

The Cardinal

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2016 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER MEMBER MEETING

'Census of Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans in Minnesota and the Great Lakes'

with **Derek Hamilton**,
Univ. of MN Research Assistant

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans have been reestablishing nesting colonies in the Midwest for the past 40 years or so, following a rocky history of over-harvest and DDT. These increasing populations provide us with amazing opportunities for bird-watching, but cause conflict in areas where the birds are unwelcome. Wildlife workers wish to both ensure viewing opportunities and reduce conflict. To achieve that goal, the U's researchers combine surveys of previously-known and newly-reported nesting sites. Nesting pairs are counted using a mix of ground and aerial methods. We will consider the implications of the observed population trends as well as explore possibilities for future research.

Since graduating from the Univ. of Minnesota with a BA in Fisheries and Wildlife, Derek has been working on various colonial waterbird survey projects that cover Minnesota and the Great Lakes.

For more information:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Double-crested_Cormorant/id

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_White_Pelican/id

<http://www.startribune.com/farmer-fined-12-5k-for-decimating-pelican-nests/140662703/>

<http://www.peer.org/news/news-releases/court-finds-cormorant-mass-killing-policy-illegal.html>



NOVEMBER MEMBER MEETING

'Full Life Cycles: Migratory Connections between Birds and Coffee'

with **Tom Will**

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Long-distance migratory birds spend only a few months of their annual cycle on their breeding grounds. For the rest of the year, they fly thousands of miles to and from the habitat where they spend most of their lives. Innovative advances in tracking technology and wintering ecology show that events occurring during breeding, migration, and non-breeding residency all determine avian health and reproductive success.

As a commodity produced in the tropics and exported to other lands, coffee also has a migratory path. Our choice to drink bird-friendly certified coffee completes its full life cycle. Coffee grown organically under shade results in greater biodiversity and healthier birds. This growing scheme also provides better health and economic benefit for producers and farm workers during birds' non-breeding and coffee's production season.

Tom Will is a Migratory Birds Coordinator with the USFWS's Midwest Regional Office in Bloomington. He is also co-chair of *Partners in Flight's** International Steering Committee, and has contributed to their science publications for many years. His Doctoral thesis focused on the behavioral ecology of Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers. He has worked as an ornithologist and conservation ecologist in the Galapagos, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Mexico before settling sixteen years ago in Saint Paul.

For more information, type into your search engine: **Smithsonian Migratory Connectivity Project; Smithsonian Bird-Friendly Coffee Certification; Birds and Beans.**

* *Partners in Flight* is a network of more than 150 organizations (National Audubon is one) throughout the Western Hemisphere, engaged in all aspects of landbird conservation. They collaborate through strategic monitoring, development of priority lists, conservation plans, maps, and facilitate cooperation among the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

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.

December 8th Member Meeting: Birds of West Africa
There is no January Member Meeting; see you in February!

BOARD MEETINGS

The Chapter's Board Meetings are on the first Monday of the month, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Upcoming Mtgs: **October 3, November 7.**

Our Chapter Needs YOU!

What will the catalyst be, for YOU to become involved as a volunteer with our chapter? Will it be Global Warming? Neonicotinoids? Restoring Habitat? Mining/water issues? Field Trips? Bird ID? Learning about environmental issues at Member Meetings? In addition to becoming active to learn about these topics, we the current leadership and volunteer base, need YOU to consider your strengths, and join one of these efforts!!

Finance Committee: We are looking for someone to serve as an assistant treasurer for a year or two in preparation for serving as treasurer. Are you interested in helping SPAS with this key endeavor? No financial background is required, but access to a computer and knowledge of Excel is essential. Contact **Richard Newmark** at ranewmark@yahoo.com.

Hospitality Committee: These wonderful people provide treats and beverages for the Member Meetings. If anyone would like to assist in bringing sweet treats, breads, fruit, nuts, hummus, or cheese and crackers to a meeting, please contact **Bonnie Anderson** at bonniejanderson@q.com.

Field Trip Leaders: More members are needed to lead field trips in spring, summer, and fall. The first step is simply to become familiar with an area that you like to walk in, bird at, etc. The *primary* duty of the leader is to know the area. The *secondary* duty is to assist in finding and identifying birds and other aspects of nature, and, over time, to learn enough about the area and its birds to add "color" commentary as appropriate. Our field trip leaders have

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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. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit 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; be ready to write down other phone numbers to 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*.

