APRIL MEMBER MEETING

#### MAY MEMBER MEETING

# Carp: Why We Should Care and What to Do About Them

with *Peter Sorenson*, U of M Professor, Biological Oceanography

#### April 8, 2010

The common carp has become North America's most damaging invasive animal since its introduction in the

1870s. The error was compounded in the 1970s when Asian carp were brought in by fish farmers—the fish quickly escaped to wreak havoc in the Mississippi River Basin.

Peter Sorenson, who has been studying fish for 40 years, feels carp are little understood and largely uncontrolled. Research shows that these seemingly formidable fish have weaknesses that can be exploited by using

integrated pest management practices. For example, studies at the University of Minnesota have shown that game fish in shallow lakes will consume all common carp eggs and larvae.

"The public does not seem to realize the crisis we face with Asian carp *and* that there are things than can and should be done," says Sorenson. It's time to make progress on ending the enormous damage caused by these invasive species.

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!* 

# Salamanders, and the Fate of the World's Biodiversity Hot Spots

with Kenneth Kozak, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, Bell Museum

### May 13, 2010



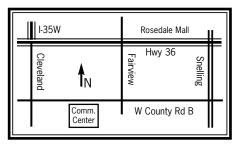






A large proportion of the world's species are concentrated in mountainous regions that constitute global hot spots of biological diversity. Scientists have long wondered why mountains are so species rich. Now they must also question the fate of such biological diversity in the face of a rapidly changing global climate.

Kenneth Kozak gathers genetic and ecological data on mountain-dwelling salamanders to attempt to provide answers to those two fundamental questions. His work will build a foundation for developing conservation strategies to protect the remarkable species diversity of montane life zones, and the processes that sustain them.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE; LEADERS

# New Role for the Saint Paul Audubon Society

Our chapter has an opportunity to become more involved in habitat restoration in the Saint Paul region. I would like to inform our membership about this opportunity, talk about what it means for the Chapter, and ask for your feedback.

The Opportunity Due in part to the recently approved Clean Water, Land and Legacy constitutional amendment, increasing amounts of grant funding will be available for local habitat restoration. The funding will come from three possible sources:

1) Heritage Enhancement Grants,

2) LCCMR – Legislative Citizens

Commission on MN Resources, and

3) Conservation Partners Legacy

Grants. The opportunity for our

Chapter is to become more involved

in the location and conservation work funded by these grants.

#### What this means for the Chapter

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. If the Chapter were to become more involved in habitat grant writing and administration, it would mean that we could, in theory, more effectively fulfill this mission. The Chapter would do this by helping to select new sites for restoration in the Saint Paul area (e.g. Important Bird Areas), apply for grants to restore those areas, conduct a bidding process to select a contractor, and then work with the DNR and contractor on administering the performance under the contract. The Chapter Board has formed a subcommittee consisting of

Don Arnosti, and Mark Bearss, and myself, to study the issue and determine the level of complexity involved moving incrementally into this work.

Your Feedback We would like your feedback on this. Do you see this as an exciting opportunity to increase our "conservation footprint" locally, and perform on our mission? Would you be interested in monitoring sites as they proceed through the restoration process? Do you see this as a step beyond our abilities and volunteer resources which could or would end up harming our credibility and Chapter? Please feel free to contact me (or other board members) by email; mine is timothy.nixon@thomson.com, or call 651-353-0756, with your thoughts. We'd love to hear from you on this important issue!

#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The Chapter'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. For more information or regrets, please contact Tim Nixon at 651-353-0756 or timothy.nixon@thomsonreuters.com. Meetings are on the first Monday: April 5, May 3.

#### Audubon Applause:

Hey members, put your hands together for ubermember Clay Christensen!
He gave an excellent lecture on Birding South of the Border, with

spectacular photographs, at the March Members' Meeting when the intended speaker had to back out only two days ahead of time due to a prior commitment.

We appreciate every volunteer!

#### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON

651-353-0756 (c) President Tim Nixon timothy.nixon@thomsonreuters.com Vice President 651-738-8310 John O'Connell john-sharon-oconnell@att.net 651-340-3487 Treasurer Richard Newmark ranewmark@yahoo.com 651-292-0004 Secretary Tess Rizzardi mjbryand@qwest.net Programs Chair 651) 206-2270 (c) Mark Bearss mark.bearss@co.hennepin.mn.us Conservat'n Co-Chr 651-645-5230 Val Cunningham writers2@comcast.net

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Audubon Minn. 651–739–9332 www.mn.audubon.org

#### ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with around 12 members, Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities area, and has around 2,400 members. We hold 9 Member Meetings a year. Feel free to contact anyone listed at left for more information, or write to Saint Paul Audubon Society 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
are subject to editing. Send copy to
hpbirdscouter@msn.com

#### LOCAL SUPPORT

If you are an Audubon member and don't live in the Saint Paul area, but would like to receive *The Cardinal*, please send \$15 for a 1 year subscription to John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. 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.

National Audubon Society www.audubon.org

### **ANNUAL MEETING: MAY 13, 2010**

Farewell, for now Finally, it is with very mixed emotions that I am resigning as President of Saint Paul Audubon, effective at the end of June. I have been reassigned by my employer to a post in Switzerland, and feel it's in the best interest of my family that I accept the role. That said, it has been an unexpectedly gratifying experience serving as the President of Saint Paul Audubon. It's a terrific group of people, with sound expertise and judgment, all working at the ground level to make the world a better place. Thank you for your confidence in me, and I hope at some point to rejoin the effort. As I say about my prairie patch in the back yard, I feel like you changed me more than I changed you.

