

The



Cardinal

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2013 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER MEMBER MEETING

'Bison on the Open Prairies'

with **Jon Grinnell**, Associate Professor & Chair of Biology, Gustavus Adolphus College

October 10, 2013

Although bison once roamed the American plains in the millions, now the vast majority of bison exist as small herds of less than 400 individuals on relatively small, private ranches. Conservationists envision a return of bison to the open prairie, yet for the foreseeable future the conservation challenge with bison is the management of genetic diversity in small herds. To do so, many herd managers rely on replacing older bulls with younger bulls from other lineages, yet these new bulls have no guarantee of achieving the kind of dominance status necessary for substantial matings.

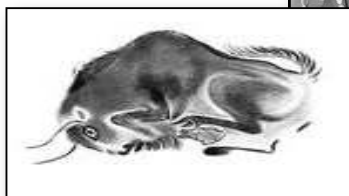
Dr. Grinnell will discuss the findings from 6 years of data on bison behavior and mating success, and talk attempts to maximize herd diversity at Ordway Prairie in South Dakota. The results have implications for how small herds are managed, as well as providing a glimpse into the strategies employed by bulls to achieve mating success.

For more on this topic:

<http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/05/29/bison-bellows-and-bones-student-scientists-on-the-prairie/>

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.



NOVEMBER MEMBER MEETING

'Grasshopper Sparrows in Decline'

with **Lisa Harn**, Grad. Research Asst. in the Univ. of MN Conservation Biology Program

November 14, 2013

Native grasslands are one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America. The Minnesota Grasshopper Sparrow population has declined by 6.8% annually from 1966 to 2010, according to Breeding Bird Survey data. As a result, the sparrow has been identified as a species in need of conservation.

Ms. Harn's work focuses on identifying priority areas for Grasshopper Sparrows, to aid in their conservation, then determining if they can be used as an indicator species for either the health of prairie ecosystems or the presence of other grassland birds.

For more on this topic, visit these website(s):

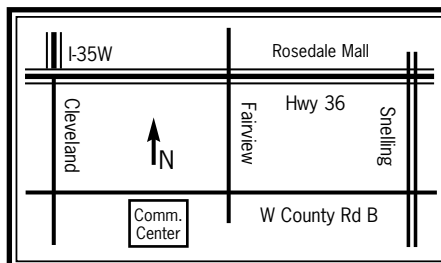
<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/minnesota/howwework/minnesota-prairie-conservation-plan.xml>

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Grasshopper_Sparrow/id

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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 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Upcoming dates: **October 7, November 4, December 2.** Officers are: **Barb Lindeke, Deb Bachrach, Mary Beth Smith Peterson, and Richard Newmark.** Board Members are: **Craig Andresen, Mark Bearss, Jim Lindner, Tom McCarthy, Deb Robinson, Laurel Stiebler, and Monica Wiese.**

Chapter President's Message

I've been wondering how people got involved in birding and caring about the outdoors. I remember Girl Scouts was an important place for me to get introduced to the outdoors and its wonders. I proudly earned the "Bird" and "Tree" badges and still have my sash hanging in my bedroom. I loved exploring "the Woods" in town with my friends (especially Nancy). These were "wild" areas in the small neglected park across the street from my house and around the back of the football field next to Nancy's house. The woods had many trails for us to explore. Our world had vacant lots and wild land and we were allowed to explore without constant supervision.

My late husband, Jerry, grew up during the Depression in St. Paul. He explored, hunted, trapped, and wandered to his heart's content along the tracks and on unclaimed land and vacant lots around town. His uncles took him hunting and encouraged paying attention to the wild world. We both ended up

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<small>(Outgoing message only — take down numbers to call for info, or go to chapter's website)</small>	
Audubon MN	651-291-2596

www.mn.audubon.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 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

caring about the natural world and enjoying camping, birding, hiking, canoeing and fishing.

Think about how you fell in love with Nature. Think about the young people in your life. Let's all do what we can to make sure "No child is left inside." The health of our environment depends on the next generation. Times have changed. Kids stay inside with their electronics. Parents don't encourage children to wander off into the woods unattended. Each of us needs to do what we can to make it possible for kids to have the chance we did to get outside to learn about and enjoy nature. Invite a family to come on a field trip.

Take a child or grandchild for walks in the neighborhood. Volunteer with the Scouts or similar organizations. Sponsor a child's trip to a Nature Center. Help the next generations get the same enriching pleasure as we do from spending time in Nature. The future depends on it.

