

# The Cardinal

APRIL MAY 2011 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## APRIL MEMBER MEETING

### “Prairie, Lake, Forest: Minnesota’s State Parks”

with **Chris Niskanen**  
Department of Natural Resources  
**April 14, 2011**

Chris Niskanen’s new book about our state parks covers fascinating stories, natural history, birding, waterfalls, rock climbing and rare plants and trees. Minnesota’s state parks are keystones to natural resources protection as well as providing wildlife habitat, protection for threatened plants and open space for all Minnesotans.

However, to some, state parks are controversial. Since the first state park was established in 1891, there have been arguments about setting aside land for public use. Others argue that state parks fill a critical need for open space.

Niskanen was outdoors editor for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for 17 years before recently joining the DNR as communications director.

#### Relevant web site:

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/index.html)

## MAY MEMBER MEETING

### “Birds in Flight: The Art and Science of How Birds Fly”

with **Carrol Henderson**  
Supervisor, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program

**May 12, 2011**

Birds make flying look effortless but there's a great deal going on behind the scenes. How birds actually rise in the air, sweep across the sky and come in for flawless landings has always been a bit challenging to understand-until now.

Carrol Henderson’s book, *Birds in Flight, The Art and Science of How Birds Fly*, clearly explains the miracle of flight, demystifying the complex interactions of lift, thrust and drag. Flight principles apply equally to the tiny hummingbird and the giant condor, as well as the diving falcon and the swooping swallow. A dedicated naturalist and photographer, Henderson has assembled a career's

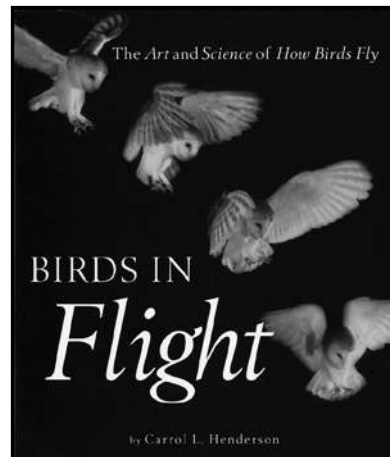
worth of photos, some taken locally, some on the global adventures he leads, to illustrate avian aerodynamics.

If you’ve ever wondered how a hummingbird can hover or an egret land without injury, Henderson has the answers. The driving force behind the Minnesota

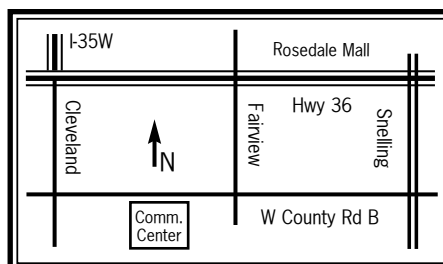
Department of Natural Resource’s Nongame Wildlife Program, Henderson is an accomplished author and photographer and an engaging speaker.



Henslow's Sparrow photographed in 2009 at Frontenace St. Park by SPAS member Carole Brysky



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!*



## CHAPTER INFORMATION

### BOARD MEETINGS

Saint Paul Audubon's Board Meetings are held at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit 35-E at Little Canada Rd., go east to Noel, across from City Hall. Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month unless otherwise noted, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Upcoming dates are: **April 4, May 2, June 6**. For more information or regrets, contact president Bruce Bevis at [bruce.bevis@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:bruce.bevis@thomsonreuters.com)

### AUDUBON APPLAUSE



## Need your help at the Living Green Expo

Volunteers are needed to help staff Saint Paul Audubon's table at the **Living Green Expo**, May 7-8 at the State Fair Grounds. It's easy duty, just tell the Saint Paul Audubon story, encourage passers-by to join our chapter and talk about birds and other wildlife. Contact Richard Newmark at [ranewmark@yahoo.com](mailto:ranewmark@yahoo.com) or 651-340-3487 for more information or to sign up. Learn more about the Expo at [www.livinggreen.org/](http://www.livinggreen.org/)

## St. Paul recognizes Audubon Volunteers

St. Paul's *Neighborhood Honor Roll* singled out two Saint Paul Audubon members for recognition in January. The City's annual awards, recognizing volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to their neighborhoods, honored 44 residents, including **Monica Bryand** and **Sharon Shinomiya**.

