

The Cardinal

JUNE JULY 2021

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Group birding is back!

The long-awaited time has finally come when Saint Paul Audubon members and friends can gather together at metro-area birding hotspots. The Field Trip Committee, chaired by Cathy Croghan, was holding onto hope that this year's group birding season would happen and they were ready with a full schedule of guided walks through fall, beginning with a Tuesday Morning Walk on May 11 at Snail Lake.

Details on all upcoming summer events are here in this issue of the *Cardinal* but be sure to check www.saintpaulaudubon.org throughout the summer for any additions or weather-caused cancellations.

Warbler Weekend Highlights

Returning to the 49th year of the St. Paul Audubon Warbler Weekend was a semi-normal, non-gathering event in the wake of COVID. There was no registration process so it is an estimate to say that 50 people participated. Reports received indicated that as a group, we saw 109 species, including 17 warblers. Both totals are significantly below the historical average of 129 species and 22 warblers. Highlights included the second sighting of a Eurasian Collared-Dove, and Tufted Titmouse sightings from 4 distinct areas not previously occupied. Hopefully, the population, which is now present all year, is expanding its occupation of new territories. Both Virginia Rail and Sora were found along County 2 in Frontenac where it splits the lake. Two unusual shorebirds, a Willet and a Semipalmated Sandpiper, were seen on Sand Point along with Bonaparte's Gulls. Birds were scarce in general, possibly held up by storms from Texas to the Carolinas. Everyone is looking forward to a fully engaged weekend in 2022, our 50th migration celebration. Thanks to everyone who participated.

-Bill Stjern



*Louise Eidsmoe and Terri Walls led a group of birders on Snail Lake trails. Here they are seeing a Green Heron and a pair of Sandhill Cranes.
Photo by Martha Douglas*

Guidelines for group birding

Please follow these guidelines for all Saint Paul Audubon Society outdoor events:

- Participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19
- Maintain social distancing and limit carpooling to one household per vehicle
- Masks are optional but welcome
- Attendees will provide their names and contact information at the start of each walk

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

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.

You will automatically become a member of the Saint Paul Audubon Society if you make a gift of \$30 or more to the National Audubon Society and reside in Saint Paul, Ramsey and Washington counties, and surrounding areas.

The Saint Paul Audubon Society welcomes everyone to become a member or participate in activities as a non-member regardless of their race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or gender identity.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

President Donn Waage	612-735-4085
Vice President Jane Braun	651-636-4009
Vice President, Communications Martha Douglas	651-366-2345
Treasurer James Stout	651-645-7017
Secretary Kiki Sonnen	651-331-9560
Conservat'n Co-Chr Nancy Uppgren	651-247-1718
Conservat'n Co-Chr Monica Bryand	651-246-5522
Field Trips Chair Cathy Croghan	651-636-6475
Education Chair David Kuhlmann	507-514-2110
Assistant Editor Jackie Bussjaeger	651-295-3967 cardinalstpaul@gmail.com

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.-Dec. & Feb.-May on the second Thursday of the month. For more info please contact leaders at left, or visit www.saintpaulaudubon.org

ABOUT THE CARDINAL The Cardinal is published 6 times a year and posted on www.saintpaulaudubon.org at the beginning of February, April, June, August, and October. For information contact Martha Douglas, editor, or Jackie Bussjaeger, assistant editor. Copy is due to the editor on the 15th of the month preceding publication.

The Cardinal is available free to everyone on our website. If you would like to receive a notice when new issues are ready, go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org and go to the "Newsletter" tab to subscribe with your email address. Our Webmaster is Ben Wilson, ben@simpledesigns.biz or 651-332-1362.

Next issue: August/September 2021

Landscape Revival Coming Up

Two dates and locations are coming up for this year's Landscape Revival. It will take place on June 5 at Shepherd of the Hills in Shoreview; and June 12 at Oakdale City Hall. Check the website for complete details.

