

The Cardinal

DECEMBER 2015 JANUARY 2016 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER MEMBER MEETING

“Wildlife of the Masai Mara”

with **Ben Wilson**

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Ben Wilson went on a photo safari on the Masai Mara in Kenya in the summer of 2013. The Masai Mara National Reserve is a large game reserve in Narok County, Kenya, which is contiguous with the Serengeti National Park in the Mara Region, Tanzania. Daily activities are focused on game viewing, including the wildebeest migration.

The Mara is famous for its exceptional population of Masai lions, African leopards and Tanzanian cheetahs, and the annual migration of zebra, Thomson’s gazelle, and wildebeest to and from the Serengeti every year from July to October, known as the Great Migration. All members of the “Big Five” (lion, leopard, African elephant, African buffalo, and black rhinoceros) are found in the Masai Mara.

More than 470 species of birds have been identified in the park, many of which are migrants, with almost 60 species being raptors. Birds that call this area home for at least part of the year include: vultures, marabou storks, secretary birds,



hornbills, crowned cranes, ostriches, long-crested eagles, African pygmy-falcons and the lilac-breasted roller, which is the national bird of Kenya.

Guiding the tour was Dave Richards, an author and photographer who has written a number of books on travel and wildlife in Kenya.

Top: Lilac-breasted Roller

Bottom: Olive Bee-eater



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.

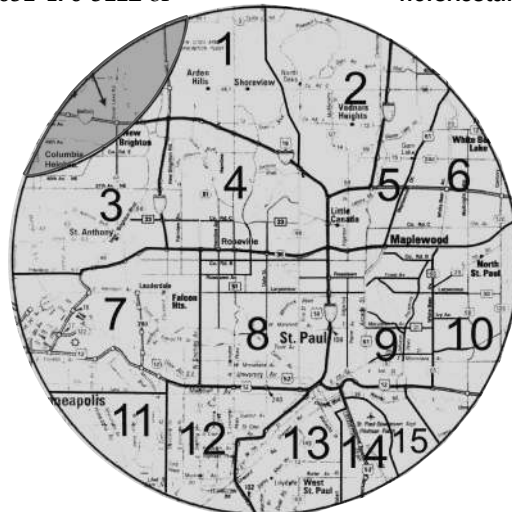
2015 St. Paul North Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 19, CBC & Tally Party

The St. Paul North Christmas Bird Count is set for **December 19th**—make plans to be on one of our 15 teams! See below for how our count circle is portioned. 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 you live in the area you may also stay home and count your feeder birds. Some teams begin before light to search for owls, other teams begin after a nice, hot, bracing breakfast.

A short account of Area 2—to give newcomers an idea of how it works... *Team lead contacts previous team members to see if they are ready to do it again. Yes! Contact new team members. All team members willing to go owling? Sure! Contact feeder owners for permission to walk around their homes. The night before – check weather report and read MOU-net for unusual species in your area; gather outdoor gear appropriate for weather (layers, no cotton), binoculars, travel mug, water bottle, bird book or phone with app (play indoors or car, not in field). Set alarm! In morning, arrive before light for owling – then enjoy a nice hot breakfast with your group. If group is large enough, split up and ask teams to take an extensive walk at one of our two spots for open water; otherwise, we cover both as one group. Most significant bird for Area 2 is Trumpeter Swan – luckily they usually overwinter in our section. We meet for a quick lunch to warm up a bit and do a tally, then go out again to do sites we haven’t canvassed yet, and visit feeders. By 3:00- 4:00, we are wind-blown, tired from walking thru snow, or simply – the birds have all disappeared to their night perches... Time to quit – go home (or check trunk of car) for pre-made dish for the tally party!! Enjoy a feast and to see your Audubon friends. Usual result? 5 people, 21-24 species, 4-600 birds, FUN!*

Contact CBC Coordinator **Bill Stjern** to register, at
651-470-3112 or 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. Upcoming dates:
December 7, January 4.