City Council President Kathy Lantry read the nominations and gave each awardee a certificate at the January 21<sup>st</sup> event at the University of St. Thomas.

Ms. Bryand was recognized for serving as board president for her district council on St. Paul's West Side, steering the group through a difficult transitional period. At the same time she serves as the community group's environment committee chair.

Ms. Shinomiya (right) was described as a "volunteer extraordinaire" for her many activities in her Como Park neighborhood, including organizing Poet-Tree workshops for schoolkids, tutoring at the local elementary school, maintaining public gardens, monitoring a bluebird trail and researching and writing a Como Park history tour.



### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President Bruce Bevis	651-269-7889 <a href="mailto:bruce.bevis@thomsonreuters.com">bruce.bevis@thomsonreuters.com</a>
Vice President Craig Andresen	651-636-3462 <a href="mailto:candresen@comcast.net">candresen@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer Richard Newmark	651-340-3487 <a href="mailto:ranewmark@yahoo.com">ranewmark@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary Tess Rizzardi	651-292-0004 <a href="mailto:mjbryand@qwest.net">mjbryand@qwest.net</a>
Programs Chair Mark Bearss	651) 206-2270 (c) <a href="mailto:mark.bearss@co.hennepin.mn.us">mark.bearss@co.hennepin.mn.us</a>
Conservat'n Co-Chr Val Cunningham	651-645-5230 <a href="mailto:writers2@comcast.net">writers2@comcast.net</a>
Conservat'n Co-Chr Susan Solterman	651-260-7040 (c) <a href="mailto:ssolterman@yahoo.com">ssolterman@yahoo.com</a>
Field Trips Chair Chase Davies	651-633-1663 <a href="mailto:ccdavies@aol.com">ccdavies@aol.com</a>
Education Chair Steve Johnson	651-776-0104 <a href="mailto:csrockclimb@yahoo.com">csrockclimb@yahoo.com</a>
Membership Chair John O'Connell	651-738-8310 <a href="mailto:john-sharon-oconnell@att.net">john-sharon-oconnell@att.net</a>
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Newsletter Mailing Jane Schuler	651-644-5338 n/a
Chapter Phone	651-291-2596

*(Outgoing Message Only — take down numbers given to call for info)*

Audubon Minnesota 651-739-9332

[www.mn.audubon.org](http://www.mn.audubon.org)

National Audubon Society [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

### ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

*Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with 12 members, the Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities area, and has around 2,600 members. We hold 9 Member Meetings a year. Feel free to contact those listed at left for more info, or write to SPASociety at PO Box 7275, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107 or visit our website at [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org)*

### ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Cardinal is 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)

### THE CARDINAL ON THE WEB

Members may now receive the newsletter by download from the website. To sign up, contact Webmaster **Ben Wilson** online.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

Audubon members who don't live in the East Metro Area who want to receive *The Cardinal* may send \$15 for a 1 year's subscription to **John O'Connell**, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, Saint 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.

# ANNUAL MEETING: MAY 12, 2011

## Nominating Committee Slate for 2011-2012

*For the May 12<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting*

### OFFICERS (one year terms):

**President: Louis Asher** - Currently filling a vacancy on the Board; Audubon member for 25 years; retired researcher/statistician; actively works and speaks on renewable energy; volunteers in organizations that deal with habitat conservation and climate change.

**Vice President Bruce Bevis** – Current President of Saint Paul Audubon; Marketing Director at Thomson Reuters and active in the company's conservation campaign.

### OFFICERS (exempt from limits):

**Treasurer: Richard Newmark** – Current Treasurer; retired chemist; active in Conservation Committee; helpful in rep'ing SPAS at various functions; excellent at providing continuity to Board as it changes with each election.

**Secretary: Tess Rizzardi** – Current Secretary; member for six years; has served on the Board since 2006; 2<sup>ND</sup> grade teacher in Hudson, WI. Tess also provides continuity to the Board.

### NOMINEES FOR BOARD (2 yr terms):

**Craig Andresen** – SPAS since 1991; current Vice Pres.; Board Member - 7 yrs, past Pres. - 2 yrs; monitors 400 nest boxes; owns co. that does prescribed burns and exotic species control on public lands.

