

# The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2017 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## SANDHILL CRANES AT CREX MEADOWS

### Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

*Tuesday, October 17, 4:00-8:15 p.m.*

Fossils found in the Midwest show us that Sandhill Cranes have lived in North America for more than nine million years, making them the oldest living bird species on record. In historic times, Greater Sandhill Cranes congregated by the thousands every autumn evening in the marshes and ponds now called Crex Meadows, located on the north side of Grantsburg, Wisconsin. During fall migration, these birds still congregate in large numbers to prepare for the long journey ahead. People likewise gather to witness the sight of seemingly never-ending strands and haunting sounds as the birds seek and settle into shelter for the night. Perhaps this is your year to experience anew or again this enduring ritual.

Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center (VC) at Crex Meadow State Wildlife Area in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. We will talk briefly about the cranes, Crex, and carpooling, and leave from the VC about 4:30 p.m., returning around 8:15 p.m. to the same parking lot. The VC closes at 4:30 p.m.

There might be a group carpooling from the Twin Cities about noon; check with Louise in early September if you are interested in that.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS** Register with Louise Eidsmoe. Dress for cooling temperatures during

the evening, bring a spotting scope if you have one, sunscreen, bug spray, and a brimmed hat. We will carpool from the Visitor Center.

**DIRECTIONS** Take I-35 North to the Rock Creek/Grantsburg Exit (Highway 70), approximately 34 miles from Forest Lake. Take exit and turn right (EAST) on Highway 70. Follow for 15 miles (into Wisconsin) to the stoplight in Grantsburg. Turn left (NORTH) onto Pine Street. Follow the goose signs through town to the Visitor Center, located on the NE corner of the junction of County Rd D and County Road F. It is 52 miles from Forest Lake to the Visitor Center. Meet in the VC parking lot at 4:00 p.m.

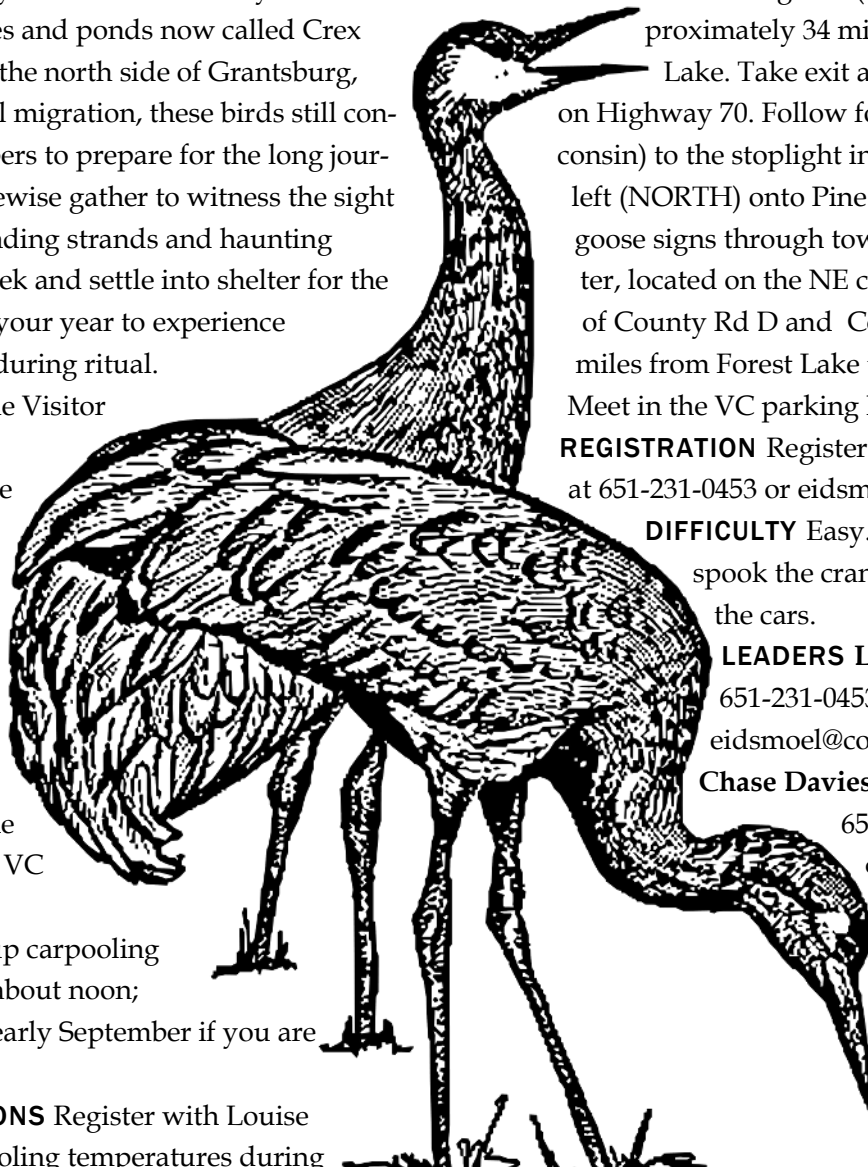
**REGISTRATION** Register with Louise Eidsmoe at 651-231-0453 or eidsmoel@comcast.net

