AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2013 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

# **Member Meetings 2013-14**

September 12: Don Luce, J.J. Audubon and the Art of Birds

October 10: Dr. Jon Grinnell, Bison

November 14: Lisa Harn, Grasshopper Sparrows

December 12: William Souder, the Biography of Rachel

Carson (tentative)

January 9, '14: Judy Helgen, Frogs: Peril in the Ponds

February 13: Trevor Russell and Lark Weller

Mississippi River Health (tentative)

March 13: Michael Billington

How Raptors See

April 10: Laura Erickson

Owls &

Hummingbirds

May 8: Kevin Heist or

Anna Peterson,

Wind Turbines & Birds

For questions, please contact our Programs Chair (see p. 2).





Internet images: Top: Audubon's Double Elephant Folio (shown for scale) Middle: the Green Heron page Bottom: the Least Bittern page

MEMBER MEETING

## 'Audubon and the Art of Birds'

with **Don Luce,** Curator of Exhibits and Natural History, The Bell Museum

#### **September 12, 2013**

Located on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota, the Bell Museum is truly one of the treasures of the Twin Cities. The Museum owns one of the few complete sets of John James Audubon's greatest art folio, "The Birds of America." Every bird is drawn lifesized. Each of the 435 prints measures nearly 40" x 30."

A selection of newly-conserved prints will be the focal point of a new exhibition — *Audubon and the Art of Birds* — opening at the Bell Museum this October. Audubon's life and work will be put in context with the development of bird art from the Renaissance to the present day. Works from across the country have been assembled for this exhibition. In the illustrated talk, Luce will discuss the many artists and artworks in the show, as well as the process of planning an exhibition of this scope.

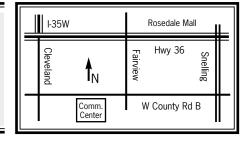
Don Luce is the Curator of Exhibits and Natural History Art at the Bell Museum, where he has worked for 35 years. He holds a bachelors degree in zoology and a masters degree in medical and biological illustration from the University of Michigan. He plans and develops exhibitions about science, the environment, and nature-inspired art.

To learn more about this topic, please visit the following website: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu

Everyone is invited to this FREE Saint Paul Audubon Society program at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 West County Road B in Roseville, *see map below*. Social time with refreshments begins at 6:45.

All chapter events are free and open to the public.

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!



#### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Saint Paul Audubon's Board Meetings are held at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit 35-E at Little Canada Rd, go east to Noel. Meetings are held 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Upcoming dates: August 5, September 2, October 7. Officers are: Barb Lindeke, Deb Bachrach, Mary Beth Smith Peterson, Richard Newmark. Board Members are: Craig Andresen, Mark Bearss, Jim Lindner, Tom McCarthy, Deb Robinson, Laurel Stiebler, Monica Wiese.

# SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY President 651–489–0318

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Ben Wilson webmaster@saintpaulaudubon.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 SPAS 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 may be

edited. Send to hpbirdscouter@msn.com

THE CARDINAL Electronic Version

Members may now receive the newsletter by

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

#### 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.

Nat'l Audubon Soc. www.audubon.org

# Chapter President's Message

A lot has happened since my election as President at the May meeting. Our chapter members have been very busy sharing their environmental values with thousands of young people on the *Big River Journey* and at the *Como Park Bird Camp for Kids*, and with lots of our neighbors at the *Native Plant Expo and Market*. They have been involved in Citizen Science with the *Warbler Weekend* count and the *NABA Butterfly Census*. There have been lots of Field Trips on Tuesdays and Saturdays; our people enjoy this beautiful world in many ways.

I see some of you at **Member Meetings** (see schedule on p. 1) and others at Bird Camp or on the Mississippi River or welcoming warblers and other migrants at Frontenac, or watching woodcocks dance in Arden Hills. I hope when you attend our events, you'll feel free to introduce yourself! Let our wonderful board members and officers know what you think of how the SPAS is doing, or give us your ideas for what else we could be doing!