**Mark Bearss** – Current Board Member; has filled two consecutive mid-term vacancies on Board; serves on a subcommittee of the Board which funnels *Minnesota Heritage Fund* monies to meaningful projects; is current Program Committee Chair.

**Dean Doering** – Current Board; member of SPAS for 10-20 years; Annual Fund Drive Chair and Audit Committee for two years; interested in creating habitat in personal landscapes, emphasis on native plants.

**Barb Lindeke** – Member of SPAS for 25+ years; served as Education Chair for both SPAS and Audubon Minnesota; currently active member of SPAS Education Committee. Barb has retired after 31 yrs as history and geography teacher at Anoka H. S. She works to keep children and teenagers interested in environmental issues.

*Board members* continuing for the second year of their terms are **Sarah Risser, Monica Wiese, and Ben Wilson**. We welcome **Laurel Stiebler** back to the Board. Laurel has been a member of SPAS for 8 years. New member of Education Committee; lifelong outdoor enthusiast and trainer; retired from state gov't. She will fill the vacancy left by Susan Richter, who resigned in Dec. 2010.

In addition to **Susan Richter, Tania Homayoun and Cheri Steinmueller** will be fleaving the Board. *We thank them VERY much for their time and expertise while leading our chapter.*

### Proposed Budget Highlights:

The projected *Expenses* for next year are very similar to those for this year (*see right column*). The *Projected Income* for the next fiscal year is projected to be about \$1,000 lower than this fiscal year due to a decline in contributions. Thus, the budget shows a \$2,415 deficit, somewhat larger than the \$1,755 deficit in the current year's budget, approved in May, 2010. If fundraising or donations do not return to historical levels our reserves will cover the proposed loss. Last year's project deficit of \$1,755 was covered by an unexpected donation of \$3,000 from Thomson Reuters in support of our President, Bruce Bevis. This donation also enabled support of other conservation programs.

In addition, and not included in the budget, is Audubon's support of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Heritage Enhancement grants. Audubon serves as fiscal agent for these DNR grants to Natural Resource Restoration for habitat restoration. SPAS received \$34,668 from the DNR in the 2010-11 fiscal year to support this work.

## 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

*Proposed by Board, Feb. 7, 2011*

### INCOME

Christmas/Butterfly Counts . . . . . \$470  
Education & Program Committees . . . \$475  
Field Trips & Warbler Weekend . . . \$9,000  
**Total Committee Income . . . . . \$9,945**

Donations . . . . . \$500  
Fund Drive . . . . . \$6,000  
**Total Donations Income . . . . . \$6,500**

Dues from National Audubon. . . . . \$6,500  
Local Dues . . . . . \$700  
**Total Dues Income . . . . . \$7,200**

Grants/Div's. from Endowment Fund \$2,000  
Interest & Dividend Income . . . . . \$1,020  
Total Grants/Dividends Income . . . \$3,020  
**Total 2010-2011 Income . . . . \$26,665**

### EXPENSES

Fund drive. . . . . \$500  
Membership Recruitment . . . . . \$300  
Misc & Contingency. . . . . \$100  
Operating Expenses . . . . . \$100  
Telephone Line . . . . . \$550  
Web Page. . . . . \$500  
**Total Admin. & Oper. Expenses. \$2,050**

Birdathon & Butterfly Count . . . . . \$250  
Christmas Bird Count. . . . . \$370  
Conservation Committee . . . . . \$500  
Education Committee . . . . . \$500  
Field trips and Warbler weekend . . . \$9,000  
Programs . . . . . \$2,500  
Green Expo. . . . . \$150  
**Total Progs & Field Trip Exp. . \$13,270**

Art & Design . . . . . \$1,100  
Labels & Postage. . . . . \$1,970  
Printing . . . . . \$9,000  
**Total Newsletter Expenses . . . \$12,070**

Audubon Minnesota . . . . . \$1,000  
Other Orgs.: MEP & MOU. . . . . \$190  
Total Support to Orgs. Expenses. . . \$1,190

Transfer to Endowment . . . . . \$500  
**Total 2010-2011 Expenses. . . \$29,080**

## Waterfowl Migration on Metro Lakes

Saturday, April 9TH, 8:00 to Noon

Join us as we explore several lakes looking 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 Migrants, Southern Dakota County

Saturday, April 23RD, 7:00 to Noon

Join us on a 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.