President's Message

Season's Greetings

By the time you read this, the holiday season will be upon us. Thanksgiving will have come and gone, followed by that lamentable day known as 'Black Friday,' the day when all stores hope to earn our business. Is our worth measured by how much we have? Or by how much we spend on frivolous gifts? Maybe it's the Baby Boomer in me that wants to reject the very concept of running out to a store simply because that's what we're expected to do once the holiday season comes around. Instead, I prefer to stay at home and reflect. Here are a couple of things I've been mulling over.

Auduboners look forward to this time of year when the **Christmas Bird Count** is just around the corner. The CBC has been around since ornithologist Frank Chapman suggested people simply count birds around Christmas instead of killing them. Incredible as it may sound, people across North America throughout the 19th century had a 'tradition' of Christmas 'side hunts' in which they randomly killed as many birds as they could, regardless of species. People actually had competitions for how many birds they could kill, regardless of whether they had uses for the carcasses and of whether the birds were beneficial, beautiful, or rare. Who knows how many threatened or endangered species were further decimated during this traditional slaughter of birds? That's one aspect of the "good ol' days" none of us are sad to see gone. Good riddance.

So, thanks to Frank Chapman, we now have a tradition that encourages citizen participation in a scientific

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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

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 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 to notify the National Audubon Society of a change of address, to continue to receive *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*.

endeavor. Auduboners and others across the world will gather sometime between December 14 and January 5. Twenty-seven people counting in 25 areas made up the first CBC. We still appreciate their dedication. It takes a brave soul to go against popular opinion and work to change traditions that are detrimental and essentially useless. I encourage all of us to recognize Frank Chapman's efforts, perhaps by offering a toast among family and friends when we gather this holiday season.

SPAS has participated in the CBC since the late 1940's. Details for this year's count may be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Cardinal*.

My other reflection involves our **Annual Fund Drive**. It's that time of year when SPAS looks to its membership for financial input. Our appeal is our primary source of funding for the year, when people may give directly to support our conservation and educational programs. To me, it is a far better investment to contribute to the goals of SPAS rather than purchase some unneeded trinket to give away as a gift to someone who probably couldn't care

less whether they have the thing or not. Honoring a friend or family member or the memory of a loved one with a gift to SPAS truly is a gift that keeps on giving.

Enough reflecting for now. I'll grit my teeth at the throngs of holiday shoppers and do my part to support the goals of SPAS. Maybe I'll even shovel some snow! But most of all I'll rest contentedly knowing that this season can indeed be special if we simply sit back and allow it to wash over us. I'll reflect some more on the contributions of people like Frank Chapman and those of us who now follow in his footsteps — counting instead of killing birds. I'll reflect on the abundance of support we give our organization. And I'll reflect on life during these short days of winter, knowing that when the holiday season arrives, the days will already be growing longer.

Thank you, St. Paul Audubon Society members, for all you do and for the time, talent, and funding you so freely give.

Happy Holidays.

Jim Lindner, President

Our Annual Fund Drive

Greetings!

This is the 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. To donate, simply 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.) You may also donate on-line at 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. 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 expenses related to an array of educational programs for people of all ages from presentations at schools to a birding class for adults offered through the Maplewood Nature Center.

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, with 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 (*next page*.)

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

THANK YOU once again!

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CHAIR DEAN DOERING



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."

Snowy Owls Make Early Fall Appearance

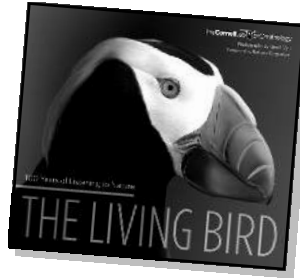


Snowy Owls have been sighted in several places in the Twin Cities area already this fall. The reports are earlier in the season and higher in number than any year on record. Scientists wonder why an *irruption* is occurring for the 3RD fall and winter in a row, but birders are just happy to be able to observe the birds! The movements typically take place during years of high availability of lemmings – the primary prey of snowy owls in the Arctic – and high productivity of snowy owls. Once fledged, the young owls disperse to areas with less competition for food. Some fly south!

To find out where owls are being seen, go to the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's website at www.moumn.org, click on the "MOU-Net" tab, and scroll until you see a report that mentions an owl. Signing up to receive daily messages about bird sightings is also possible at this website.