Thanks to so many wonderful people! A lot is happening, but there is certainly more to be done for nature, birds to be found, fun to be had. Check *The Cardinal* or the *website* or our *Facebook* page to see what is going on. Choose to get involved with this great group of people. I'm looking forward to seeing you at all kinds of events through the year. Enjoy the season!

# The Education Committee's Summer Project: Como Bird Camp!



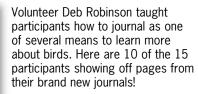
You can find some of the next generation of birders at the Como Streetcar Station in Como Park each June, when our Education Committee volunteers lead a week-long camp through the St. Paul Parks and Recreation's summer program for children from 3RD through 6TH grades.

We limit the registration to 15. This year, as in years past, about half of the campers have been with us in past years, and some are siblings of past campers! These kids love birds, being outside, and nature in general.



The focus each year changes, but there is one constant — the camplers' daily bird walks to the various habitats in Como Park — especially the "Audubon" woods west of the swimming pool where we generally find nesting Indigo Buntings. The children use our Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's "Youth Mentor Program" binoculars and bird books.

There is always room for more volunteers who enjoy birds and children who want to learn about them. Just LOOK at all the fun you'll have! Contact Barbara Lindeke at 651-489-0318.



Saint Paul Audubon would like to heartily thank the volunteers who gave a week of mornings in June to put on our 9TH year of Kids' Camp: Karen Eckman, Dodge Nature Center Naturalist Mick Garret, Sally Heuer, Barbara Lindeke, Deb Robinson, Sharon Shinomiya, Paul Spreitzer, and Laurel Stiebler.



# SPAS Conservation Committee: All About Saving Birds

# It's all about saving birds

Our chapter's Conservation Committee has been busy this past year: We've been building and hanging nest boxes for kestrels, promoting habitat corridors to link lawns and gardens for wildlife, co-sponsoring a popular one-day sale of native plants, creating booklets and brochures to educate the public, contacting lawmakers and agency heads to support or protest environmental proposals, and monitoring major conservation issues.

#### Here's more detail:

As you may know, Audubon Minnesota has created an Urban Bird Guide for the metro area (found at . The committee chose two projects to support the this effort:

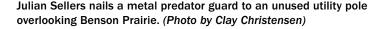
boxes in Lake Elmo Park Reserve. Another site was found adjacent to Benson Prairie north of White Bear Lake.

So far we've hung two new boxes, one at Lake Elmo, monitored by Audubon Minnesota's Kristin Hall, plus the Benson Prairie box, checked regularly by Ellen Lowery. We plan to hang additional boxes once sites are found and permissions are granted. Thanks to earlier efforts by Julian and Craig, there's an additional kestrel box at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary near downtown St. Paul. Those who assisted the kestrel project include Julian, Craig, Clay Christensen and Val Cunningham, and box monitors.

#### **Habitat Corridors**

Building on the committee's popular "Go Native" booklet, promoting native plantings for wildlife, several







Part of the June 1 Landscape Revival table crew, left to right: Marcel Derosier, Susan Solterman, Ellen Lowery and Deb Bachrach. (Photo by Karen Eckman)

#### **Kestrel Conservation**

Noting that the American Kestrel population has plummeted by nearly 60 percent over the last 40 years, with one possible contributing factor being lack of nesting cavities, we set out to provide nest boxes for these small falcons. With a \$600 Collaborative Grant from Audubon Minnesota we were able to purchase boxes, and set out to find sites for them.

Committee member and Board member Craig Andresen generously offered to have his staff build the nest boxes at no cost. This meant that instead of only six boxes for kestrels, we were able to fund materials for 18 such structures. Committee member Julian Sellers arranged for a local printing company to donate a quantity of used lithographic plates. These flexible metal sheets make great predator guards when tacked around utility poles with a nest box hung above.