**Difficulty** Easy  
**Carpool** 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears  
**Leader** Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737  
 JulianSellers@msn.com  
 preferred (call only for info)

## Birds & Blooms at Nerstrand "Big Woods" State Park

Sunday, May 1, 8:30 AM at Park

There is nothing so sublime as a fine spring day at Nerstrand. Kinglets, Red-headed Woodpeckers and other migrants; Bloodroot, Ginger; all will be made much of.

**DIRECTIONS:** Park is SE of Northfield, 1-1/2 hours from St. Paul. Take I-35 to Ex. #69, take MN 19 into Northfield. At junct. with Hwy 3, go So. to Hwy 246, follow it another ~

## Everyone's Invited! Celebrate "Where Birds & People Meet"

**Coming May 12 to 15:** the annual Urban Birding Festival, four days of bird-watching fun close to home. Celebrate the return of spring migrants by joining some of the many bird walks in metro area parks and open spaces, attending the **Bird Expo** at Springbrook Nature Center and/or meandering around the almost-never-open *Arden Hills Army Training Site*, with its nesting sandhill cranes, osprey and trumpeter swans.

**Jan Dunlap**, author of the highly entertaining *Bob White Birder Murder* mystery series, is the Saturday luncheon speaker. Each of her mysteries follows high school teacher Bob White pursuing more than birds as he searches for a killer. Her most recent title, *A Bobwhite Killing*, is set in northern Minnesota.

Everyone is invited to all **Urban Birding Festival** events, so bring the kids, out-of-town visitors and anyone else to join the fun. Every event is free and open to the public. Bird hikes are led by experienced Audubon volunteers and can be enjoyed by everyone, from first-timers to the experienced. The festival schedule is below, with details and maps available at

([www.urbanbirdingfestival.org](http://www.urbanbirdingfestival.org))

### Thursday, May 12

8-9:30 AM Rice Creek Trail Hike  
 8-9:30 AM Vento Nature Sanctuary  
 7:30-9:00 PM Tamarack Evening Hike

### Friday, May 13

8-9:30 AM Como Park Hike  
 8-9:30 AM Locke Park  
 10-11:30 AM Roberts Bird Sanctuary  
 10-11:30 AM Anoka County Riverfront Park  
 11-1:00 PM Osprey Nest Observations at Coon Rapids Dam

### Saturday, May 14

8-9:30 AM Woodview / Reservoir Woods Hike  
 8-9:30 AM Innsbruck Park Hike  
 8-9:30 AM Crosby Park Hike  
 9 AM-3:00 PM Springbrook Nature Center, **Birding Displays:** Saint Paul Audubon, Audubon Minnesota, MOU, Nongame Program, Bell Museum Books, Face Painting. **Demos:** Binoculars, Bird Feeders, Bird Banding.

### Guided Bird Walks:

10:00 AM Wetland Hike 1:00 PM Young Birder Walk  
 11:00 AM Young Birder Walk  
 12:00 PM

**Lunch Speaker: Jan Dunlap**, author of *Birder Murder Mystery* series. Purchase a Box lunch; reserve at Springbrook Nature Center, 763-572-3588.

### Sunday, May 15

8-9:30 AM Battle Creek Hike  
 8-9:30 AM Mississippi River Gorge  
 12-4:00 PM AHATS Tour/Open Hike

### Guided Hikes:

12-1:30 PM 1-3:30 PM 2-3:30 PM



Saturday, May 14  
 International  
 Bird Day,  
 celebrate the  
 of birds the  
 spring

10 mi., following signs to the Park. **FEE AREA:** Annual or Daily State Park sticker. No Res. Req'd. We partner with *St Croix Wild Ones* for this outing. Bring your hiking staff to help on the bluff trail. You don't want to miss these spring ephemerals!! Practice using the macro button on your digital camera!! Bring lunch; we usually watch bluebirds and Red-headed Woodpeckers while we eat!