Join the new Facebook Group and win a prize for your bird photos

If you like keeping in touch via Facebook, there is now a new way for you to connect with other birders, by joining the Saint Paul Audubon Society group on Facebook. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintpaulaudubonsociety> and click on the "Join Group" button at the top of the page. And when you are there, take a look at how to enter the just-announced bird photography contest, running through June. Anyone can enter and prizes include gift certificates to National Camera Exchange. Good luck!



FIELD TRIPS

Birding at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)

1536 Ben Franklin St., Arden Hills, MN 55112 (*Note: this is the Armory address*)

Saturday, June 12, 7:30-10 a.m.

Join us for birding at AHATS. A new hard-surface, one-mile path around Sunfish Lake is scheduled to be completed just in time for our birding enjoyment. If the path is not ready, we will travel by guided car caravan and practice social distancing at choice stops. The site has lots of prairie and wooded edges for us to explore for their birding potential.

DIRECTIONS Driving directions will be included when you receive email confirmation of your registration.

INFORMATION The site has restricted access. All vehicles will enter and exit the property together. No sharing of binoculars or scopes will be allowed. Outdoor restrooms are widely spaced IF available.

REGISTRATION Required registration. Attendance is limited to six cars or 20 adults on a first reply, first served basis. Email Chase Davies your cell phone number and the names of all attendees who will travel in your vehicle

DIFFICULTY Moderate, well-defined walking paths with some hills.

LEADER Chase Davies 651-246-9754
RockyBirder@gmail.com



Birds and Trees, Langton Lake Park

1894 County Rd. C2 W, Roseville, MN 55113

Saturday, July 17, 7:30-9 a.m.

Join us for a stroll at Langton Lake Park to observe and identify birds and trees, and consider their interactions.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the parking lot on County Road C2 at the west side of the lake.

INFORMATION Bring a tree guide and 10-power magnifier if you have them.

LEADERS Kathy Robbins 651-636-5475
Krobbins@umn.edu and Cathy Croghan
crogh001@umn.edu

SERIES

Birding Summer Style

Here are three great birding trips offered at a variety of days and times. Why? Summer birding is more relaxed and presents possibilities for observing different behaviors once birds are settled on family territories. Birders have opportunities for lingering identifications with group interaction at a summer-time relaxed pace. The slower pace is also ideal for beginning birders to learn and experience the basics to locate, describe and identify birds.

Chase Davies invites you to join her for just one or all three of these events:

Tuesday, June 15, 7-9:30 a.m., Reservoir Woods. Meet at the Woodview Off-Leash dog area in Roseville between Victoria and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. Park snugly in the small parking lot or street park on Mackubin St. across Larpenteur from the parking lot.

Tuesday, July 6, 6-8:30 p.m., Silverwood Park, 2500 County Rd E, St. Anthony (just west of Silver Lake Rd).

Sunday, August 8, 8-10:30 a.m., Bass Ponds on the Minnesota River, 2400 E 86th St, Bloomington. Take Cedar Avenue south from 494, exit onto Killebrew Dr, go to Old Shakopee Rd, turn right (south) onto East 86th St, at sign for Bass Ponds, bear left and come to the parking lot. If the lot is full, street park on the right as you enter or in the larger parking lot back near the corner of 86th and Old Shakopee.

SUGGESTIONS Chase will have some loaner binoculars available. Call leader if you want to borrow 8x35 binoculars

LEADER Chase Davies 651-246-9754

RockyBirder@gmail.com

Please note -- for all scheduled events

No registration is needed unless otherwise noted.
Contact leaders if you have questions.

All events are rated EASY unless otherwise noted.

Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes.
Bring a brimmed hat, water, insect repellent, sunblock and a field guide with maps or a smart phone with the app installed.

Bring binoculars and other equipment, but sharing equipment is discouraged

Would you like more field trips?

Please consider selecting a familiar birding place and volunteering to lead there. Contact Cathy Croghan for details
crogh001@umn.edu

Tuesday Morning Walks

All Tuesday Walks are from 7 to 9 a.m. Meet at the sites. Contact Leaders only if you need additional information.