Several committee members met with Washington County Parks staff and received the go-ahead to hang two members spent much of the winter creating a tabletop display and brochures advocating that residents on residential streets cooperate in planting natives and/or taking other wildlife enhancing steps in their backyards. This is based on entomologist and author Douglas Tallamy's assertion that only 5 percent of the land in the United States remains available for wildlife.

Block meetings were held with Val Cunningham's neighbors on Frankson Avenue in St. Paul and in Marcel Derosier's Arden Hills neighbors. Homeowners were very enthusiastic and eight St. Paul households are now working with Ramsey Conservation District to create planting and water catchment plans for their backyards. The St. Paul Audubon Board kindly granted \$500 to help further this effort, which we hope will spread to other blocks and communities.

#### Landscape Revival

This event, held each year on the first Saturday in June, brings together the area's major native plant nurseries and

### CONSERVATION

a host of groups and agencies to provide education about natives. The response from the public has been staggering: Now in its third year, attendance has grown from about 400 attendees in the first year to an astounding 1,600 this past June.

The Conservation Committee has been promoting native plantings for the past five years and again staffed a table at this major half-day event. We talked with/gave out educational materials to hundreds of eager-to-learn visitors. We also gathered contact information for 10 people interested in learning more about the chapter. Contributors to this effort included Sharon Shinomiya, Kim Gordon, Deb Bachrach, Marcel Derosier, Ellen Lowery, Susan Solterman and Val Cunningham, and of course Karen Eckman and her fantastic Shoreview crew.



The Conservation Committee's display for the Landscape Revival and other tabling events. (Photo by Karen Eckman)

#### **Other Issues**

We continue to monitor major issues, such as frac sand mining in Minnesota, fracking issues around the country, wind energy and birds, fossil fuel pipelines, tar sands mining, sulfide mining in northern Minnesota and, of course, global warming.

If you'd like to help with any of these issues or have others on your mind, we'd love to have you join us! The Conservation Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month in a member's home. Contact either of the co-chairs, **Susan Solterman** at ssolterman@gmail.com, or **Val Cunningham** at writers2@comcast.net to find out more about the Saint Paul Audubon Conservation Committee.

- VAL CUNNINGHAM

#### The State of the Birds

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced earlier last week the release of "The State of the Birds 2013: Report on Private Lands." It focuses on the importance of privately-held land in America. It is a excellent read, with good information for all birders.

http://www.stateofthebirds.org/

The State of the Birds reports are valuable conservation tools produced by the *North American Bird Conservation Initiative*. These reports examine the status of birds in the United States and identify highpriority conservation solutions. Bird conservation is relevant to every American because the same landscapes that support diverse and abundant bird communities also provide vital services to humans.

This year's State of the Birds report focuses on private lands and their importance for successful stewardship of birds and their habitats in the United States. Private lands and private landowners are essential to the conservation of our nation's birds.

"When land does well for its owner, and the owner does well by his land; when both end up better by reason of their partnership, we have conservation."

-ALDO LEOPOLD, THE FARMER AS A CONSERVATIONIST

Private landowners own and manage 1.43 billion acres (roughly 60% of U.S. land area) of diverse habitats that are vital for bird conservation, including:

**Wetlands:** Support more than 75% of the breeding and wintering distributions of waterfowl such as Am. Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal, No. Pintail, and Wood Duck.

**Grasslands:** for seven breeding grassland bird species, including Eastern Meadowlark and Dickcissel, more than 90% of habitat is on private land.

**Aridlands:** Black-capped Vireo, Chihuahuan Raven, California Gnatcatcher, Pyrrhuloxia, and Scaled Quail have >74% of their distributions on the 39% of arid land that is privately owned.

**Forests:** Over 300 forest-breeding bird species depend on private lands to maintain forest cover and preserve the integrity of forest ecosystems.