Tim Nixon, President

# 2010-2011 Proposed Budget Highlights

The Projected Income for 2010-2011 is expected to be very similar to preceding years. Expenses are expected to be essentially the same as this year, except there will be no additional expense for website development. Although the budget shows a projected deficit of \$1755, this loss will be funded by reserves which have increased almost \$5,000 over the past 7 years due to the receipt of several bequests and lower expenses of the committees. This fiscal year the committees have initiated new projects.

# 2010-2011 Nomination Slate

Note: Just before press-time, President Tim Nixon found that he would be transfered to Europe. He then had to resign the Presidency, which changed the Nominating Committee's task considerably. We apologize for not being able to publish a complete slate at this time (mid-March.) The slate will be ready for the May Annual Meeting, and on the website as soon as possible.

#### **OFFICERS**

**President:** Name and BIO not available at press time.

**Vice President:** Name and BIO not available at press time.

**Secretary, Tess Rizzardi:** Member of SPAS for five years, board since 2006. Tess is a 2ND grade teacher in Hudson, Wisconsin.

#### Treasurer, Richard Newmark:

Current Treasurer. Retired chemist, active in energy conservation and sustainability issues.

#### **BOARD**

Sue Richter: Member of NAS for 30 years, Wachiska Audubon Society in Lincoln, Nebraska and SPAS. Positions served in NE: Board, Treasurer, Newsletter. Lincoln's Wildlife Rescue Team volunteer. Works at Dodge Nature Center in West Saint Paul.

**Sarah Risser** is an active member of SPAS Conservation Committee, and AudMN's Environmental Issues Committees. Two children. Enjoys early AM's rowing and sculling on the Mississippi River.

Monica Wiese, native Minnesotan. Raptor Center volunteer, 7 yrs. Minnesota Zoo volunteer, 12 yrs. Web Project Manager for Thomson Reuters.

**Ben Wilson:** SPAS member, avid birder, outdoor enthusiast, photographer. Participates in CBC, Field Trips, Urban Bird Fest.

Leaving the leadership are Tim Nixon, President; Paul Spreitzer, Board; Laurel Stiebler, Board; and Jenny Vitale, Board. We thank them VERY much for their time and expertise while leading our chapter.

# 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Proposed by Board, March 1, 2010

#### INCOME

Christmas Bird Count	\$370
Education Committee	\$375
Field Trips & Warbler Weekend	
Total Committee Income	\$10,205
Endowment Fund Contribution	\$800
Operating Fund Contribution	\$6,200
Total Donations Income	\$7,000
Dues from National Audubon	\$6,500
Local Dues	\$700
Total Dues Income	\$7,200
Grants/Div's. from Endowment F	und \$2,200
Interest & Dividend Income	\$1,200
<b>Total Grants/Dividends Incom</b>	e\$3,400
Total 2010-2011 Income	\$27,805

EXPENSES	
Fund drive	\$600
Membership Recruitment	\$300
Misc & Contingency	\$100
Operating Expenses	\$400
Telephone Line	
Web Page	\$280
Total Admin. & Oper. Expense	
Birdathon & Butterfly Count	\$300
Christmas Bird Count	
Conservation Committee	
Education Committee	
Field trips and Warbler weekend	
Programs	
Green Expo	
Total Progs & Field Trip Exp.	
Art & Design	
Labels & Postage	
Printing	
Total Newsletter Expenses	
Audubon Minnesota	
Other Orgs.: MEP & MOU	
Total Support to Orgs. Expens	
Transfer to Endowment	
Total 2010-2011 Expenses	.\$29,560

# **SPRING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS**

# Waterfowl Migration on Metro Lakes

#### Saturday, April 10TH

Join us as we explore several lakes to look for migrating loons, grebes, mergansers, ducks and other migrants as well as resident birds. We'll form a car caravan at St. Paul Sears and drive from site to site. The final itinerary will depend on what lakes are open, perhaps all in Ramsey Co., perhaps the Mississippi River or Dakota Co. as well. Directions will be provided at Sears. Bring water, snacks if you wish. Reservations not required. Bring your scope if you have one.

Level Easy, always near the cars

Time 8:00 ~ Noon

Carpool From SW corner of Sears

Contact Clay Christensen 651-631-0949 (h)

612-619-2580 (c)

# Early Migration Watch, Dakota Co.

#### Saturday, April 17

Join us for an early-season visit to a couple of well-known birding locales in southern Dakota County: Miesville Ravine with its woodland habitat, and Lake Byllesby, where we should find waterfowl, shorebirds, and other open-country birds.

Level Easy

Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears Leader Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737

JulianSellers@msn.com (pref)

# An Evening Watching Woodcock Courtship

### Arden Hills Army Training Site, Tuesday, April 27, 8-10:00 PM

The American Woodcock's courting display involves death-defying dives from heights beyond imagination straight down to the ground. He does it only at dusk and dawn, so it's very hard to see. And,

even though his wings make a trilling vibration, it's hard to tell where he is. Sound like a snipe hunt?!

We have permission to be on the Arden Hills Army Training Site, a secure facility, so we'll carpool from

Shoreview City Hall. Roads can be dusty or muddy.
Bring a flashlight and binoculars. We may be sitting in one spot for a while, so dress warmly.

Kids are very welcome provided they can be relatively still and quiet.

