

# The Cardinal

DECEMBER 2016 JANUARY 2017 •

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AUDUBON SOCIETY

## DECEMBER MEMBER MEETING

### “Birding & Travel in Senegal, West Africa”

with **Gordon Andersson**

**Thursday, December 8, 2016**

Gordon will highlight two regional parks known for their great birding opportunities. **Collines de Niassam Regional Park**, located in a major wetland near the ocean in central Senegal, provides cabins in baobab trees on a lagoon, both dry scrub & wetland birds, and French cooking.



Collines de Niassam

In northwestern Senegal, **Djoudj National Park** (a RAMSAR\* wetland) is near the old capital of French West Africa, St Louis. There you may find many ‘umbrella-fishing’ Black Egrets, Woodchat Shrike, rare Old World warblers and, en route, the 5 vulture species of Louga.



“Umbrella fishing” Black Egret

Andersson grew up in Africa and has traveled through Ethiopia, Senegal, Rwanda and Uganda. He has an MS degree in Ecology and Behavioral Biology from the U of MN and is a Conservation committee volunteer.

### Check out these resources for more information:

African Bird Club <https://www.africanbirdclub.org/>

Bird Life International <http://www.birdlife.org/africa>

\*The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

<http://www.ramsar.org>. In the 1960’s the Iranian city, Ramsar, was the site of the first meeting for what was to become **The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**, an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Arrive at 6:45 for social time or 7:00 for the Program;  
held at Fairview Community Center, 1910 Cty Rd B, Roseville.  
Free and open to the public.

### 2016 “St. Paul North” Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 17

You can add to over a century of citizen science data by signing up for the St. Paul Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count to be held on December 17. Birders of all levels are encouraged to participate. There is a specific methodology to CBC and all participants must make arrangements in advance with the Circle Compiler within an established circle. **Local CBC Coordinator is Bill Stjern** (651-470-3112 or [norskestar@comcast.net](mailto:norskestar@comcast.net)).

Each count takes place in an established 15-mile wide diameter circle—counting every bird seen or heard all day. Our count circle is featured below. You may ask to join the team counting in a specific area, or simply tell coordinator Bill Stjern that you’ll go anywhere we need people for the day.

If your home is within the boundaries of our CBC circle then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangements with Bill Stjern.



Traditions for the 15 teams vary with some teams beginning before light to search for owls while other teams begin after a nice, hot, bracing breakfast.

Minnesota’s report from 2015 is available at <http://www.audubon.org/news/the-116th-cbc-minnesota>. It provides a good overview of what can be seen and what to expect.

Contact CBC Coordinator **Bill Stjern** to register, at 651-470-3112 or [norskestar@comcast.net](mailto:norskestar@comcast.net).



## 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. Next meeting: **December 5.**

### President's Message

#### Saint Paul:

#### Minnesota's Newest Bird City

When I travel around Saint Paul and Ramsey County, be it by car, bike, or my own two feet, I am left amazed by the diversity of bird species I observe. Whether I am commuting down Hawk Highway (the name I've given to MN 36 due to the abundance of red-tails on light posts), or biking on the Bruce Vento Trail through Swede Hollow, I am rarely disappointed by the birds I see. I'm sure a majority of you have looked up in the middle of the day, only to be treated to the sight of a bald eagle soaring overhead.

At 3,342 people per square mile, Ramsey County is the most densely populated county in Minnesota and one of the most concentrated in the country. We live in an urban landscape, dominated by concrete and steel. Despite our cosmopolitan environs, we have made room for our winged friends. Saint Paul's park system consistently ranks among the best in the country, the Mississippi River is designated as an Important Bird Area, and through organizations like Saint Paul Audubon, our citizens are engaged and passionate in making the East Metro area livable for birds and humans alike.