**Level Moderate: Bluff Descent**  
**Leader Chase Davies, 651-636-1663, ccdavies@aol.com**

## Birding Our Partner's Place

**Saturday May 5, 7-10:00 AM**

Wooded land and water deep within the metro area are prized by migrants and residents. Saint Paul Audubon Society and Maplewood Nature Center partner from time to time. This is an opportunity to walk the trails and see the sights and hear the sounds of Maplewood with two of our new leaders, Karen and Ellen. Location: 2659 E. 7TH Street. At the Nature Center sign, turn west off Century Avenue onto E. 7TH.

**Level Easy**  
**Leaders Karen Cramer, 651-735-3813**  
**kaycee765@comcast.net**  
**Ellen Lowery, 651-429-8624**  
**ellen.lowery@gmail.com**

## Old Cedar Avenue Bridge

**May 14, 7:00 AM to Noon**

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

**Level Easy**  
**Meet 7:00 am, Sears; 7:30 am, OCB**  
**Bring Binoculars and scope if you own them**  
**Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309,**  
**paul.spreitzer@gmail.com**

## Woodcock Courtship Flights Arden Hills Army Training Site

**Monday, May 16TH, 8-10:00 PM**

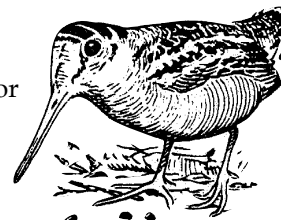
Deep dusk displays of courting woodcock involve death defying dives. This is a fun 'hunt!' Once a year, SPAS is given special permission to be on the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) to view these dives from heights beyond imagination, as the male woodcock woos on-looking females. They are not easy to see, and they perform at dawn and dusk. The sound of his wings making a trilling and thrilling vibration help to pinpoint his landing spot from which he calls plaintively, "Peent

peent peent..." Will a she answer?

Bring your flashlight with the strongest, brightest light. The roads can be dusty or muddy, so prepare for conditions. We may be sitting in one spot for a while, so dress warmly.

Arrive a few minutes early to meet and form carpools in the parking lot of the Arden Hills City Hall. AHATS is a locked secure area, so the group will move in and out together. ***Birders must be 18 years or older.*** No reg. req'd.

**Level Easy**  
**Meet Arden Hills City Hall parking lot, 8:00 PM sharp**  
**Leaders Craig Andresen, 651-636-3462**  
**Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949**



## Woodland Birds

**Saturday, May 21, 7:00 AM to Noon**

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 (hills!)**  
**Carpool 7:00 AM, Sears SW corner or 7:30 AM / Park. End-noon.**  
**Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309**  
**paul.spreitzer@gmail.com**

## Birding By Ear, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

**Saturday, June 4TH, 7:00 to Noon**

The hardwood forest at Murphy-Hanrehan Park near Savage is among the best birding places 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 will be in the field for up to five hours (you may leave earlier), so bring water and snacks. We will return to Saint Paul at about 12:30 pm. **DIRECTIONS:** South from St. Paul on I-35E to Hwy 42. West on 42 about 2 miles. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Burnsville Parkway. Continue for about 2 miles, turn left on Hwy 75, then immediately left into the parking lot.

**Difficulty Medium**  
**Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears or 7:30 at the park**  
**Leader Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737,**  
**JulianSellers@msn.com (preferred, call only if need info)**

May 14 is  
 Migratory  
 a time to  
 the billions  
 that return on  
 's winds.

## Saint Paul Audubon's Spring Warbler Weekend



**May 6-8, 2011**

Our annual Warbler Weekend is located near Lake Pepin and Frontenac State Park, right on the Mississippi flyway. Our annual weekends over the last 30-40 years have averaged 130-135 species, including an average of 21-24 species of warblers. Field Trip leaders offer bird walks for beginner, medium, and experienced birders. Registration is limited to Saint Paul Audubon members until **April 10th**, then open to all on a first-come first-served basis.