Level Easy

Time 8 - 10:00 PM

Meet Arden Hills City Hall,

W. of Lexington & Hwy 96

Leaders Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737 Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949

# Spring Ephemerals Blooming at Nerstrand "Big Woods" State Park

Sunday, May 2; at Park, 8:30 AM

There is nothing so sublime as a fine spring day at Nerstrand. Kinglets, Red-headed Woodpeckers and other migrants; Bloodroot, Anenome, Hepatica, and Ginger will all be made much of. **DIRECTIONS**: The State Park is SE of Northfield, about 1.5 hrs from St. Paul. Take I-35 to Exit 69. Go east on Minn. 19 into Northfield. At junction with Hwy 3, go So. to Hwy 246, then drive another ~ 10 mi., following signs to the Park. Meet in main lot at 8:30 AM. Fee Area: Annual or Daily State Park sticker. No Res. Required. Bring your hiking staff to help on the bluff trail. You don't want to miss these "spring ephemerals" (short, sweet blooming season, before leaves create too much shade)!! Practice using the macro button on your digital camera. Bring lunch; we usually watch the antics of bluebirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers while we eat!

Level Moderate: Bluff Descent Leader Chase Davies, 651-636-1663

ccdavies@aol.com

### **Old Cedar Ave Bridge**

#### Saturday, May 15

One of the very best birding locales in the state, and very close to St. Paul! We will check the Bass Ponds and Long Meadow Lake, which usually hold some birds of interest (waterfowl, waders...). The Minnesota River flyway makes this a great spot for migrating passerines. We will walk east from the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and return. Level

Easy

Meet Sears by 7:00 AM; OCB, 7:30 AM.
Bring Binoculars, and scope if own
Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309
paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

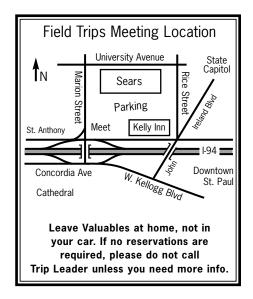
# "Birds and Blooms" Tour, Interstate State Park

#### Saturday, May 15TH, 9:30-11:30 AM

St. Paul Audubon and the Oak Savannah Chapter of *Wild Ones* are partners in this multi-focused field trip. Bellflower, trillium, ferns, and birds! Who can resist?

Dave Crawford, gifted retired naturalist from Wild River State Park, will be the wildflower leader. Chase Davies will be the birding guide.

We will hike the Sandstone Bluffs Trail (formerly Curtain Falls Trail). Our route climbs and drops about 180 feet in elevation over its length, including some wooden stairways.



### **SPRING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS**

Footing is generally good. Wear hiking boots or good walking shoes. Consider bringing protection for



deer ticks, rain gear, and a bag lunch to for a picnic in the park. Cold beverages will be provided.

MN State Park permits required, available at the park office. Abundant parking.

Level Moderate

Time 9:30 at Interstate Park lot
Place Entrance to Interstate St. F

Entrance to Interstate St. Park is off Hwys 95/8, Taylor's Falls. Meet in lot near the Park Office.

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

# Spring Migrants in Lilydale Regional Park

Saturday, May 22, 7 to 11:00 AM

Join us as we explore this Important Birding Area along the Mississippi River flyway for spring migrants as well as resident birds. Expect warblers, kinglets, gnatcatchers, orioles and probably an eagle. Habitats include pine woods, mixed cottonwood and oak forests, meadows, lake and river.

Meet at Lilydale Regional Park Boat Ramp Parking lot at 7 AM. South on I-35E across Mississippi River Bridge, exit immediately on highway 13. Turn left. Cross over I-35E and take immediate right on Lilydale Road, curving down to Lilydale Regional Park. Continue for about 3/4 mile to Boat Launch Parking Lot on the left, marked with large wooden sign. Map available at www.lilydalepark.org

Carpool Level Leaders SW corner Sears lot at 6:45 AM Easy, maybe some muddy spots Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949 Val Cunningham, 651-645-1124

### **Woodland Birds**

Saturday, May 22

Lebanon Hills Regional Park is a terrific place to look for migrant and resident songbirds! Join us for a morning of birding in this beautiful 100-acre park in Eagan. We'll hike woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. Recent sightings are Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush. Carpool from Sears in St. Paul, meet at the Holland Lake entrance, intersection of Lexington and Cliff Road.

Level Moderate (the hills!)

Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears

or 7:30 AM at Park. End ~ noon. Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309

Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309

paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

# Bunker Hills Regional Park Bird Walk

May 29, 7:00 - 11:00 AM

Bunker Hills holds many of the great Anoka Sand Plain birds: Lark Sparrows, Towhees, Thrashers, even the occasional Sandhill Crane.

This is a new trip for St. Paul Audubon, to an under-birded park with great birds. We'll start early and hope to find Eastern Towhees, Lark Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, grassland sparrows, kestrels, orioles, bluebirds, maybe a family of Sandhill Cranes. Bring binoculars, sunscreen, water, and a snack for a full morning of walking, mostly on paved trails. Yes, it is Memorial Day weekend, but this huge park can accommodate a big crowd.

DIRECTIONS: Hwy 35W north to US 10, exit # 30. On US 10, go 2.5 mi. to Highway 65. Go north on Hwy 65 about 5 mi. to Anoka 14 / MN 242 / Main St. Go west about 2 mi. to Foley Blvd, Bunker Park entrance. Park in first lot on right after passing Park Entrance Contact Station.