Book Review

Migration Nation: Animals on the Go from Coast to Coast, by Joanne O'Sullivan

© 2015, National Wildlife Federation

For Ages 7 and up (stronger readers)

This is an amazing, visually appealing book, intended for the young-to-middle-age readers who want lots of information and are willing to read significant text to get it. The book is divided into 3 major migration topics: migration by LAND (herptiles, pronghorns, bison and polar bears); SEA (manatees, salmon, gray whales); and SKY (monarchs, birds).

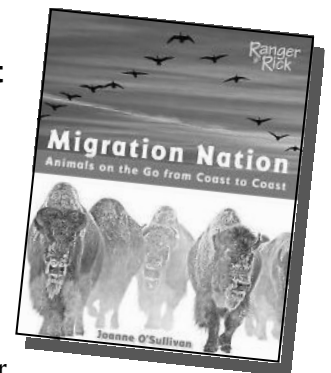
Each section shows the migration path on a map, which includes quick facts, plus notes on lifestyle patterns, a 'more about' . . . page and Roadside Assistance. Finally, a reference page on just where to find these animals (Catching Up With . . .). As an adult reader, I could easily spend an evening, lost in the wonder of these pages! At the end of the book: FURTHER EXPLORING (more migration around the world). Includes an INDEX and a GLOSSARY. Well worth the investment.

Submitted by SPAS member Katie Johnson

various skills: some are basic birders, some are birders by ear, some like short trips, some long, some will lead a caravan, others will meet at the location.

The current Chair is serious about finding a successor. One needs to be a

good communicator and have basic or better computer skills, *but does not have to be a trip leader*. Additional trip leaders would allow more offerings, perhaps in different seasons or with multiple goals. Contact **Chase Davies** at ccdavies@aol.com.



New Home for Warbler Weekend

May 13, 2017 (Mark your Calendars!!)

For the past 40 years, Warbler Weekend has been centered in Frontenac, MN. Unfortunately, our Nunnish location closed as of June 30, 2016. So, the board began the adventure of the 2017 Warbler Weekend Committee of looking for a new site. One has been found! There will be a somewhat different format, one that we are excited to try that keeps a lot of the familiar feel!

The field trips portion of Warbler Weekend 2017 will be a one-day event on Saturday, May 13, based at a popular Lake City Park. The date is the Saturday of Mother's Day weekend in 2017. We will use the large hall on the grounds of the park all day: in the morning, for lunch, and for dinner followed by a bird tally. The final count will include, as usual, sightings from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning. Again, as usual, field trip leaders will be at all the meetings with information about when and where they are going, what they have observed, etc.



There will be a gathering, perhaps with a speaker, on Friday night, for those many who will be moteling/hoteling/camping in the Lake City/Red Wing area. There is camping at Frontenac State Park and Hok-Si La Park. Numerous

motels and other accommodations are available in Lake City and Red Wing. Registration information and costs for meals will be published in future newsletters.

We hope you will all join us as we continue our incredibly valuable record of migrating birds in the Frontenac area of Minnesota.

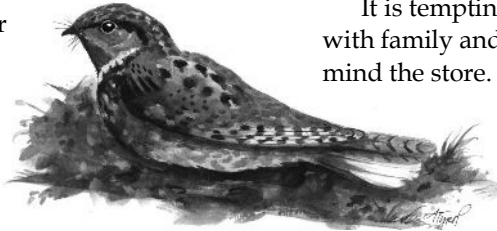
* *Whippoorwill and Henslow's Sparrow* (Carole Brysky's photo) are the 2 most rare birds Cardinal Editor Holly Peirson saw/heard at Spring Warbler Weekend over the years....

Another sort of ending...

*"There's a sad sort of clanging from the clock in the hall
And the bells in the steeple too. And up in the aviary, an absurd
little bird is popping out to say, "Cuckoo – cuckoo!"*

*Regretfully they tell me but firmly they compel me
To say goodbye to you..."*

Yes, this is my last issue of *The Cardinal* as your editor. I began in the spring of 1986. The hand-typed copy was printed out on continuous paper, which was then cut up and 'keylined' onto a board. Now I use the internet even to find little royalty-free illustrations like the whippoorwill above, and I transmit the copy as well. I have had a great time and learned a LOT about nature along the way. I have enjoyed making friends at Audubon meetings, leading field trips, doing the CBC... The only thing that I didn't really



Conservation Corner:

Sweating the Details

Fall is upon us and we all revel in getting outdoors to enjoy the last warm weather, and our favorite outdoor pursuits. The cycle of nature that is on full display here in the North is one of the great pleasures of living in Minnesota. Cold/hot. Wet/dry. Bloom/senescence. Our landscape is very complex, ever-changing and always interesting.