June 1: Rachel Lilly Preserve, a part of Dodge Nature Center, 680 MN-62, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Don't miss this gem! Many possible sightings await you at this little-known preserve. Distance up to 2 miles.

DIRECTIONS Enter from Hwy 62. Bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn.

LEADER Linda Whyte 651-690-4838

June 8: Battle Creek Park, 2350 Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119

Terrific late spring birding opportunity.

INSTRUCTIONS Meet at the parking lot next to the off-leash dog park.

DIRECTIONS From McKnight Rd turn east onto Upper Afton Rd., drive 0.2 mi, turn right, destination will be on the right

LEADER Monica Bryand 651-246-5522
mjbryand@gmail.com

Prairie Tuesdays (PT) Summer Walks

Four prairie Tuesday evening walks to highlight numerous bird-native plant interactions. Bring a 10-power magnifier (or borrow one from Chase) and consider a camera and bug repellent. Wear closed-toe shoes with socks above the ankle. Usually no toilet facilities on site. All trips led by Chase Davies 651-246-9754 RockyBirder@gmail.com

(PT #1) Long Lake Regional Park – Prairie Walk 101

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30-8 p.m.

LOCATION 1500 Old Highway 8, New Brighton

TOPIC How do native plants improve the bird-life web?

DIRECTIONS HWY I-35 IS UNDER HEAVY CONSTRUCTION IN SUMMER 2021. TO CHECK CURRENT CLOSURES: <http://mndot.net/metro/projects/35wnorthmnpass/index.html>. Take I-35W to MN Hwy 96, one exit north of I-694, go west on MN 96 to the T at Old Highway 8. Turn south on Old Highway 8, go about ½ mile to the entrance on the right (west) side of the road. Enter the park and drive to the second parking lot which is on the RIGHT side of the road.

(PT #2) Rachel Lilly Preserve managed by Dodge Nature Center – Mid-Summer Blooming Prairie

Tuesday, July 13, 6:30-8 p.m.

LOCATION 680 MN-62 Mendota Heights, MN 55118

TOPIC This walk will focus on prairie restoration and blooming flowers.

DIRECTIONS Enter from Hwy 62. Bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn.

DIFFICULTY Easy. However, walking route covers 2 miles.

(PT #3) Valley View Park, Oak Park Heights – Late Summer Blooming Prairie

Tuesday, August 10, 6:30-8 p.m.

LOCATION 5575 Ozark Ave N, Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

TOPIC How do abundance and diversity of late summer native plants impact the local bird-life web?

DIRECTIONS Travel east on Hwy 36 to Osgood Avenue N, go south past 56th St N then turn left onto Valley View Park Road, meet in the first parking lot on the left.

(PT #4) Fish Creek Prairie at Sundown – What Fuels Migrant Birds

Tuesday, August 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

LOCATION Fish Creek Natural Area, 2465-2475 Carver Ave, Maplewood, MN 55119

TOPIC Autumnal falling temperatures with shortening days bring preparations for big changes to the local bird-life web. Sundown at 8:03 p.m.

DIRECTIONS From I-94 go south on McKnight Road about 3.5 miles where it T's at Carver Avenue. Then turn left (east) onto Carver. Just before the I-494 underpass, turn right (south) onto Henry Lane. Travel about 1/2 mile to the Fish Creek Natural Area; turn around and park on the street as directed.

Plan Ahead—October Field Trip

Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

Tuesday, October 19, 4-8:15 p.m.

Details to come in August-September *Cardinal*

Monthly meeting speakers scheduled for 2021-22

With our busy lives, it's not too soon to get even more upcoming events on our calendars. The Program Committee has the lineup set for the coming year's monthly meeting speakers. It is still unknown whether these will be in-person or virtual presentations, in part because of COVID-19 precautions but also because the Fairview Community Center, where the meetings were held before the pandemic, has been under construction and renovation. Watch for more information on all the details. Meanwhile, here's the lineup.