**Coasts:** Coastal areas constitute only 9% of the total land area of the U.S. (excluding Alaskan, Caribbean, and Pacific Islands), but 25% of all bird species use coastal habitats for some part of their annual cycle.

....Download the PDF to read more of this fascinating report, plus find reports from previous years as well....

They may inspire you to get involved. The best place to do that?!

The SPAS Conservation Committee, of course!

# On The Trail Again...

From Audubon Magazine: read this fascinating publication, and, sign up for Audubon's latest online newsletter, found at www.audubonconnect@audubon.org:

# **Saving North America's Tallest Bird**

BY TED WILLIAMS

Whooping Crane recovery is one of conservation's great successes, but suddenly there are new and frightening threats...

On the cold, misty morning of February 12, 2013, Iliana Pena, conservation director for Audubon Texas, and I are trying to feel good about the future of whooping cranes. In Captain Tommy Moore's metal birding boat, *Skimmer*, we are cruising the Intracoastal Waterway inches from the western shore of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the Texas Gulf Coast. With us is Wade Harrell, whooping crane recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.... *To read more, see note above!* 

# 8 Great Summer Birding Trails

From Maine to California, here's a guide to planning a summer/early fall road trip to some unforgettable birding. These trails wend through charming towns and rural outposts, while also connecting the dots between many **Important Bird Areas**...

HINT: One of the trails reviewed by master-birder Kenn Kaufmann is in Minnesota! Happy trails! To find the complete list, see note above! Let The Cardinal's editor know if you have personal knowledge of any of these trails, and what you found so fascinating about them!

# **Puffin Web Cam**

Atlantic Puffins are social birds, so Audubon scientists used decoys to help lure them back to historic breeding grounds. (Photo by Sandy Flint)



Need to take a moment? Bop on over to this webcam, at explore.org/puffin featuring the playful Atlantic Puffins of Seal Island, Maine. One cam features the puffin-packed "loafing ledge," a rocky outcropping where dozens of the comical birds hang out.

Hunting once decimated puffin populations on Seal Island, but thanks to Audubon, these irresistible birds are breeding again on this and other Maine islands.

Find these articles and much more, in **Audubon** magazine and at www.audubon.org.

# Sustainability\* Merit Badge

The Boy Scouts of America's Merit Badge
System has a new offering that will go to the
heart of many Auduboners! Here is some info about this new
Eagle-required badge, and on how to become a Merit Badge
Counselor for the BSA.

**Requirements** (much abbreviated)

Before starting work on any other requirements for this merit badge, write in your own words the meaning of sustainability. Explain how you think conservation and stewardship of our natural resources relate to sustainability.

**Water:** Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your family's water usage...

**Food:** Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your household food waste...

**Community:** Explain how housing, work locations, shops, schools, and transportation systems affect energy, pollution, natural resources...

**Energy:** Learn about the sustainability of different energy sources, including fossil fuels, solar, wind, nuclear, hydropower, and geothermal. Find out what the term "carbon footprint" means...

The *Resources* section at the back of the MB Booklet contains a great list of books, periodicals, and websites for anyone who wants to learn more about sustainability.

Other Merit Badges that Auduboners may become Counselors for (of the 130 offered, these are the closest to the Audubon mission): Bird Study, Energy, Environmental Science,\* Fish/Wildlife Mgmt, Forestry, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Nature, Photography, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Soil/Water Conservation, Weather.

The Twin Cities is administered by the Northern Star Council BSA, one of the 3-4 largest in the country. There are 22 Districts within the Council. Depending on where you live in the Twin Cities/western Wisconsin area, you will be put on a District's MB Counselor list. The Scouts refer to this list when they wish to complete a badge. They need 21 badges to become an Eagle Scout. Those seen with \*'s are Eagle-required badges, which have longer and more difficult list of requirements for completion.