BOOK REVIEW**The Living Bird:***100 years of Listening to Nature*

To celebrate its centennial and explore the countless ways that birds fascinate, inspire, and teach about the world we live in, the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** has produced an eye-popping new book, that features more than 250 remarkable photos, along with thoughtful, inspiring essays from leading authors, including Barbara Kingsolver, Jared



Diamond, John W. Fitzpatrick, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, and Scott Weidensaul.

Through the lens of award-winning photographer Gerrit Vyn, readers experience intimate details in the lives of birds, from the familiar to the exotic.

The Living Bird is available from the Lab of Ornithology's online bookstore, at www.sapsuckerwoods.com. A portion of each sale goes to the Cornell Lab to support its programs.

2014 Annual Fund Drive Donors

Egret: Mary Jane Addison, Paula Allmaras, Donna Anderson, Elwood & Judy Anderson, Dennis Asmussen, Mary Ann Atzmiller (In memory of Leonard Atzmiller), Michael Bahr, Gretchen Bangerter, Carmen Bell (In memory of Robert C. Bell), Janice Blomberg, Lillian Bowell, Susan Bower, Kathy Brown, Monica Bryand, Randy & Judy Calcote, Eugene W. Carroll, Susan Jane Cheney & David Arbeit, Melisa Christensen, Clay & Jean Christensen, Dagmar Christensen, Elizabeth Closmore (In memory of Jane Eckles), Marjorie Davis, Tamara Dennis, Earl W. Eberhardt, John Enblom (In memory of Robert W. Fox), Bridget Evens, Charles H. Eversman, Nancy Fitzgerald, Barbara Fleig, Richard Friberg, Joe Gherity, Kim Gordon, Alice Gruber, Burch Gustafson, Mary Jane Haemig, Kenneth Harris (In memory of Dr. Jack Boylan), Nancy Hasse, Daniel Hawkins, Margaret Heffron, Jeff & Theresa Heimann, Carolyn Herman, Nancy Johnson, Sharon M. Karalus, Beverly J. Kramer, Holland & Janice Laak, Betsy Lake, Sue Lamoureux, Bill Landis, Mary Lee, Don Lee, Kenneth W. Livermore, Pat Lockyear, Arlene Lohse, Julie Maas, Paul Maeure, Tony Maistrovich, Krista Menzel, Phyllis Merrill, LuAnn & Walter Merz, Dean & Kelly Mitchell, Gunilla Montgomery, Mary & Denis Novak, Jonn & Yvette Oldendorf, Mark Orłowski, Bruce & Sharon Perkins, Doris Petrie, Sandra Potter, Urho & Pamela Rahkola, Marilyn Regelman, JoAnne Rohricht, Nancy Rowland, Thomas & Mary Scanlan, Mark Schreiber, Joan C. Schumacher (In honor of Stephanie M. Schumacher), Ed & Marge Senninger, Kathy Sides, James Standefer, Cheri Steinmueller, Laurel Stiebler, William L. Sulzbach, Marcia & Burt Sundquist, Ronald Tabaika, Mary Kay Ulness, Pat Walker, Marion Watson, Janice Weum, Fern Wilcox.

Bluebird: Phyllis Abrahamsen, Bonnie J. Anderson (In memory of Jack Drier), Rochelle Arens, Louis Asher, Andrew & Audrey Benjamin, Barbara Burleigh, Barb Burleigh, Ralph Butkowski, Arta Cheney (In memory of Sylvia Luadtke), Diane Clayton, Bonny Comer (In memory of Ann Bauer), Brett & Janice Culver, Bill Cunningham, Mariann Cyr, Elizabeth Danielson, Jane Dickerson, Gordon & Debra Dietzman, Trudy Dunham, John P. Ellis, Ellen Ferrari & Stewart Corn, Janet Folsom, Christian Franken, Susan Fuller, Judith Gavin, Linda Goodspeed, Mary Grundman, Laurel Haycock (In memory of Harriett Haycock), Russ Heuckendorf, Pat Hogle, Leigh & Sara Homstad, Mary Ann Huelster, Sharon & Alfred Kauth, John W. Kirchner, Gene & Nancy Larimore, Jan Leite, Mary MacDonald, Judith & Todd Marshall, Carol Mizuno, Teresa Morrow, Holly & Paul Peirson (In honor of the SPAS Board), Bob & Alice Peters, Darlene Philip, Leslie Pilgrim, Molly Redmond & Steve Ring, Deborah Reynolds, Joel & Gail Roberts, Deb Robinson, George A. J. Sarner, Carolyn Shepherd, Robert Sherman, Amy Short, Sharon Simpson, Anne Stoddard, Myra Toconita, Paul Tuckner, Margaret Watson, Roger Williams (In honor of the birds!), Mary Williams, Ann Wynia, Kathleen Zacher-Pate, William & Linda Zelm.

