

The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2014 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY



Chimney Swift Sit!

Calling all Chimney Swift enthusiasts and anyone interested in a fun summer backyard adventure. It is time once again for volunteers to participate in Audubon Minnesota's 6TH Annual Chimney Swift Sit! Chimney Swifts are important to the

environment, as each day they consume one-third of their weight in flying insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, making them natural insect controllers. The data that volunteers collect help to better understand distribution of nesting and migrating Chimney Swifts in Minnesota.

The count is scheduled for two weekends in August: the 1ST to 3RD and Labor Day, August 29TH to September 1ST. Volunteers may count on one night or on several nights, and at one or several locations during the designated periods. If you are interested in participating, here are a few tips to get you started:

1. Spread the word! Invite your neighbors, friends, kids, grandkids, co-workers...
2. Sometimes scouting an area prior to the official sit is beneficial, just so you know where the best seat is.
3. About 20 minutes before sunset on Sit Day, grab some lawn chairs & sit where you know or suspect Chimney Swifts to be roosting. Keep track of a few details such as: Date, time, # of observers, type of chimney (house, school, etc.), chimney location, # of swifts observed entering the chimney. This is the 2ND year of collecting results through an online data entry form. Check our Chimney Swift Sit site for more details: <http://mn.audubon.org/chimney-swift-conservation>



SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING

'National Audubon's Climate Initiative'

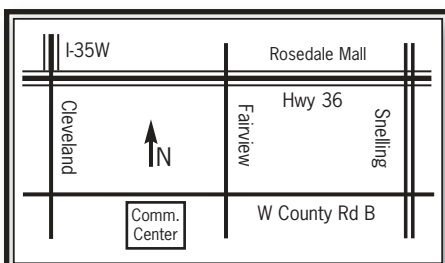
with **Matthew Anderson**
Executive Director, Audubon Minnesota

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Climate change is the biggest threat to birds and people and the environment we share. On September 9TH the National Audubon Society will reveal ground breaking science and kick-off a new, national climate initiative. Come learn about the science and the emerging plans here in Minnesota, and throughout the Audubon Network, to tackle this issue at the individual and community level with hope, urgency, and determination.



Everyone is invited to this free Saint Paul Audubon program. Social time with refreshments begins at 6:45. For more information, contact Linda Goodspeed at 651-647-1452.



Arrive at 6:45 for social time or 7:00 PM for the program; held at the Fairview Community Center 1910 W. Cty Rd B, Roseville.

Free and open to the public.
Free parking available. *Bring a friend!*

Get Involved with Y/Our Chapter!!

Volunteer Opportunities for Saint Paul Audubon members: Read President Barbara Lindeke's letter for info and opportunities to become involved in our chapter!

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 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Upcoming dates: **August 4, September 1, October 6.**

Chapter President's Message

I hope you all are enjoying your summers and that the birds are happily nesting, raising their young and filling their bellies at this wonderful time of year in Minnesota. Think back to the winter we had, and smile.

I have several things to report on. Many of us enjoyed a lovely week in June at Como Park with fellow Audubon members and 8 wonderful children who took part in our 10TH Bird Camp put on by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Dept. We had several students who had taken part in previous years and some cute new ones, including grandchildren of Audubon members. Speaking for myself, it's fun to have the chance to share your interest in nature with your grandchildren.



APPLAUSE! Chapter members Barb Burleigh, Chase Davies, Karen Eckman, Steve Johnson, Jeanne Porrazzo-Carroll Deb Robinson, Sharon Shinomiya,

Paul Spreitzer, Cheri Steinmueller, Laurel Stiebler, Marti Willett, and myself all took part. Having more adults than kids is always a good situation. Thanks to everyone for taking part.

In other Audubon news this summer, the Policy Director position at Audubon Minnesota was 'reorganized' several weeks before the end of the legislative

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ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with twelve members, the Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities, and has around 2,700 members. Our Member Meetings are held from Sept. to May. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit our website at www.saintpaulaudubon.org

ABOUT THE CARDINAL Published 6 times a year; articles are due on the 5TH of January, March, May, July, Sept, and Nov. Submissions may be edited. Send to hpbirdscouter@msn.com

Members may also receive the newsletter by downloading a PDF from the website.

LOCAL SUPPORT Audubon members who don't live in the Metro Area who wish to receive *The Cardinal* may send \$15 for a 1 year's subscription to **Saint Paul Audubon Society**, PO Box 7275, St. Paul MN 55107

CHAPTER PHONE: MESSAGE ONLY For more info or questions about bird ID, please call 651-291-2596. Leave a message and we will return your call.

ADDRESS CHANGES Call **1-800-274-4201** or NAS website at www.audubon.org to notify the National Audubon Society of a change of address, to continue to receive *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*.

session. Those of us who had been meeting regularly with Policy Director Don Arnosti were involved with various environmental issues at the state legislature. We were taken totally by surprise, as was Don, when his job was eliminated.

