in the Tsavo Conservation Area, showing that the impacts of ivory poaching in savanna ecosystems extend beyond the loss of elephants. Aaron says that African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) carcasses are unmatched in their importance in territorial ecosystems due to the size of a single carcass. However, the true extent of elephant carrion effects is unknown, and measuring these effects is key to elephant conservation. Elephant carcasses are the closest terrestrial parallel to marine "whale falls," because they create hotspots of biological activity. Early results of Morris's study demonstrate that animals benefit from elephant carcasses up to five years past an elephant's death and further identify that the ivory poaching crisis significantly reshapes the timing, location, and amount of elephant carrion in East African savanna ecosystems.

Aaron's previous research includes work with ice seal species in the Arctic, subsistence-harvested bowhead whales from native Alaskan whale hunts, wolves and cougars in Yellowstone National Park, and wolves and white-tailed deer in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

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.

You will automatically become a member of the Saint Paul Audubon Society if you make a gift of \$30 or more to the National Audubon Society and reside in Saint Paul, Ramsey and Washington counties, and surrounding areas.

The Saint Paul Audubon Society welcomes everyone to become a member or participate in activities as a non-member regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or gender identity.

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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 2,800 members. Our Member Meetings are held from Sept.-Dec. & Feb.-May on the second Thursday of the month. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit www.saintpaulaudubon.org

ABOUT THE CARDINAL The Cardinal is published 6 times a year and posted on www.saintpaulaudubon.org at the beginning of February, April, June, August, and October. For information contact Martha Douglas, editor. Copy is due on the 15th of the month preceding publication.

The Cardinal is available free to everyone on our website. If you would like to receive a notice when new issues are ready, go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org and go to the "Newsletter" tab to subscribe with your email address. Our Webmaster is Ben Wilson, ben@simpledesigns.biz or 651-332-1362.

Next issue: December 2022 / January 2023

Special message about Ben Wilson

We were sad to learn recently that Ben Wilson, our web manager, was involved in a serious biking accident and badly injured. His recovery may take some time. Meanwhile, we are getting help on managing our website, emails, zoom meetings, and other things from a fellow web developer and friend, Matt Christenson. Ben's family has set up a CaringBridgE site where you can leave messages of support or get updates. The Saint Paul Audubon Society extends best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Ben and his family.

*Donn Waage, President
Jane Braun, Vice President*



Fox Sparrow, photo by Christina Brinza

Be sure to check www.saintpaulaudubon.org throughout the fall for field trip additions and weather-caused cancellations.

Would you like more field trips? Please consider selecting a familiar birding place and volunteering to lead there. Contact Cathy Croghan for details. crogh001@umn.edu

BIRD UPS

Something New for the Fall

Fall 2022 marks the debut of Saint Paul Audubon's new more informal version of birding events, Bird Ups. Meet up at the site, and everyone will be responsible for finding and identifying the birds. Saint Paul Audubon will provide a convener who is familiar with the park and knows which areas to visit, and who will make sure everyone finds their way back to the parking lot. Birders of all levels welcome. Keep an eye on www.saintpaulaudubon.org as we hope to add a few more Bird Ups throughout the fall.



Springbrook Nature Center, photo by SNC staff

Springbrook Nature Center

100 85th Avenue NE, Fridley

Monday, October 3, 9:00 - 11 AM

Meet in the main parking lot by the visitor center. The entrance is on the south side of 85th Avenue, about 0.4 mile west of University Ave.

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.4 miles on fairly level paved and dirt paths, and a boardwalk. A couple very small hills. Long sleeves, long pants, and bug spray should be considered. Restrooms on site.

CONVENER Jane Braun jane@promotional.com

Swede Hollow Park – Birding in the Heart of St. Paul

622 Beaumont St, St Paul, MN 55130

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Park on street or off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy (located in the old Hamm's Brewery Building) at 720 Payne Ave, St. Paul 55130

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate, approximately 1.5 miles. Includes both uphill and downhill paved pathway.

CONVENER Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 kesid@aol.com Contact Kathy if you would like to borrow her extra pair of binoculars.

NOTE [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) joins SPAS in offering this program.

FIELD TRIPS

Biking & Birding: Carlos Avery WMA

9067-7801 205th Ave NE, Wyoming, MN 55092

Saturday October 1, 8:30 AM to 12:30pm.

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle on several miles of level gravel roads that connect varied habitat in this large WMA near Wyoming, MN. Carlos Avery is a prime birding location for Anoka and Chisago counties (top hotspot on eBird for Anoka). Landscape includes lakes, small woods, wetlands, and open grassland. A bike that handles gravel roads, or a mountain bike, is recommended.

DIRECTIONS Meet in the Carlos Avery North Loop Parking Area. This is where 205th Ave NE meets Wyoming Rd. 45.341380434033844, -93.0717141694866.

INFORMATION Bring a bicycle, helmet, binoculars, snacks, lunch, and water. A scope will be available.

REGISTRATION Limited to 8 participants. Contact sherrygray@yahoo.com to register.

DIFFICULTY Moderate

LEADER Sherry Gray sherrygray@yahoo.com

Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

102 E. Crex Ave., Grantsburg, WI

Tuesday, October 25, 4:00 ~ 8:15 PM

Sundown 6:09 PM, End of Twilight 6:38 PM, Oct 25 = New Moon

Since historic times, Greater Sandhill Cranes have congregated by the thousands every autumn evening in the marshes and ponds now called Crex Meadows SWA, located on the north side of Grantsburg, WI. People likewise gather to witness the sight of seemingly never-ending strands and haunting sounds as



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by John Cobb

the birds seek and settle in to shelter for the night. Perhaps this is your year to experience anew or again this enduring ritual. Introductory remarks and instructions will begin at 4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Visitor Center at Crex Meadow State Wildlife Area in Grantsburg WI. Destination(s) chosen will depend on CMSWA staff information, recent main roost areas, numbers of cars in the caravan, and current weather. Most likely either roost sites in Crex Meadows or at Fish Lake will be the general area.