Cardinal: Linda Amrein, Roger & Margie Anderson, Barbara Ankrum, Don & Meg Arnosti (In honor of Barbara Lindeke), Deb Bachrach, Jan Baker, Charlotte Brooker, Val Cunningham, Dean Doering, Dennis Drehner (In memory of Patricia J. Cramer), Jackie Eastman, Karen Eckman, Kathryn Farniok & Erik Englebretson, Wendy Evans, Mary Glaeser, Florence K. Gleason, Mary Grundman, Jeff & Lucy Heegaard, Don Janes & Marilyn Thompson, Ron Kroese, Charles R. Lea, Jim Lindner, Barbara Lindstrom, Sr. Juanita Mauer (From the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, Minnesota, in memory of Marie Mauer, AKA Sister Carolita Mauer), Sue & Tom McCarthy, Stan & Susanne Meyer, Peter Michalowski, Jeffrey & Jane Nelson, Richard Newmark, Sallie O'Brien, Judith A. Olsen, James Pearson, Edward Reilly, Philip J. Rickey (In memory of Mary E. Sullivan-Rickey), Dorothy Ritter, John Stoklosa, Jim Thommes, Frederick & Dorothy Waltz, Beverly & David Wickstrom, and John Zakelj.

☞ *Thank You, One and All.*

A Day at Crex Meadows in October

On the afternoon of October 6th, around 20 people carpooled a little over an hour north of the Twin Cities to Grantsburg, WI, to visit Crex Meadows Wildlife Refuge.

Wonderful fall weather heightened our experience of seeing these huge cranes and learning about this great Refuge for cranes and other birds. In the 1930's there were as few as 30-45 pairs at the refuge; so the large number to be seen there now is a great restoration success, according to Chase Davies, our Field Trip Leader.



October is the best month to view the Sandhill Cranes migrating through Crex Meadows. Dusk (6:00 - 6:45 that day) is the best time of day according to the great staff at the Visitor's Center. An estimated 20,000+ cranes migrate through the Refuge. Audubon field trip leader Chase Davies provided us with lots of information about these migrating cranes while we waited for the roosting. She told us where they come from – southern Canada, northern Wisconsin, and Minnesota – and where they go – Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.



We looked for the perfect spot to see them with the sun at our back and the marsh in front of us. All at once they decided it was time, and flocks and flocks of noisy cranes decided to land. Breathtaking! Great wings flapped to slow down for a perfect landing on long legs!

We plan to add this to our Audubon Field Trips calendar for next year. Hope you can join us!

For more information, go to www.crexmeadows.org.

SPAS Member Louise Eidsmoe
Photographs by Barry Knack



What A Lovely Fall We All Enjoyed!

Warm weather, a long color season. This week a Pileated Woodpecker finally found the ant colony in the old maple in my yard. It made for lots of good up-close viewing as the chunks of wood flew. (I'm thinking Chickadee homes for next year.) I want my future grandchildren to enjoy nature, just as I do.

In early November, the DNR released the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed PolyMet mine in northeastern Minnesota. This is the copper-nickel mine which promises 20 years of jobs and 500 years of toxic water pollution! *Five. Hundred. Years.* Our country is less than half this age. How is passing that environmental and financial liability on to our grandchildren in any way ethical or appropriate?