Level Eas

Leaders Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949

clay.christensen@comcast.net Val Cunningham writers2@comcast.net 651-645-5230

### Birding By Ear, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

Saturday, June 5, 7 AM to 12:30 PM

The hardwood forest at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve near Savage is one of the very finest of birding sites in the Metro area. We'll focus on the songs and calls of birds on their nesting territories. Residents include Hooded, Cerulean, Mourning, and Blue-winged Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. This outing can be rigorous, with muddy trails, hills, and biting insects. We'll be in the field for up to five hours (you may leave earlier), so bring water and snacks. Wear quiet clothing. Return to Saint Paul around 12:30 PM.

**DIRECTIONS:** South from St. Paul on I-35E to Hwy 42. West on 42 about 2 miles. At bottom of the hill, take left onto Burnsville Parkway. In about 2 miles, turn left on Hwy 75, then immediately left into the parking lot.

Level Medium

Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears

or 7:30 AM at the Park

Leader JulianSellers@msn.com (pref)

**651-698-5737** (Call if need info)

# Opportunities to Watch Bird Banders at Work

Carpenter Nature Center, SE Washington Co., 4TH Fridays, 8 - noon. For info and directions, call 651-437-4359.

**Lowry Nature Center,** Carver Park Reserve, NC Carver Co., on 3RD Saturdays, 8 - Noon in summer, 9 -Noon in Winter. Free to public.

**Ritter Farm Park,** Lakeville, also has banding dates; check with the city Parks and Rec. Dept.

**Springbrook Nature Center,** Fridley, SC Anoka Co. has banding dates; see www.springbrooknaturecenter.org for dates and times (variable).

You may watch and may also be allowed to release birds. Dress for the weather!

#### SPRING EVENTS

# Saint Paul Audubon's Spring Warbler Weekend

May 7-9



Many birders are aware that some of the world's best birding is available right here in Minnesota! During the spring migration one of the best locations to be looking for birds is along the north-south Mississippi and St. Croix River Flyway. Our annual Warbler Weekend is held at the Villa Maria, located on Lake Pepin near Frontenac, right on the flyway!

Our annual weekends over the last 30-40 years have averaged 130-135 species, including an average of 21-24 species of warblers. You may bird by car, on foot on the Villa and Frontenac State Park trails, or simply by relaxing on the lawn at the Villa. In addition to this informal style of birding, the Chapter's Field Trip leaders offer bird walks for beginner, medium, and experienced birders. Several locations are always canvassed, including Sand Point, Hok-Si-La (a Lake City Park), Wells Creek, and the State Park's prairie restoration project behind the Villa. A Bird Board is located near the cafeteria, so, if you decide to stop birding and come in for sustenance, and then see that there's a Kentucky Warbler about 1/4 mile from your location, you have a decision to make. . .

The Villa Maria is a former convent and school. Accommodations include furnished rooms and dining at reasonable prices. There are also tennis courts, a pool, a gym, and a lovely rock garden Labyrinth for those of us who like to meditate. Camping is available on the Villa's grounds, or at nearby Frontenac State Park (day or annual pass required).

Traditional events are watching and counting the Chimney Swifts enter the Villa's chimney at dusk; and Friday and Saturday evening owl walks (bring a flashlight and wear a dark sweatshirt!) There will be a speaker on Saturday evening, after the swifts but before the owls.

Registration is limited to Saint Paul Audubon members until April 10<sub>TH</sub>, then is open to all on a first-come first-serve basis. For more information please call **Deb Bachrach** at 651-690-4130 or send email to **deb.bachrach@yahoo.com**.

Warbler	Weekend Registration	Form
Quantity	Ontions	٨m

Quantity	Options		AIIIOUIIL
Full Wknd Adult	sgl \$170	.shr \$145 \$	
1 night+3 Sat. mea	ılssgl \$110	shr \$95 \$	
Sat eve+4 meals	sgl \$115	.shr \$105 \$	
Child und 12 (w/me	eals) ea ngt \$55	wkd \$105 \$	
Saturday Breakfast	8:00 ам	\$8 \$	
Saturday Lunch	Noon	\$10 \$	
Saturday Dinner .	6:00 рм	\$12 \$	
Sunday Brunch	10:00 ам	\$10 \$	
Camp (no elec.) \$2 (Prices include registr	, ,	,	
Total (check payable to S	aint Paul Audubo	n)\$	
Name			
Address			
City			
Day phone	Evening pho	one	
Names of People attending	g		
·	-		

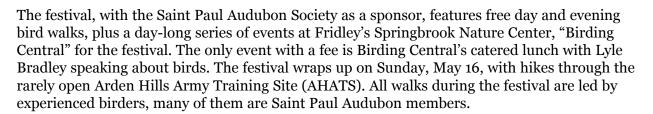
Send check to Saint Paul Audubon Society, c/o Deb Bachrach, 1163 Edgcumbe Rd., St. Paul, MN 55105 Checks will be held until April 17. No refunds after April 30. For more information please call Deb Bachrach at 651-690-4130 or send email to deb.bachrach@yahoo.com

# Urban Birding Festival of the Twin Cities

"Where Birds and People Meet" May 13 – 16, 2010

Mark your calendars now for a fun, free celebration of springtime birds, the Urban Bird Festival, on May 13-16. Kids, their families and everyone else are invited to take part in all or part of this four-day event, now in its fifth year. Billed as "Where

Birds and People Meet," the festival welcomes everyone from brand-new to experienced birders, to see many of the interesting birds found in the Twin Cities and suburbs. No registration required, so just show up at the events you wish to attend.