A more complete informational article can be seen in the Feb/March *Cardinal*. For more information please call Deb Bachrach at 651-690-4130 or send email to [deb.bachrach@yahoo.com](mailto:deb.bachrach@yahoo.com)

### Warbler Weekend Registration Form

Quantity	Options	Amount
___	Full Wknd Adult . . . . .sgl \$140 .shr \$125	\$ _____
___	Fri. night +3 Sat. meals . .sgl \$85 .shr \$75	\$ _____
___	Sat night + 4 meals . . .sgl \$95 .shr \$85	\$ _____
___	Child under 12 (sharing with adult . . . . .)	\$.30 \$ _____
___	Saturday Breakfast . . . . .8:00 AM . . . . .	\$.8 \$ _____
___	Saturday Lunch . . . . .Noon . . . . .	\$.10 \$ _____
___	Saturday Dinner . . . . .6:00 PM . . . . .	\$.12 \$ _____
___	Sunday Brunch . . . . .10:00 AM . . . . .	\$.10 \$ _____
___	Camp (no hookup) \$20 -ea nt + \$40/4 meals	\$ _____

*(Prices include registration fee. No refunds for missed meals.)*

**Total** (check payable to Saint Paul Audubon) . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening phone \_\_\_\_\_

Names of People attending \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to Saint Paul Audubon Society,  
c/o Deb Bachrach, 1163 Edgcombe 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](mailto:deb.bachrach@yahoo.com)

## Tuesday Mornings in May are for Early Birders!

Our popular "early bird" walks are held during spring migration and the start of nesting season. Meet at site. Walks are from 7:00 to 9:00 AM. Call leader for questions. Please join us!

### May 3

**Lake Elmo Park Reserve.** 1515 Keats Ave. North Lake Elmo, MN, 55042. DIRECTIONS: I-94 east from St. Paul past the 494/694 junction to Hwy 19/Keats Avenue, go north .5 mile straight to park entrance. Day or annual pass required. At first large parking lot.

**Leaders** Linda Kellar 651-275-0461  
Karen Kramer 651-735-3813

### May 10

**Crosby Farm Regional Park.** 2595 Crosby Farm Rd. St Paul, MN. Access from Shepherd Rd., St. Paul. Meet at farthest parking lot.

**Leaders** Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737  
Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

### May 17

**Long Lake Regional Park.** 1500 Old Highway 8, New Brighton, MN, 55112. Meet at first parking lot on the left.

**Leader** Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

### May 24

**Reservoir Woods.** Mackubin at Larpenteur, Roseville. Parking lot is on the north side of Larpenteur Avenue between Dale and Rice.

**Leaders** Val Cunningham, 651-645-5230  
Clay Christensen, 651-631-0409

### May 31

**Battle Creek Park.** Meet at Battle Creek Community Rec Ctr on Winthrop, 75 Winthrop Street, St Paul, MN, 55113

This community center is on Winthrop Street, between Upper Afton Road and Lower Afton Road

**Leaders** Julian Sellers 651-698-5737  
Karen Cramer 651-735-3813

### June 7

**Restored Benson Prairie.** White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. Driving No. on Hwy 61, turn left (west) on Cty Rd J, then immediately left (south) 1/2 mi. to Otter Lake/Bald Eagle Lake Park parking lot. Mowed trails.

**Leaders** Val Cunningham, 651-645-5230  
Clay Christensen, 651-631-0409

## New I.D. Guide Generates Talk in the Birding World

There's a major buzz in the bird-watching world over a new book, *The Crossley I.D. Guide, Eastern Birds*, produced by well-known photographer and birder Richard Crossley. This is not your standard field guide: For one thing, it's large and very heavy, the kind of book you consult back at home after you've been out looking at birds. Its publisher calls it 'revolutionary.' The author says he "hopes it will help change the way we look at birds."

I'm not quite sure it will revolutionize bird watching, but I feel Crossley does accomplish his goal: the book is a major change from traditional field guides in the way it shows birds as they live their lives—flying, foraging and perching in their natural habitats. Some 10,000 of Crossley's photos were used to make composite images that illustrate the behaviors and plumages of 640 bird species. For example, the Purple Martin page incorporates 23 images of martins in action, hawking for insects and perching on martin houses as well photos showing various life stages.

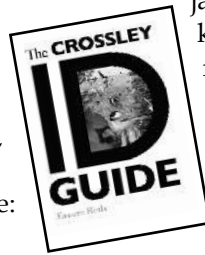
Unlike other field guides that depict a single, isolated bird to emphasize its particular identification marks, Crossley's book features large, lifelike scenes for each species. The beautiful montages are almost like mini-dioramas, with a 3D quality, showing how birds look up close, at a distance, in flight and other contexts.