Governor Dayton has said that his administration's decision on whether to permit this mine (or NOT!) will be the most far-reaching and consequential of all the decisions he'll make during his two terms. He's right. More than budgets, education or health care.

Take a minute to call, email or Facebook the Governor – tell him that you value your grandchildren and their grandchildren. You enjoy the great Minnesota outdoors and you want them to have the same opportunities you have. You don't want to pass along PolyMet's pollution as part of their inheritance. Ask the Governor to **Stop PolyMet!**

As I wait every day for that Pileated Woodpecker to return to my tree, I'll feel better knowing that I've spoken out about the most consequential decision Minnesotans have faced in a long time.

Contact the Governor:

Email form: <http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>
 or mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Phone: 651-201-3400

Facebook message "Governor Mark Dayton" on his Facebook page – he reads it himself!

SPAS Member & Guest Columnist Don Arnosti

The Kestrel Nest Box Project

(of Saint Paul Audubon's Conservation Committee)

A few years ago, the SPAS Conservation Committee, then under the leadership of Val Cunningham and Susan Solterman, began placing nest boxes for American Kestrels in the east metro area. Although not rare, American Kestrels have steadily declined in Minnesota, as shown by the chart of occurrences per Breeding Bird Survey route of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1966 to 2013 (at right).

Members of the Conservation Committee saw a nest box project as a way to help kestrels since they typically nest in tree cavities, which are in short supply in the east metro area. The species account of American Kestrels in *Birds of North America Online* states: "Nest boxes, commonly used for studies of wild kestrels, are shown to be beneficial to those populations"

Obtaining and Installing Nest Boxes and Poles

We have placed six kestrel nest boxes thus far:

- 1 at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul
- 2 at Belwin Nature Conservancy near Bayport
- 2 at Lake Elmo Regional Park
- 1 at Benson Prairie in White Bear Lake

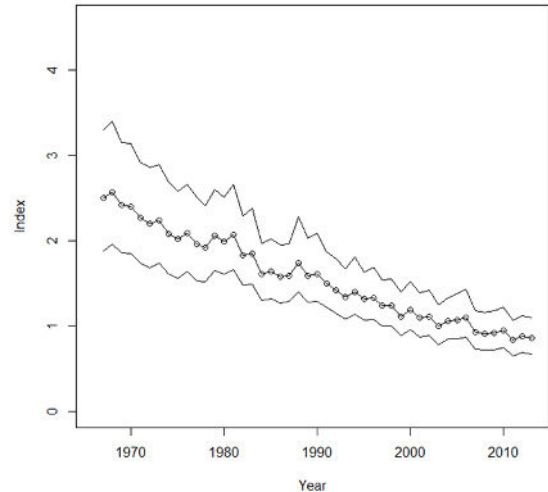
The Conservation Committee used a grant from Audubon Minnesota to purchase the nest boxes. The cost of materials is about \$35-\$40 per box. They are made of cedar, which lasts longer than pine, and we add a bed of aspen chips. Without the chips, the female kestrel will lay eggs on the bare wood floor, and they will probably not hatch because the kestrels cannot keep the eggs warm and together.

American Kestrels prefer a nesting territory of at least 50 acres of short vegetation with some trees, utility poles and wires, or other places to perch. Their main food during the nesting season is small mammals (voles, mice) and large insects.

To mount the boxes, we ask the host site to provide poles that extend about 15 feet above ground. We attach the box with its entrance 12-14 feet high, facing east or northeast. To deter predators from climbing the pole, we wrap one or two sheets of 30" x 40" aluminum around the pole. These are used printing press plates donated by GSL Companies, Bandana Square, St. Paul. Much of our knowledge of kestrels' preferences comes from SPAS member Craig Andresen's many years of installing and monitoring nest boxes at the Arden Hills Army Training Site.

Monitoring

We recruit a volunteer to monitor each nest box. Monitors observe boxes at least once a week during the nesting season to determine whether kestrels, or other species, appear to be nesting.