Perhaps it is no surprise that Saint Paul was recently named the second *Bird City* in Minnesota by Audubon Minnesota. Hastings, located on the southern end of the Mississippi River Twin Cities Important Bird Area, was the first. The *Minnesota Bird City Program* is a pilot project within Audubon Minnesota's Bird-Friendly Communities program. The city was recognized for meeting key requirements for improving bird habitat, reducing threats, and engaging citizens in avian conservation. Through our conservation work, education, and outreach, Saint Paul Audubon has been named a partner with the City of Saint Paul in this new program.

#### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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	www.mn.audubon.org
Nat'l Audubon	www.audubon.org

#### ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with twelve members, the Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities, and has around 2,800 members. Our Member Meetings are held from Sept. to May. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://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](mailto:hpbirdscouter@msn.com)

Members may also receive the newsletter by downloading PDF's from our website.

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

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

Many of you are probably wondering, what does it mean to be a Minnesota Bird City? And how will this recognition enable meaningful progress for protecting birds in our community? I too, have thought hard about how this recognition will help increase habitat, reduce the threats to birds, and engage more people in the community. When considering the demographic and geographic composition of our community, coupled with the composition of our bird species in our area, three things come to mind.

- 1) As a vital stopover for migratory birds, we need to continue to enhance and expand habitat for birds who rely on the Mississippi River to reach their northern breeding grounds. Furthermore, we need to continue to push for action on reducing threats to migratory bird species, such as windows on homes and businesses.
- 2) As our climate continues to change, we need to enhance and expand habitat for our resident species, and provide new habitat for bird species whose ranges are shifting north.
- 3) As our demographics shift, it is vital for us to attract youth and diversity to birding. Meaningful conservation action

will not occur without community engagement and support.

These are three general observations that I, and undoubtedly many of you, believe need to ensure our birds, people, and communities thrive. Though the *Minnesota Bird City* recognition celebrates our accomplishments in conservation, it also serves as a call for us and the City of Saint Paul to do more. Through *Minnesota Bird City*, we as an organization and the City of Saint Paul have the opportunity to be a model for urban bird conservation in the United States. I look forward to hearing thoughts and ideas from you all on how we can best seize this opportunity to protect birds and engage people in our community.

If you have any comments or questions about *Minnesota Bird City*, please contact Joanna Eckles, Audubon Minnesota Bird-Friendly Communities Manager ([jeckles@audubon.org](mailto:jeckles@audubon.org)) or Ann Hunt, Saint Paul Environmental Policy Director ([anne.hunt@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:anne.hunt@ci.stpaul.mn.us)). As always, please contact me with anything at [matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com).

*Matt Jacobson, President*

## Our Annual Fund Drive

This is the one and only time of year that we seek your support for the great work done by the Saint Paul Audubon Society. You will not receive a phone call or a postal mail solicitation. And you will NOT receive another request for a donation with your Thank You note. All you need to do is submit a check for your contribution in the remittance envelope provided with this issue of The Cardinal. (If there is no envelope, you may use the box on this page.) If you prefer, you may also donate on-line at [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org).

SPAS is an all-volunteer organization. None of the Board members, field trip leaders or committee members are paid, but there are still expenses that must be covered and this Annual Fund Drive is our largest source of income.

Our expenses include producing and mailing The Cardinal newsletter, speaker honoraria and meeting space rental fees. We maintain a web site and a dedicated phone line to help answer your questions. There are also expenses related to an array of educational programs for people of all ages.

SPAS has also provided grants to organizations which support our mission, such as purchasing binoculars for field trips at nature centers, wood for birdhouses, education programs for youth, and restoration of natural areas including buckthorn removal. Our Conservation committee is active in restoration activities at Como park, educational presentations, environmental initiatives, and the installation of kestrel nesting boxes. St. Paul Audubon sponsors numerous birding trips in the metro area.

Our mission is to keep common birds common, and to protect species that are in decline. That mission is especially important in an era when development regularly destroys bird habitat and climate change threatens unknowable consequences. When you consider what Saint Paul Audubon has done this year to promote our mission I am confident that you will pledge your support for our continuing effort in the year to come.