DIRECTIONS Take I-35 North to the Rock Creek/ Grantsburg Exit #165 (Highway 70), approximately 34 miles from Forest Lake. Take exit 165, turn right (EAST) on Highway 70, go 15 miles to the stop light in Grantsburg, WI. Turn left (NORTH) onto Pine Street. Follow the goose signs through town to the Visitor Center, located on the NE corner of the junction of County Road D and County Road F. Park and meet in the parking lot.

INSTRUCTIONS Bring binoculars and a scope if possible. Dress for cooling temperatures during the evening. Consider bug repellent, sunscreen, water, car supper or snack. Group will gather in the parking lot for basic information by the leaders with Q and A. Departure time from the parking lot depends more on weather than conversation. We will caravan from the parking lot and depart as one group at the end of the evening. If destination is in Crex Meadows SWA, carpooling will be strongly encouraged; if destination is Fish Lake SWA all will drive separately. NOTE: Modern restrooms are located in the Visitors Center (715-463-2896), which has limited hours in October.

REGISTRATION Register with Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 eidsmoel@comcast.net

DIFFICULTY Easy. Viewing can be improved somewhat by walking the road slowly, staying close beside the cars, so as not to spook the cranes.

LEADERS Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 eidsmoel@comcast.net and Chase Davies 651-246-9754 RockyBirder@gmail.com



Photo by David Thiele

Swans and Other Waterfowl of Pool 8 - Brownsville, MN

Saturday, November 19, 2:00 – 3:00 PM & 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Swans galore are the norm just south of Brownsville, MN. Fall migration offers birders an opportunity to decide: trumpeter or tundra swan? Swans and dabbling ducks can be seen from one overlook, then less than one mile south is a deep water overlook with diving waterfowl. This is a staging area for one species and is used year-round for the other. From 2-3 p.m. and again from 4-5 p.m. on November 19, Chase will be at the Brownsville Overlook to talk about what swans and dabbling ducks are in sight, the life histories of the swans, and management challenges of the constantly changing Mississippi River. Sundown is at 4:38 p.m. A good number of swans remain at the Brownsville Overlook all day long. Depending on weather, around mid-afternoon the swans begin to return to overnight in Pool 8. Strings and strands of seeming unending groups come from north and south feeding areas to congregate over-



Photo by Joshua Torres

night in Pool 8: this is an unforgettable experience and the reason for this late-day meeting. From 3-4 p.m., Chase will be at the Hwy 26 overlook, a mile south of the Brownsville Overlook. Diving ducks feed in this deeper part of Pool 8, possibly including canvasbacks and mergansers. Plan ahead and enjoy a “Day Along the Mighty Mississippi River,” then post your photos, bird list of sightings during your trip, and comments on Saint Paul Audubon’s Facebook page.

DIRECTIONS The time and travel distance are nearly the same whether you travel to Rochester, then use I-90, or if you travel along the river on US 61 in MN or partly in WI to I-90. North of La Crescent MN, I-90 crosses the river between MN and WI with US 61 continuing south and continuing straight onto MN 16 going south. Stay on MN 16 for about 3 miles and on a curve stay left onto MN 26 which will take you through Brownsville to the well marked surprising Brownsville Overlook. The deep-water ‘Hwy 26 Overlook’ is a mile south from the Brownsville Overlook and is favored by diving ducks.

INSTRUCTIONS Dress for cooling temperatures and probable winds on the riverbank, including a warm hat and gloves. Bring water, snacks, bird book or app.

DIFFICULTY Both overlooks are roadside at parking areas and are handicap accessible.

AMENITIES In the past, the Brownsville Overlook had a handicap-accessible portable outhouse.

REGISTRATION No preregistration. Please sign-in with Chase at the site when you arrive. **LEADER** Chase Davies 651 246-9754 rockybirder@gmail.com



Photo by Richard Lee

TIPS Swans are dispersed during the day but depending on wind, small to medium-size flocks may be viewed in both MN and WI on your trip. In day-time in MN from US 61 they often feed and rest within sight of the Minneiska Cemetery in MN just south of where the Whitewater River enters the Mississippi River. In WI along WI 35 just north of Alma is Riecks Lake Park which also has a viewing platform. More swans overnight here in the bottoms of the Buffalo River where it joins the Mississippi, then remain throughout the day; usually knowledgeable volunteers interact with visitors on the platform.

OTHER THINGS TO DO The Eagle Center in Wabasha <https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/> MN Marine Art Museum in Winona <https://www.mmam.org/> Riecks Lake Park, on Hwy 35 just north of Alma, WI, Colvill Park, Red Wing, MN., and the several well placed pullouts on WI Hwy 35 along the east side of Pool 8. Finally consider checking out some of the towns and pullouts along either side of Lake Pepin.

Guidelines for group birding and meetings

Please follow these guidelines for all Saint Paul Audubon Society events:

- All participants are expected to be vaccinated and boosted (if timing indicates) for COVID-19
- All participants will maintain social distancing
- Masks are optional but welcome
- Attendees will provide their names and contact information at the start of each event