European Starlings sometimes nest in kestrel boxes. If we see starlings using a box, we will remove the starling nest and eggs. (starlings are from Europe so not protected.) If a native species uses a box, we will not interfere. Starlings have the nasty habit of removing the aspen chips. That happened without our detection at one of our Lake Elmo boxes in 2014. Kestrels came along and laid four eggs, but they did not hatch.

If it appears that kestrels are incubating eggs, we inspect the contents of the box with a tiny pole-mounted camera connected to a laptop computer. This causes minimal disturbance to the birds, as the box is not opened, and it does not require a ladder. If a full clutch of four or five eggs is present, we return about a month later to check for kestrel chicks. We estimate the age of the chicks, and try to have the monitor observe the box (from a distance) at about the expected time of fledging. Kestrel eggs hatch after about four weeks of incubation. The young fledge about a month later.

In the days leading up to fledging, the young kestrels can often be seen looking out of the box. After fledging, the



Barbara Sellers adds wood chips to nest box LERPO2 while Clay Christensen steadies the ladder, April 2015



A kestrel chick is about to get a band at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, June 2012



A male kestrel perches atop the LERPO2 pole, July 2015

young remain in the area for about two weeks, sometimes perching on the box, while the parents continue to capture food for them. In the fall, we check each box and, if necessary, clean it out and replace the aspen chips.

Reporting to the American Kestrel Partnership

Our nest box project contributes useful data to a continent-wide research program conducted by the *American Kestrel Partnership*, which is affiliated with *The Peregrine Fund*. We enter our nesting data at: <http://kestrel.peregrinefund.org>

Results Thus Far

Since we installed the first nest box at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in 2012, four nest boxes have had a combined total of 10 box-nesting-seasons. The two boxes at Belwin Conservancy were installed in October, 2015. Of those 10 opportunities, we have had one unsuccessful nesting (due to startling mischief) and two successful nestings that fledged nine young—five young at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in 2012, and four young at Lake Elmo Regional Park in 2015. With the addition of the two boxes at Belwin, we expect the success rate to increase.

The Future

We may be able to add a few more nest boxes if we can enlist monitors and gain cooperation from organizations or persons who have potential nest sites. If your organization or business has good kestrel habitat nearby, and you would like to host these beautiful little falcons, please send an email to the chair of the St. Paul Audubon Conservation Committee, Matthew Jacobson, at matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com

Let us know if you would like to join in the installation, maintenance, and/or monitoring of our nest boxes.

SPAS Member + Kestrel Project Manager Julian Sellers

MOU Paper Session

Saturday, December 5TH, 9:00 - 4:30

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's annual gathering features speakers and posters concerning research and other happenings from casual birding to ornithologist's research findings. All are welcome. The paper session is held yearly at the Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, 10 Church Street SE, Minneapolis (corner of Church Street and University Avenue).

The fee for the day is \$5, or \$6 at the door. If you want a lunch, you must send an additional \$12 to Robert Bossert, Jr., at 500 - 3rd Avenue, Excelsior, MN 55331.

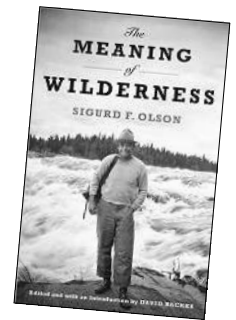
If you'd like to make a donation to the MOU to support their operation and research granting process: the *MOU General Fund* helps finance all MOU projects and publications. Donating to *Savaloja Grants* help finance bird-related research and education in Minnesota. A used book sale is also a feature of the day.

2015 is SPAS' year to do the set-up and take-down; if you come early or stay late to help it will be greatly appreciated!

BOOK REVIEW

The Meaning of Wilderness

Words by Sigurd Olson, edited and with an Introduction by Olson Biographer David Backes, \$18, U of MN Press



From the Preface: "Sigurd Olson (1899-1982) is best known as the author of nine popular books that express the awe and wonder he found in nature. He is also remembered as a powerful speaker and environmental leader who became an icon of the wilderness preservation movement in the 1960's and '70's. ... Probably no other person since John Muir received so much affectionate recognition as both a writer and environmental leader. Sigurd not only received the highest award in nature writing, the John Burroughs medal, but also was the only writer/environmentalist to win top honors from four major American environmental groups. ... As one leader put it: 'He made wilderness and life sing.'"