Donors (unless they wish to remain anonymous) are recognized annually in an issue of *The Cardinal* at the Egret (under \$50), Bluebird (\$50 - \$99), or Cardinal (\$100 and above) levels.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I sincerely thank you for your support.

*Dean Doering, Annual Fund Drive Chair*

## Saint Paul Audubon Society Annual Fund Drive

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for the Saint Paul Audubon Society to be used for:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Operating Fund    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ Habitat Protection         \$\_\_\_\_\_ Wherever Needed

*This gift is given:*

\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank You Very Much for Your Support*

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email \_\_\_\_\_

*If your contribution was given in memory of or in honor of someone, we will gladly send an acknowledgement card to:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check to: Dean Doering, 1901 North Victoria St., Roseville, MN 55113, **or**, you may go to the SPAS Website at <http://saintpaulaudubon.org> and click on "Support Us."

## Upcoming Winter Events



### Minnesota Ornithological Union (MOU)

**Paper Session—Dec 3 9:00 am—4:30 pm**

### Bell Museum of Natural History

A great opportunity to meet people in the birding community, find out about other organizations, and get updates on current research. Registration forms and information available at [www.moumn.org](http://www.moumn.org).

### National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN

Next Bald Eagle Field Trip: Dec 10 @ 1 pm

Next Golden Eagle Field Trip: January 28 @ 1 pm

Register on line at

[www.nationaleaglecenter.org/eagle-viewing](http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/eagle-viewing)

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## SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

**Dec 2016 – Jan 2017**

Next Deadline 1/5/2017

Welcome...

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

We're a chapter of the

National Audubon Society.

Our mission is to conserve and restore

*SPAS Members: Please Check our Website  
www.saintpaulaudubon.org  
for Calendar Updates!*

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## CALENDAR

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### December

Board Meeting..... 5  
Member Meeting: Birding in Senegal..... 8  
Christmas Bird Count ..... 17

### January

**NO Board Meeting in January**  
**NO Member Meeting in January**

### February

Member Meeting: Native Plants for Birds 9

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

## Conservation Committee

In 2006 Deb Robinson described a collaborative effort to transform a neglected section of Como Park. She wrote, "an idea for restoring a little wooded corner of Como Park and opening it up for educational purposes has been slowly taking shape in the minds of a small group of local volunteers. The site of the buckthorn bust is a degraded 16-acre woodland just south of Horton Avenue between Hamline Avenue and Lexington Parkway. The woodland is just a few minutes walk from the Conservatory Visitors Center and a short walk or bus ride from 20 public and private schools. The **"Como Park Woodland Restoration and Outdoor Classroom"** would be the perfect place for children and adults to study natural history in a local setting. "

St. Paul Audubon Society was then and continues to be a key participant.

On July 9th, the Conservation Committee partnered with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation to host a **Birds and Burdock** event in the Como Woodlands Outdoor Classroom. Volunteers began the morning with a bird walk through the woodlands, tallying over 20 species including two osprey sightings overhead!



Photo courtesy of St. Paul Parks & Recreation

Then the volunteers went to work cutting and hauling burdock. Burdock poses both immediate and long term threats to birds as small songbirds can become trapped in the seedhead. Furthermore, the burdock discourages native understory plant growth, reducing diversity and consequently, available food and nesting sources for birds.

Finally, volunteers gathered for lunch provided by the Saint Paul Audubon Society's Conservation Committee. Overall, 45 volunteers attended the event! We are especially appreciative to Chase Davies and Kathy Sidles for serving as birding guides, as well as Deb Robinson, Barb Lindeke, Richard and Joan Newmark of SPAS for their contributions in making this event a success.

If you have not yet visited this unique area, we encourage you to do so. If you want to learn more about its history and development go to [www.comowoodland.org](http://www.comowoodland.org). It is great birding area with 80 species on its updated birding list.

**Conservation Committee Co-Chair Matt Jacobson**