To become a Merit Badge Counselor, one needs to fill out the **Adult BSA Application**, and the **Merit Badge Counselor Application**. You will need to sign a part of the application that OK's a background check, and you will need to take a 20-minute online course in Youth Protection. The forms are available under the "Resources" tab at www.northernstarbsa.org, and the training is available under the "My Scouting" tab.

Scouts can really use Auduboners' expertise, so go for it!!!

#### Local Resources

# **Got Good Birding/Nature Blogs?**

Let us know about them; We'd love to put them on our website and in The Cardinal.

# Wednesday in the StarTribune

Each week on Wednesday, the StarTribune features a 1/2 page or more dedicated to birds and birding. Val Cunningham and Jim Williams, long-time birding columnists, share the responsibilities for this page. Both Twin Cities papers also carry an extensive Calendar of Events. Check it out!!

#### SPAS' E-Alert!

Members with Email should sign up for our online notification system! You'll receive announcements about upcoming events and other Audubon happenings between issues of The Cardinal. If you change email addresses, please let Chase Davies know. You may unsubscribe at any time. ccdavies@aol.com

# 

#### In 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 302 Hart 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 309 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington DC 20510 MN: 60E Plato Blvd. #220

St. Paul 55107

US Rep 4TH Betty McCollum DC 202-225-6631, 1714 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

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

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

#### In Minnesota

Mark Dayton 75 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr Blvd, Governor

#130, Saint Paul, MN 55155, 651-201-3400 Fax: 651-797-1850 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

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

651-296-2146, or go to www.house.leg.state.mn.us

### Bookmark These Sites!

Saint Paul Audubon Society is at

### www.saintpaulaudubon.org

and on Facebook at

#### https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Paul-Audubon

- Chapter Member Meetings
   Field Trips
- local Conservation issues
   Education news/happenings
  - "The Cardinal" newsletter archives

#### Audubon Minnesota is at www.mn.audubon.org

- National and state-wide Conservation info
- map and contacts for all Audubon Chapters in MN
  - · State Breeding Bird Atlas info

#### National Audubon Society is at: www.audubon.org

- NAS Science research and reporting
- National Environmental & Conservation issues & action.
- NAS Education opportunities Audubon at Home features
  - National Centers & State Chapters clickable map

Minnesota DNR is at www.dnr.state.mn.us or call 651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR

- State Parks: A-Z clickable map, historical and natural info, visitor centers, reservations, bird lists
  - State Forests Wildlife Mgmt Areas
  - Scientific & Natural Areas
     "Minnesota Volunteer" subscriptions • lake maps & fishing guides • wildlife info
  - invasive species alerts and irradication information

Nat'l Wildlife Refuges www.fws.gov/midwest (click state)

National Parks are at www.nps.gov (clickable map)

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is at www.mou.mn.org

• state-wide birding listserve • migration and nesting occurence maps • 87 County bird lists • RBA (Rare Bird Alert) • seasonal reports • Where to Bird in MN

#### 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

Find a list of Minnesota birding events and checklist 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

Cornell Lab of Ornithology is at www.birds.cornell.edu

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

## August September 2013

October November Deadline 9/5/2013

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 August September

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

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

**Time Dated Material CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 

Have you sent your check in for Local Sponsorship of our Chapter?!

# Welcome to Facebook!

SPAS has created a Facebook page to help communicate with members. Please "Like" us next time you're on Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/ Saint-Paul-Audubon

# Sign up to go paperless!

Go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org, and look for the 'Go Green' button.

## **Watch Bird Banders**

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

Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley, Anoka Co.; for dates and times to to www.springbrooknaturecenter.org

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

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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			
	SS		
		State	Zip
	e sign gift card:		
	Mail to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box (Write on envelope: "Attention: New Membe	,	,

# St. Paul Audubon Society Local Sponsorship

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!
- ☐ I currently receive National's Audubon Magazine.

Name

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

Please sign gift card: \_\_\_\_

Mail to: Saint Paul Audubon, c/o John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119