In reading these 18 very well-chosen articles, essays, and speeches, one follows Olson's career as a wilderness guide with a love for solitude and that "alive" feeling one gets while in a wilderness. We see the awakening need to advocate for wilderness, follow along to the full-tilt battle for preservation of the Boundary Waters in the post-WWII era, and ultimately, all remaining American wilderness in the 1960's and 70's when Congress was contemplating the Wilderness Act. In the last essay of this anthology, "A Longing for Wilderness," written in 1973 as an introduction to a National Geographic Society book, Olson wrote about a trip he took to see some BWCA wilderness for possibly the last time before it was dammed: "...The next day I portaged around the thunder of Curtain Falls, threaded the maze of Crooked Lake, and camped on a barren isle in the very center of the swirling cauldron where the Basswood River comes plunging in. The moon was full and as always it was a place of magic until I remembered the threat. In my mind's eye I saw an apron of concrete and steel holding back the flood, the rocky gorge empty, the surging moon-drenched brilliance gone, its music stilled forever. ... I knew that man needed such beauty and solitude far more than electric power and stock dividends, and that somehow this land must be saved. ... Ecologists studying the complex life of natural areas often use the word 'resource' when speaking of our remaining wilderness, perhaps mindful of Aldo Leopold's 1925 observation that 'our tendency is not to call things resources until the supply runs short.'"

The amazing thing about Olson's writing is that no matter whether he is writing seemingly with simplicity about wilderness experiences in his books, or asking people who may have never been there to understand the need to preserve wilderness, the same eloquent choice of words and phrases is always present. These essays, though some were written over half a century ago, still resonate with the issues we face today.

The book also contains a listing of most of Sigurd Olson's published works, all of which are available at the Minnesota History Museum in St. Paul.

Cardinal Editor Holly Peirson

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

Dec 2015 – Jan 2016

Next Deadline 1/5/2016

Welcome...

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

We're a chapter of the
National Audubon Society.

Our mission is to conserve and restore
natural eco systems, focusing on birds,
other wildlife, and their habitats
for the benefit of humanity and
Earth's biological diversity.

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

CALENDAR

December

Board Meeting..... 7
Member Meeting: African Safari..... 10
Christmas Bird Count 19

January

Board Meeting..... 4
NO Member Meeting in January
Conservation Committee: *tentative* 18

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

**Time Dated Material
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Conservation Committee

We are off to a great start on developing and implementing projects to protect birds in St. Paul! If you are interested in art, habitat restoration, promoting birdsafe communities, or ecological and climate issues affecting birds in our region, we would love for you to join and contribute your interests, passions, and skills to our group. Please join us!

Future meetings are currently planned to be on the 3rd Monday of each month (*no meeting in December; check the website for meeting time and place for January*). At our first meeting we began with a discussion of continuing current Conservation Committee projects. We also talked about National Audubon's 5 strategy areas: 1) coastal birds, 2) preserving IBAs, 3) Best practices for land management for birds such as sage grouse, 4) climate change issues, and 5) a bird friendly community approach, including homes for birds and lights out (bird safe), and decided to work on 2, 4, and 5, for now.

Select examples of project ideas include:

- Working on education for understanding the need for buffer zones, mostly in agricultural and construction project areas.
- Continuing work on native plant booklets – possibly expanding to other areas of the state, and continuing the

work on the Landscape Revival event and native plant sale each June.

- Continuing and expanding the work on building and maintaining American Kestrel nest boxes (*see article elsewhere in this Cardinal*).

Suggestions for future efforts:

- A symposium on climate change with relation to bird habitat.
- Soliciting funds and donations for reprinting the "A Guide to Birding Ramsey County" booklet.
- Placing interactive interpretative signs in some of Saint Paul's parks.
- Identifying important bird habitat within St. Paul city limits (similar to the IBA program).
- Monthly conservation reading group/coffee hours.
- Commissioning public art that celebrates birds.
- Sponsoring projects with other groups.

Conservation Committee Co-Chair Matt Jacobson