Schedule (check www.saintpaulaudubon.org as event nears for more specific information)

Date	Event	Time	Location
5/13	Bird Hike	8:00-9:00 AM	Rice Creek
5/13	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 AM	Vento Nature Sanctuary
5/13	Bird Hike	7:30-9:00 PM	Tamarack
5/14	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 AM	Como Park
5/14	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 AM	Locke Park
5/14	Bird Hike	10:00-11:30 AM	Roberts Bird Sanctuary
5/14	Bird Hike	10:30-11:30 AM	Mississippi Regional Park
5/14	Osprey Nest	11:30-1:00 AM	Josephine Park
5/14	Peregrine Aerie	11:30-1:00 РМ	Lock & Dam #1
5/15	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 am	Reservoir Woods
5/15	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 ам	Innsbruck Park
5/15	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 am	Crosby Park
5/15	Activities	9:00-3:00 РМ	Springbrook Nature Center
5/15	Catered Lunch	Noon	Springbrook Nature Center — (fee - registration req'd)
5/16	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 ам	Battle Creek Park (meet at recreation cntr park lot, 75 Winthrop St. S.)
5/16	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 am	Mississippi River Gorge
5/16	Bird Hike	8:00-9:30 am	St. Paul Campus
5/16	Bird Hike	12:00-1:30 рм	AHATS
5/16	Bird Hike	1:00-3:30 PM	AHATS
5/16	Bird Hike	2:00-3:30 рм	AHATS

Check the calendar for bird hike details and directions. For further information, contact **John Moriarty** at Ramsey County Parks, send email to john.moriarty@co.ramsey.mn.us or go to www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/NaturalResources/urbanbirdfestival.htm

#### SPRING EVENTS

### 9тн Annual Living Green Expo

Sat - Sun, May 1 & 2

The Living Green Expo, will be Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds' Grandstand building. This family-friendly event is free and open to the

public. Secure bike storage is available, and Metro Tranist offer free rides using the Go Greener Pass. Free Blue Skies Guides will be available to the 1st 200 visitors each day. The event features more than 250 exhibitors,



workshops, activities for kids, and cooking demos.

The event is presented by Windsource ® from Xcel Energy, and coordinated by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. Learn more at www.livinggreenexpo.mn or call 651-789-6571.

#### 2009's Christmas Bird Count Results

There were 75 field participants and 7 feeder watchers, the highest number of participants ever.

We found 58 species on the day of the count, plus one additional species during the count week. The average of the previous 10 years was 56 species. In 2008, we found 54 species. Our record for number of species is 62 in 2006.

The number of individual birds this year was 17,315, which is about 2,700 lower than the 10-year average.

#### Highlights

29 Trumpeter Swans (same as last year) – 22 on Lake Vadnais and 7 at AHATS\*; 2 Am. White Pelicans, 11 Great Blue Herons, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers. A Long-eared Owl at Lilydale Park (first time on count day since 1944, the first year of our CBC). 821 American Robins, down from 1069 last year, but continuing the trend of high numbers of this species. A Yellow-rumped Warbler, the 4TH ever on our CBC.

*Misses:* Eastern Screech-owl (last found in 2006), Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin.

*Near Misses:* (we found one each): Rough-legged Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Shrike.

Count Week Birds: (the three days before and after, but not on the day of the count), 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Thank you all for making this another fun and successful CBC. Mark you calendars now for Saturday, December 18, 2010!

CBC COORDINATOR JULIAN SELLERS

\* **AHATS = A**rden **Hills A**rmy **T**raining **S**ite. Formerly known as TCAAP (*Twin Cities Army Amunition Plant*)

### **American Robins' Winter Roost Site**

I live on Grey Cloud Island, at the very southwest corner of Washington County. In early February I began to observe many robins flying toward a plantation of spruce and pine trees, located where Pioneer Road meets Cty Rd 75. A few days later I started counting the robins coming to the area. I was up to 900, but they just kept coming! So, on February 15, 2010, I got technical, and started counting at 4:30 PM, about one hour before sunset. It was cloudy with a fairly stiff breeze out of the northwest. The robins flew in, first one at a time and then in groups of up to about 30 birds. By one hour after sunset the stream of robins had subsided, but by then I had counted 2,300 birds.

I know we have had an increase of American Robins wintering in Minnesota, but I did not ever expect to see so many at one time. The number seems exorbitant, but I firmly believe it is a minimum. When estimating the size of some groups flying in, I was careful to use my lower estimate. All of the birds came in from the west, where the Mississippi River is less than a half-mile away. Also many came from the open water areas at the bottom of the Aggregate Industries limestone quarry less than one fifth of a mile west of the conifers.

The plantation was never thinned, so the trees are very dense. The spruce trees are all less than 20 feet tall and the pines less than 30 feet. The arriving robins would first perch in surrounding deciduous trees before descending into the conifers. I found it amazing to observe so many robins disappearing into only 1.5 acres (0.6 hectares) of densely growing conifers.

Being curious about when the robins left their nightly roost site, on February 22 , I set up my vigil. The first robins left one half hour before sunrise. As it was cloudy it was quite dark at that time. Ten minutes later there was a fairly steady stream of birds flying out to the west. One hour and fifteen minutes after sunrise the last of the observed robins left. On leaving, the birds did not first perch in a surrounding deciduous tree, they just flew directly away.

SPAS MEMBER TOM BELL

# Save the Date!

### **Butterfly Census**

June 26TH, with Expert Dean Hasnson, at AHATS in Arden Hills (more info will appear in the June July *Cardinal*.)