September 9: Jay Watson, Sourcing Sustainability Engagement manager at General Mills, will talk about regenerative agriculture.

October 14: Speakers from the Woodson Art Museum, the renowned museum of bird art in Wausau, WI, will give us a virtual tour of the 2021 *Birds in Art* exhibit.

November 11: Dr. Victoria Hall, new director of the U of M's Raptor Center, will introduce herself and give an update on plans for the Center.

December 9: Charles Grolla, a member of the Bois Forte band of Ojibwe, will give a presentation based on his book *Ojibwe Bird Stories*.

January 13: Speakers from the University of Belize migratory bird monitoring project will give an update on their work, which is supported with a grant from the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

February 10: Birders and photographers Tom and Terry Scheller will present "Birds of Peru."

March 10: David Remucal, curator of endangered plants at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, will present "Endangered Plants of Minnesota."

April 14: Lynette Anderson, Interpretive Naturalist and Restoration Assistant at Belwin Conservancy, will present "Belwin, Bison, and Birds."

May 12: Catherine Early, scientist with the MN Science Museum, will talk about her research into bird brain evolution.

"With the Wind," by American painter Owen J. Gromme from the Birds in Art exhibition at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin.



Saturday, July 10: Butterfly Count Returns

Our annual Butterfly Census will again take place the first Saturday after July 4. Please join us on Saturday, July 10 for this great citizen science project.

The census will again take place at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) from 9:45 a.m - 2 p.m. Bob Dana, entomologist and Minnesota Biological Survey Butterfly & Moth Specialist at DNR, will join us to identify the unusual butterflies we find. Mary Lee, the Environmental Protection Specialist for the National Guard at AHATS, will again be our host and tour leader.

What to Bring and Wear: Bring plenty of cool drinks, snacks, and a bag lunch. A wide-brimmed hat, lightweight long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt (for protection from deer ticks, sun, and sharp grasses), sunscreen, high socks, old sneakers or rubber boots for bog-tromping, and insect repellent are recommended. Bring binoculars, a camera, a butterfly field guide, and a butterfly net. There is also quite an interesting bird list for AHATS, so you may also wish to bring a bird field guide. We'll have some extra butterfly nets and butterfly identification sheets.

Registration: Contact **Dorothy Waltz** at **651- 917-0930** or **waltz.ds@yahoo.com** for more information or to register, no later than Tuesday, July 7. Saint Paul Audubon pays the NABA Census fees, so this count is free to all participants. A map and information packet will be e-mailed to *registered* participants a few days before the count. Registrants will be contacted if weather causes a last-minute change of plans.

Other requirements: We will follow the Saint Paul Audubon Society COVID-19 guidelines for group bird

walks (see page 1). In addition, an insurance liability waiver must be signed by each participant at the start of the event.

Directions: Registered participants will meet in the parking lot at the AHATS Arden Hills Readiness Center, 4761 Hamline Avenue N. (just north of Highway 96). Drive through the AHATS gate to the Readiness Center, the first building on the left after you enter the training site. Restrooms are available in the Readiness Center. We will **carpool** to the various sites.

Useful Information to Help You Prepare:

www.naba.org The official website of the North American Butterfly Association. Find everything to do with these beloved insects: Membership options, magazine PDFs, gardening information, checklists, regional information, beautiful photos. A great source of information about butterflies.

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org An excellent site, up-to-date data of sightings all across Wisconsin, but centered mainly in the SW part of the state. GREAT photos and information about life cycles, etc.

butterfliesandmoths.org Another nationwide source for recent distribution data is the original United States Geological Society (USGS) site, now maintained in Montana.

Recommended Butterfly Field Guide:

Butterflies through Binoculars: The East, A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America by Jeffrey Glassberg. Used copies are frequently found at used bookstores or websites.

For online identification guides, type "butterfly identification" into your computer browser. There are several online apps for your cell phone, iPad, or laptop.

-Dorothy Waltz



Robert Dana, Minnesota Biological Survey
Butterfly & Moth Specialist