Since it's not a standard field guide, how will people use this book? I'm betting it'll be somewhat like the iPad when it first was introduced—users will devise their own ways to fit the book to their birding styles.

Audubon member Clay Christensen, an excellent birder, anticipates using the book as a sort of study guide, consulting it for birds he seldom sees or doesn't know well, before going out in the field. The Crossley guide also offers a good refresher on birds like the warbler clan that we see only during migration.

I like the emphasis on bird habitats, and plan to study them for a sense of what conditions suit which birds. These can guide bird watchers to seek out a particular niche to find particular birds (a marsh for a marsh wren, say). The Crossley book brings alive the importance of appropriate habitats to birds and maybe will help mute, a bit, the tendency among some birders to merely identify and count the birds they see. This new guide will help us get to know the birds.

A couple of niggles: some of the photos in a given scene are too small and far away to be of much use. Since it's organized differently than a standard field guide, it may not be as easy to look up a new bird. And I really wish Crossley had not included the four-letter abbreviations used by bird banders for each species. This



jargon has the effect of excluding those who don't know (and don't need to know) that YRWA can mean Yellow-rumped Warbler. Birds have fine, time-tested names and we don't need to hide them in code. The book also has several errors and these are corrected on Crossley's blog: [www.Crossleybooks.com/blog](http://www.Crossleybooks.com/blog).

*The Crossley I.D. Guide, Eastern Birds*, Princeton University Press, 2011, \$35.

--BY VAL CUNNINGHAM

### Watching 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 Sat's, 8 - Noon/summer, 9 - Noon/Winter. Free.

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

**Springbrook Nature Center**, Fridley, Anoka Co.; for dates and times to to [www.springbrooknaturecenter.org](http://www.springbrooknaturecenter.org)

**You may be allowed to release birds. Dress for the weather!**

### ✦ Reaching Our Leaders

#### In Washington, D.C.

- President Obama The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20500, 202-456-1111 [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto: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](mailto:info@franken.senate.gov) 320 Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington DC 20510 MN: 60E Plato Blvd. #220 St. Paul 55107
- 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](http://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>
- US Rep 6TH Michelle Bachmann DC 202-225-2331, MN 651-731-5400, 412 Cannon House Office Bldg, Wash, DC 20515 MN: 6043 Hudson Rd #330, Woodbury, MN 55125 [http://bachmann.house.gov/Email\\_zip.htm](http://bachmann.house.gov/Email_zip.htm)

#### In Minnesota

- Governor Mark Dayton 75 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd, #130, Saint Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-3400 Fax: 651-797-1850 [mark.dayton@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.dayton@state.mn.us)
- MN Senators To find your senator, call the Secretary of Senate 651-296-0504, or go to [www.senate.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us)
- MN Reps To find your representative, call the MN House at 651-296-2146, or go to [www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us)

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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April May 2011

June July Deadline 5/5/2011



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CALENDAR

APRIL

- Board Meeting . . . . .4
Field Trip: Metro Lakes . . . . .9
Member Meeting: State Parks . . . . .14
Field Trip: Dakota Cty Migrants . . . . .23

MAY

- Field Trip: Nerstrand St. Pk. . . . .1
Board Meeting . . . . .2
TUES AM: Lake Elmo . . . . .3
Field Trip: Maplewood Ntr Cntr . . . . .5
Warbler Weekend . . . . .6-8
TUES AM: Crosby Farm Park . . . . .10
Member Meeting: Birds in Flight . . . . .12
Ramsey Co. Bird Fest . . . . .12-15
Field Trip: Old Cdr Ave/Bass Pnds . . . . .14
EVENING Field Trip: Woodcock . . . . .16
TUES AM: Long Lake Reg. Park . . . . .17
Field Trip: Lebanon Hills . . . . .21
TUES AM: Reservoir Woods . . . . .24
TUES AM: Battle Creek . . . . .31

JUNE

- Field Trip: Birding by Ear . . . . .June 4
TUES AM: Benson Prairie . . . . .June 7

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