### **CONSERVATION CMITE NEWS!** • LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Conservation Committee News**

The Conservation Committee is working on a number of projects to help birds and their habitats, including:

1. Researching and writing a booklet about native plants that attract native insects, which benefit the 96% of songbird species that feed their young exclusively on insects. The 12-page booklet makes a unique contribution for bird-watchers and gardeners alike. It's based on the ideas of Prof. **Douglas Tallamy** in his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, and his presentation at the public seminar sponsored by St. Paul Audubon a year ago.

Contributors are Val Cunningham, Kim Gordon, Meghan Manhatton, Julian Sellers, and Sharon Shinomiya. The booklet is being printed by Thomson Reuters through its pro bono program, thanks to the assistance of Tim Nixon, St. Paul Audubon's president. We are pleased to have a number of co-sponsors for the booklet, including Audubon Minnesota, Wild Ones' local chapters, Outback Nursery, and EnergyScapes Landscaping. The booklet is free and will soon be available for distribution.

- 2. We serve as sponsors for two **Important Bird Areas**, the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to Hastings, and the Arden Hills Army Training Site in Arden Hills. Good progress in being made on the Mississippi River IBA, with volunteers continuing to conduct bird surveys at a number of parks. We have begun the process of setting up bird surveys at AHATS. We plan to begin these with volunteers this summer or fall.
- 3. Committee members are planning for a major seminar in September, devoted to the horrific destruction of the boreal forest in Alberta, Canada, to extract tar sands oil, which is then routed through pipelines for refining in other areas, including Minnesota and Wisconsin. Very little attention has been paid to what is being called the "dirtiest oil in the world" and we hope to bring more exposure to it and the destruction of very important habitat for huge numbers of nesting birds. **Susan Solterman** and **Sarah Risser** are forging partnerships with other groups to develop a compelling program. Stay tuned for further developments.

VAL CUNNINGHAM, CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

# Audubon Minnesota's Environmental Issues Committee's Mid-Session Update

The 2010 Legislative Session has been dominated by a massive hole in the current budget, which needs to be filled with either cuts to existing budgets, or new revenues. Cuts seem to be the solution of choice by most legislators and the Governor, though approaches differ.

The Governor proposed proportional cuts to environmental programs, but entered uncharted territory when he suggested "breaking trust" by transferring funds from accounts dedicated to environmental clean up, recycling, fish and wildlife, etc to balance the general fund. The legislators prefer to leave those accounts alone, and are cutting mostly "general revenue" from budgets.

In an up and down cycle, Audubon worked hard with partners to line up a \$25 million investment in the bonding bill for RIM Reserve, which would have been matched with \$35 million in federal wetland reserve funds. This would have protected approximately 20,000 acres of permanently restored and protected wetlands... but the Governor vetoed it, along with a nice \$4.5 million investment in Scientific and Natural Areas. Also left in his scrap heap of vetoes was more than \$21 million for trail acquisitions. It is hard to understand the Governor's motivations.

Finally, as of this writing, the sulfide mining financial assurance bill has received scrutiny in both the Senate and the House. Briefly, the bill calls for a "damage deposit" from all sulfide ore mines, to assure that water protection and land clean up after mining does not fall to the taxpayer. Some of you may recall that 20 years ago, Audubon backed a very similar bill, which was turned away in the legislature. The House author, St. Paul's Representative Alice Hausman is back in charge — seasoned and wiser for the experience. Those of you who are constituents — please take the time to drop her a note of thanks: rep.alice.hausman@house.mn.

DON ARNOSTI

# **Chimney Swift Enthusiasts**

March 16, 2010, Woodbury, MN. Many of you may be getting anxious for the return of Chimney Swifts to Minnesota. I sure am! Did you know you can view reported sightings of Chimney Swifts throughout eastern North America as they migrate north, by going to www.chimneyswifts.org and clicking on Spring Sightings. The swifts have already been seen entering U.S. airspace over east central Texas! We here at Audubon Minnesota are also interested in recording first arrivals of the swifts into Minnesota, so if you could share the date, location, and number of birds seen with me I would appreciate it.

Don't forget to enter your swift breeding information into the MNBBA (Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas project at www.mnbba.org Speaking of which, if you would like to register to "own a priority block" for this spring, the registration is on that website! The atlas is so important to bird conservation in Minnesota + it is FUN!

RON WINDINGSTAD IS AUDUBON MINNESOTA'S "AUDUBON AT HOME" COORDINATOR. YOU CAN REACH HIM AT 651-739-9332, OR AT RWINDINGSTAD@AUDUBON.ORG

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS!**

# The Summer Birding Class for Kids!

June 14-18, 9 - Noon

Yeah! Our Chapter will sponsor and teach our usual Summer Birding Class for Kids at Como Park's Streetcar Station, at Horton and



Lexington, in St. Paul's "North Dale" neighborhood. This year's class will be run through St. Paul's Parks and Rec. Dept. The focus will be on helping 3RD - 6TH graders.

This is the 6TH or 7TH year for us now. We missed doing it so much last summer that we heartily brought it back. We hope all of our "usual" volunteers will become involved! Anyone who wants to enjoy this great experience should contact Education Chair **Steve Johnson** at 651-776-0104 (pref) or csrockclimb@yahoo.com.