It is tempting to enjoy our birds and wildlife, spend time with family and not sweat the details. However, someone must mind the store. Details matter.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently released buffer maps proposing to downgrade protections for ditched streams and deepwater wetlands in rural areas, by interpreting the Governor's Buffer law very narrowly. Many streams and wetlands are mapped for just a 16.5 foot buffer – or none at all – when they should be receiving 50 feet of vegetative protection.

Do I think this is because the DNR officials don't understand wetland classifications or the law? No. It is apparent to me that the DNR is taking a "political path of least resistance." Thousands of miles of streams in southern and western Minnesota were dredged and straightened years ago to "improve drainage" leaving them legally both a "ditch" and a "public water." DNR expects more complaints from rural interests and certain legislators if they require the full 50 foot buffer on these waters called for in law; and, they're expecting that we, the citizens, will be "away at the lake."

Conservationists can never sleep... Take a moment to dash off a quick note to the Governor. Ask him to instruct the DNR to interpret his Buffer Law correctly. Demand that "DNR Buffer Maps be changed to require a minimum 50 foot buffer on all public watercourses, even if they've been ditched, and that all public waters wetlands receive the 50 foot buffer, as well."

Governor Mark Dayton
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd #130
St Paul, MN 55155

Write your 5 minute note and get back to enjoying our birds and your family and friends. After all, fall is just too short in Minnesota to always sweat the details. Thank you for doing your part to protect nature for future generations!

SPAS Member Don Arnosti

care for was testifying before a portion of the Minnesota Senate when I was president of the chapter... But that's another story.

Please give a warm Minnesota nice welcome to our new *Cardinal* Editor, **Karen Levad**. She moved to Minnesota from Colorado to be near her grandchildren. She has been an Audubon Newsletter Editor for a chapter in western Colorado, so it was a nice fit. The transition is going smoothly.

Thank you for all the great articles to publish!

Holly Peirson, Cardinal Editor to 3-1986 to 9-2016

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275
WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

October November 2016

Next Deadline 11/5/2016

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.

*Please Check our Website
for Calendar Updates!*

CALENDAR

October

Board Meeting 3
Member Meeting: Pelicans/Cormorants .. 13

November

Board Meeting 7
Member Meeting: Shade Coffee 10

December

Board Meeting 5
Member Meeting: Birds in W. Africa 8
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!! 17
(more info in Dec/Jan Cardinal)

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CORNER**Improving Our Lakes, Rivers, and Streams****10 Things YOU Can Do**

1. **Fertilize Smartly** – Use Phosphorus-free. If it washes away, it feeds algae, and may create an algae bloom in water.
2. **Leave the leaves** on your lawn or in your garden – they provide winter mulch. Or, compost them...
3. **Use Your Run-off** – Direct your downspouts onto your lawn or into a rain barrel.
4. **Scoop the Poop** – Put it in garden, not in run-off areas.
5. **Use Chemicals Wisely** – Read labels. Learn about using natural remedies to control weeds and pests.
6. **Keep a Healthy Lawn** – Aeration loosens the soil; re-seed bare patches; mow at a higher setting, creates deeper roots. Midwestern lawns are good for the environment.
7. **Plant a Rain Garden** – For info, go to www.bluethumb.org
8. **Replace Turf with Native Plants** – Swap lawn for low-maintenance native ground cover, plants, or grasses.
9. **Reduce Your Footprint** – Replace pavement, allow water to seep through.
10. **Adopt a Storm Drain** – Keep neighborhood drains free of leaves, seeds, and grass clippings.

2016 NABA Butterfly Census Results

The census was done on a lovely day early in July, no rain, hardly any wind, just time out in nature on a great summer's day!

90 individuals and 20 total species of butterflies were seen this year: Tiger Swallowtail, Cabbage White, Clouded Sulphur, Orange Sulphur, American Copper, Eastern-tailed Blue, Spring Azure, Summer Azure, Great Spangled Fritillary, Aphrodite Fritillary, Northern Crescent, Mourning Cloak, Red Admiral, Viceroy, Northern Pearly-Eye, Common Wood Nymph, Monarch, European Skipper, Mulberry Wing, Dun Skipper, and several un-ID'd within these families of butterflies. **Thank you, Dean Hansen**, for your expertise in ID'ing the butterflies we bring to you!

176 individuals and 40 species of birds (7 species of sparrows!) were also noted. **Thank you, Joan McKernan**, for your great eyes and ears while flutterbying!!

Join us next year on Saturday, July 8TH, 2017!