I wish you all good times in the outdoors.

Barbara Lindeke

December 21, 2013

The Christmas Bird Count is coming!! Look for information at our Member Meetings and through e-mail.

The Education Committee / The Conservation Committee

Education Committee Volunteers on the Big River Journey

For the second year, members of the SPAS Education Committee will volunteer on the **Big River Journey** organized by the National Park Service. SPAS is proud to be in partnership with the Padelford Packet Boat Co., the DNR, the Science Museum of Minnesota and the National Park Service, to teach students (mostly 4TH - 6TH graders) about the environment of the Mississippi River.

In a 2-1/2 hour journey from Harriet Island to Ft. Snelling or vice versa, the 120 or so students visit 3 of the 6 learning stations - Macro-invertebrates, Otters and river-side habitat, Geology, the Wheelhouse and jobs on the river, Storm sewers and pollution, and bird life. If the river allows, students disembark (or embark) at Pike Island where they have more adventures with the State Park Rangers.



It's a great program that the kids (and volunteers) really seem to enjoy. So far, SPAS members **Steve Johnson, Barbara Lindeke, Cheri Steinmueller, Dick and Gloria Wachtler** have had all the fun for 3 weeks in May and 2 weeks in late September and early October. If any other SPAS members would like to join us, please contact Steve Johnson (*see box at left.*)

BOOK REVIEW "The Birdman of Lauderdale"

WITH EXCERPTS FROM A REVIEW BY JIM WILLIAMS, SPECIAL TO THE STARTRIBUNE



There's likely a story to be told every time someone returns home from a birding trip, be it across the country or across the street. You just have to recognize it, then share it. Clay Christensen never misses a story.

In a new book, *"The Birdman of Lauderdale,"* Christensen tells entertaining and informative stories about his life as a birder. He's a good writer, as well as a good birder and a good observer. He doesn't miss much, and has a keen sense of humor.

He begins his chapters with lines like, "The adventure began . . .," "While walking along . . .," "When I began birding . . ." And then he will capture in clean, personal prose the just-plain-interesting things he saw or heard or thought of.

Reading the book is like going birding with Christensen, then closing the afternoon with a cup of coffee or a glass of beer. He's good company. He tells sharply seen stories. His book is well done.

Editor: I especially enjoyed reading about our Saint Paul Audubon friends, those who lead and attend field trips, and other Saint Paul Audubon happenings around the East Metro.

The book should be out just in time for Christmas. Levins Publishing, \$17.

Read & Enjoy These Great Blogs!!

Back Yard Biology

Sue Chaplin has recently retired from Chairing the St Thomas Biology Dept. Her blog contains great photography, and stories about wildlife. She lives in Roseville.

<http://bybio.wordpress.com>

RECOMMENDED BY KAREN ECKMAN

BirdWatchers' Digest's Fave Blogs

We enjoy reading *The Cardinal* here at BWD. We noticed your call for birding/nature blogs in the latest issue. Here are a few blogs associated with our staff.

"Bill of the Birds," by Bill Thompson, III

<http://billofthebirds.blogspot.com>

Julie Zickefoose, writer & Illustrator

<http://juliezickefoose.blogspot.com>

"The Baypoll Blog," by Corey Husic

<http://baypoll.blogspot.com>

"I'm Wild at Heart," by Kristina Polk

<http://imwildatheart.blogspot.com>

SENT IN BY KYLE CARLSON, BWD ASST. EDITOR

Clay Christensen's "Birdman of Lauderdale" Blog

Similar to his book (*reviewed above*), Clays' blog entries are fun and informative!

www.BirdmanofLauderdale.com

Please send other Blogs and Nature Notes to share!

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

October November 2013

December January Deadline 11/5/2013

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

October

Board Meeting:7
Member Meeting: *Bison*10

November

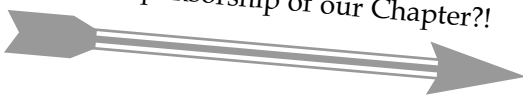
Board Meeting:4
Member Meeting: *Grasshopper Sparrows* . .14

SPAS Members:
Please Check our Website
for Calendar Updates!

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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 www.springbrooknaturecenter.org

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

National Audubon Society Membership

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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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please sign gift card: _____

Mail to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250
(Write on envelope: "Attention: New Membership — please process immediately")

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