# Be Part of Our Totally NEW Audubon Trek & Tally

Saturday, May 22, 8 - 11:00 AM

#### Ramsey County's Keller Regional Park

(East of Arcade Street on Frost Avenue)

The Saint Paul Audubon Society's

Education Committee is excited about its first ever *Audubon Trek & Tally*, a team competition for 4TH - 6TH graders. The goal is to get more kids outside, enjoying birds. The Saint Paul Audubon's birding camp at the Como Park Streetcar Station, June 14 -18TH, can help only about 10-15 participants learn about birds. Our new Audubon Trek & Tally is designed for about 40 or more; in 10 to 12 teams of 4. Schools who want to participate should call **Steve Johnson** at 651-776-0104, or go to our website at **www.saintpaulaudubon.org** for registration forms and information to sign-up 4TH - 6TH teams. The deadline is May 15TH.

### SPAS Birding Volunteers, Join the fun!

Each team requires an adult volunteer "advisor" to identify the birds the team members spot. That's where our membership comes into play. We are SURE there are 5-10 of you just waiting for an opportunity to get out in the field with kids this spring! Volunteers will attend an orientation session on Thursday, May 20TH from 6-7:00 PM at Keller Regional Park.

On May 22ND, teams will begin checking-in at 8:00 AM with the birding competition running from 8:30-10:00 AM. Determining winners and awarding prizes will consume the remaining hour of the event, with final wrap-up at 11:00 AM. To help with birding, or with tallying and awarding prizes, contact Barbara Lindeke at 651-489-0318 or bclindek@ties2.net

### Annual Fund Drive Donors

Thank you for your very kind support of our Chapter, we honestly could not do all of our activities without your donations.

Egret (up to \$49)

Linda Amrein (In Honor of Julian Sellers), Elwood & Judy Anderson, Gordon Andersson, Tom Bell, Deborah Blackman, Janice Blomberg, Anthony Boekhoff, Monica Bryand, The Cohen's, Majorie Davis, Helen Dwight, Louise Eidsmoe, John Erickson, Nancy FitzGerald, Patty Flynn, Michael Giefer, Kim Gordon, Audrey Greene-Perez, Barbara Hanson (In Memory of John Cyrus Barnum), Liz Harper, Ken & Janet Harris (In Honor of Kenneth Harris, Jr. M.D.), Michael Hauser, Nancy Huart (In honor of the marriage of Monica Bryand & Tess Rizzardi), Mary Ann Huelster, Allison Jensen (In Memory of Margaret 'Peg' Varney), David Jessup, Sharon Karalus, Sue Lamoureux, William Landis, Norman & Judith Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Don Lee, Ellen Lowery (In Memory of Murray Oliphant), Tony & Alice Maistrovich, H. D. & L. H. Markus, Gunilla Montgomery, Jocelyn Muggli, Mary & Denis Novak, Florayne Olen, Holly Peirson (In Honor of Chase Davies), John Petroskas, Deb Robinson, Kenneth & Jean Royer, Julian Sellers, Ed & Marge Senninger, Carrolyn Shepherd, Jeanette Sobania, Chery Steinmueller, Laurel Stiebler, Candus Tripp (In Memory of Trina Marie Tripp), Sid & Gerry Winer (In honor of the marriage of Monica Bryand & Tess Rizzardi), Thomas Wright, John Zakelj, Steve Zis.

#### **Bluebird** (\$50-\$99)

Barbara Ankrum, Don Arnosti, Barb Burleigh, Clay & Jean Christensen, Neil Dahlquist, J. E. Davidson, Jacalyn Eastman, Erik Englebretson & Kathy Farniok, Susan Fuller, Richard & Judith Grimes (In Memory of Myrna Grimes), Nancy Jackson, John Kirchner, Katherine Kudzy, Nancy Larimore, Jan Leite, Dan & Nan McGuiness, Joan McIntosh, Mary McLaurin & Julie Marcus, Carol J. Mizuno, David Mordick, John & Sharon O'Connell, James Pearson, Darlene Philip, Allison Reynolds (In Memory of Robert Bush), Ann Ribbens & AJ Moses (In Memory of Julia and Wilbert Ribbens), Joel & Gail Roberts, Stanley Shepard, Robert Sherman, Sharon Shinomiya, Bill Stjern (In Memory of Murray Oliphant), Jeanne & Steve Tanamachi, Jim & Dawn Voegeli, Ben G. Zimmerman.

#### Cardinal (\$100 or more)

Deborah Bachrach, Terrance Brueck, Stewart Corn & Ellen Ferrari, Val Cunningham, Chase Davies, Gordon Davis, Dean Doering, Karen Eckman, Jody Hauer, Frances Heinselman, Charles Lea, Jim Lindner (In Memory of Alpheus Olson), Sue & Tom McCarthy, Richard Newmark, Carole Nimlos (In Memory of Kenneth Nimlos, M.D.), Roger Peters, Deborah Reynolds, Sarah Risser, Robert & Miriam Titzler, Jenny Vitale, Dorothy Waltz, Gil Ward, Jean Wirsig, Barbara Wojahn.

#### THE LAST PAGE



#### Electronic Resources

"you gotta bookmark these sites!"

Saint Paul Audubon's website is at: www.saintpaulaudubon.org (Member Meetings, Field Trips, Conservation, Education, "Cardinal" archives)

Audubon Minnesota is at www.mn.audubon.org

National Audubon Society is at: www.audubon.org (birds & science, issues & action, education, Audubon at home, state centers & chapters, environmental news)

Minnesota DNR is at www.dnr.state.mn.us or call 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (Info on State Parks, State Forests, Wildlife Mgmt Areas, Scientific & Natural Areas, bird lists, wildlife info)

National Wildlife Refuges in MN can be found at www.fws.gov/midwest (click on "Minnesota")

National Parks in USA & MN can be found at www.nps.gov (w/clickable map)

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is at www.mou.mn.org (birding listserves, migration and nesting occurence maps, State Park bird lists, RBA (Rare Bird Alert) reports, all 87 county bird lists, seasonal reports, etc.)