Fortunately for Minnesota's legislative volunteers working for the environment, the Isaac Walton League has hired Don, so AudMN's Environmental Issues Committee will continue to work with him on issues such as mining and wetlands and grassland and forestry policy.

Don has assured me that as a member of SPAS, he will continue to advise us with regard to the Canadian Pacific Rail Yard expansion, which threatens shoreline, wetlands and woods near Pig's Eye Lake. Thanks to the efforts of Don and Julian Sellers, St. Paul Audubon Society is on record with

the City of St. Paul, asking for a more complete Environmental Impact Statement by the Railroad before the city decides whether to provide the waivers and variances the Railroad is asking for. If you are a resident of St. Paul, please contact your city council and the mayor to let them know of your interest in protecting this area.

In a few short months, the seasons will change yet again, and we'll be seeing many of you at the September Member Meeting.

Meanwhile, stay well and enjoy the summer!

Barbara Lindeke

SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

An Evening at Sucker & Vadnais Parks**Weds, September 10, 6:30-8:30 PM**

Here is another new experience, to see what birds and other animals are active at dusk. Study the flights of swallows and swifts, listen for the evening twitter as birds roost for the night. Maybe we'll get lucky and find a family of owls as they begin to feed their young. Join leader Holly Peirson for a leisurely walk, mostly on accessible pavement. Young birders, ages 10 and up are welcome.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at north entrance of Sucker Lake Park, off Rice Street just south of Hwy 96.

**Summer Kids' Bird Camp**

Our 10TH year of providing a Bird Camp for Kids through St. Paul Parks and Rec in mid-June was fun for all! Here are some images of this year's doings! Several of this year's field trips went to the Como Woodland Outdoor Classroom, including the successful trek to see bluebird nesting boxes. A

highlight this year was seeing a Peregrine Falcon fly over! See the 'President's Letter' for the names of our great volunteer 'staff'!

**MERLIN**

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new (and free!) **Merlin** App for Iphone and Android is designed

to be a birding coach for beginning and intermediate bird watchers. Merlin asks you the same questions that an expert birder would ask to help solve a mystery bird sighting. To learn more about it, go to: merlin.allaboutbirds.org

Merlin asks you 5 questions, beginning with date, then location. Then it asks about the size of the bird: Sparrow, Robin, Crow, or Goose... Then it asks for 1-3 colors you saw on the bird, and finally it asks where you saw it: on the ground, in a tree, at your feeder...

The App uses the data from years of experience in the field and more than 70 million sightings submitted to **eBird** to show you what species

are expected at a given location and date, and to tell relative size, color, shape, etc. Then it shows you a possible list of birds that fit the description you entered. Sometimes a photo of your bird is in the mix, but other times you may have to refine your entries a bit more, to get a match. As soon as you choose a bird, it shows you several other photos of the species, and displays a range map and opportunity to listen to songs and calls. For birders who will use this App in the field, the only precaution we might add is that one should not play the songs of a breeding bird to call it in, as that will alert others (possibly predators) of its existence in the area. Follow the **American Birding Assn's Code of Ethics**, found on their website at www.aba.org.

Merlin for Iphones has been "At the App Store" for several months now, and came out for Android in June. As we all enter (or sync) our

lists from birding outings into eBird, it can only get better. It is already quite user-friendly. Download it and see what you think!

In Related News...

(gleaned from www.sciencedaily.com)

Scientists from Queen Mary University of London have found a successful way of identifying bird sounds from large audio collections, which could be useful for expert and amateur bird-watchers alike.

The analysis used recordings of individual birds and of dawn choruses to identify characteristics of bird sounds. Birdsong has a lot in common with human language. For example, many birds go through similar stages of vocal learning as we do, as they grow up, which makes them interesting to study. From them we can understand more about how human language evolved and social organization in animal groups.

THANKS TO MEMBER VAL CUNNINGHAM FOR THIS STORY

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

August September 2014

Next Deadline 9/5/2014

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

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SPAS Members: Please Check our Website for Calendar Updates!

Non-profit Organization
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Calling all Bird and Nature Lovers...

The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America need you!

Qualified adults are always needed to work with scouts to achieve Merit Badges towards their next rank advancement. Cub, Boy Scout, and Venturing units are set up by area, and are usually affiliated with a civic organization such as a local church, Legion, Lions, or perhaps the local Fire or Police Dept. Girl Scouts are set up by age group - from Daisy to Brownie, to Cadette, Juniors, and Seniors, and have similar civic affiliations.

To find out more about Boy Scouts and see the list of badges available, go to www.scouting.org and to www.meritbadge.org

To find out more about Girl Scouts badges, go to www.girlscouts.org, then click on the age group you wish to work with.



Boys Scouts: Bird Study, Nature. Girl Scouts: Animal Habitats, Voice for Animals

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.

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