> Minnesota's Rare Bird Hotlines are: Metro/Statewide 763-780-8890 Duluth/No. Shore 218-728-5030 Northwestern MN 1-800-433-1888

Ramsey County & Saint Paul Audubon have collaborated to publish "A Guide to Birding Ramsey County." Find it online at:

http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/Natural Resources/BirdingInRamseyCounty.htm

Northwest MN's Pine to Prairie Birding Trail website is at www.mnbirdtrail.com

> The Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail is at www.birdingtrail.org

Mississippi River from Itasca to Iowa, the Great River Birding Trail, is at www.greatriverbirding.org

MNBirdNet Statewide Electronic Bird Club, is at: mnbird-request@linux2.winona.msus.edu

Bob Ekblad's great list of events and MN Bird Checklist is at: http://home.rconnect.com/~ekblad/MN-Event.htm

Get Involved in saving/restoring habitat: Buy Duck Stamps! http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm

### 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. She is at ccdavies@aol.com You may unsubscribe at any time.

# Reaching Our Leaders

Washington, D.C.

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue President Washington, D.C. 20500, 202-456-1111 Obama

president@whitehouse.gov

**US Senator** Amy Klobuchar DC 202-224-3244, MN 612-727-5220

http://klobuchar.senate.gov/emailamy.cfm Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington DC 20510 MN: Federal Building, #298, Ft Snelling, MN 55111

**US** Senator Al Franken DC 202-224-5641, MN 651-221-1016 info@franken.senate.gov 320 Hart Senate Office Bldg,

Washington DC 20510

US Rep 4TH Betty McCollum DC 202-225-6631, 1029 Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC 20515;

MN 651-224-9191, 165 Western Avenue N, #17, Saint Paul, MN 55102; Internet email:

www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

US Rep 5TH Keith Ellison DC 202-225-4755. MN 612-664-8000

1130 Longworth House Office Bldg, DC 20515 250 Marquette Avenue #225, MPLS, MN 55401 http://ellison.house.gov

6TH Michelle Bachmann DC 202-225-2331, MN 651-US Rep

731-5400, 412 Cannon House Office Bldg, Wash,

DC

20515 MN: 6043 Hudson Rd #330. Woodbury, MN 55125 <a href="http://bachmann.house.gov/Email\_zip.htm">http://bachmann.house.gov/Email\_zip.htm</a>

Minnesota

Tim Pawlenty 75 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd, Governor

#130, Saint Paul, MN 55155, 651-296-3391 Fax: 651-296-2089 tim.pawlenty@state.mn.us

To find your senator, call the Secretary of State MN Senators

651-296-0504, or go to www.senate.leg.state.mn.us

MN Reps To find your representative, call the MN House at

### **HMANA**

April 15-18, 2010

The Hawk Migration Association of North America's 2010 Conference will be hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth.

This will be a fascinating weekend, with paper sessions by raptor researchers, guided field trips around Duluth and the Sax-Zim Bog, afternoon workshops, watch-site seminars, a silent auction, poster session and evening banquets with keynote speakers Dr. Scott Lanyon (Friday) and L. David Mech (Saturday).

In addition, Hawk Ridge's Spring Hawk Count is posting some impressive numbers of raptors migrating through Duluth on their journey north to their breeding grounds.

For more information and to Register, go to www.hmana.org

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

#### **April May 2010**

June July Deadline 5/5/2010

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.

#### CALENDAR APRIL Member Mtg: About Carp ......8 Field Trip: Waterfowl Migration .....10 Field Trip: Evening with Woodcock . . . . 27 May Living Green Expo, St. Fair Grnds . . . . 1-2 Field Trip: Spring at Nerstrand .....2 Warbler Weekend ..........7-9 Member Mtg: Salamanders . . . . . . . 13 Event: Ramsey Cty Urban Bird Fest .13-16 Field Trip: Old Cedar Ave Area .....15 Field Trip: Interstate State Park .....15 Event: Audubon's Trek & Tally ....22 Field Trip: Lilydale Reg'l Pk .......22 Field Trip: Lebanon Hills Reg'l Pk ....22 Field Trip: Bunker Hills Reg'l Pk .....29 Field Trip: Birding by Ear ..... June 5

Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit # 3795 St. Paul, Minnesota

# Time Dated Material CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

# Birders Guiding Birders: A Workshop

Saturday, April 17, 2:00-4:30 PM

Helping folks become field trip leaders is an ongoing activity and a very real need for all birding groups.

Are you aware that the field trip leader does not have to be the expert for the group being led around an area? Are you a birder who takes family or friends to a favorite place, but so far have not assisted with a group event? Do you enjoy people having fun, experiencing pleasure, smiling and laughing? Well, this just might be your chance to get some pointers, share some experiences, and evaluate your risk: reward: fun ratios. Then maybe, just maybe, you too can help develop birding and birders in your area. (For more info and a map to the location, see the Feb-March Cardinal)

Questions? Contact Chase Davies at 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com

St.	<b>Paul</b>	Audubon	Society	Local Sponsorship
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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!
$\Box$	L currently receive National's Audubon Magazine

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_ 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**

C9ZM030

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 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")