**DIFFICULTY** Easy. So as not to not spook the cranes, we stay close to the cars.

**LEADERS** Louise Eidsmoe, 651-231-0453 or eidsmoel@comcast.net

Chase Davies,

651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com



#### *Did you know?*

Sandhill cranes mate for life, and can live for more than three decades.

## BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings take place the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30-8 p.m.

### Board Actions

On Monday, June 5, Jane Braun was elected a Member of the Board, so now your SPAS Board of Directors is complete.

Also elected were Brian Goodspeed to the office of President and Donn Waage to the office of Vice President.

The next meeting of the Board will be September 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Office, 2665 Noel Drive,

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### Why Audubon?

We all have so many demands on our time today and choices for where we spend it. So why do we spend time on Audubon? For me, I have been interested in wildlife conservation all my life. I was fortunate to make a relatively late career change and work at a conservation foundation for the last 15 years. In that job I was able to see hundreds of conservation organizations, both government and nonprofit. Some organizations create new conservation science, many work on habitat protection or restoration and others on public education and advocacy. All of these roles are important.

I volunteered to be the new vice president of SPAS because birds are an important avenue for people to become involved in the natural world, because SPAS is a very broad and welcoming community and because it relies almost totally on volunteers to accomplish its work. The natural world is an extraordinarily broad topic and people come to their interest in it via many avenues. Awareness of birds is often the beginning of a person's interest in conservation. Birds fascinate many people because of their power of flight, their beauty, and their diversity. Birds also offer amazing access to dozens of different species right here in the east metro area. In contrast, daily and annual species lists for

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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 2,800 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](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 [cardinalstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:cardinalstpaul@gmail.com).

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

**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*.

mammals would be much more limited. Birds captured public interest and propelled the earliest conservation efforts, scientific conservation studies, and creation of refuges. Our namesake, John James Audubon, was inspired by birds. He painted creatures other than birds, but his great ambition and achievement was to paint all North American birds. If birds attract people to conservation, how does SPAS satisfy and promote that interest? We advance science with Christmas bird counts and our support of National Audubon's efforts, such as reintroduction of the Atlantic puffin in Maine. We support a variety of habitat projects. And we educate both ourselves through our monthly meetings and others through bird tours and youth programs. Our politics, well that's simple. What is good for birds is good for the environment and what is good for the environment is good for us all.

It is notable that SPAS accomplishes its work with volunteers. Our chapter in Greater Saint Paul has more than 2,300 members with all levels of experience. I have found that longtime members welcome newcomers and are willing to share their expertise. Of course, at SPAS we val-

ue the work of staff at Minnesota and National Audubon, but the realm of conservation science has grown so broad and deep so fast that the value of volunteers, although often hard to measure, may be overlooked. The great power of volunteerism is that it inspires as it demonstrates personal commitment. "You mean you are doing this work and not getting paid just because you care about it?" Yes we are. Our volunteer work at SPAS has a value beyond its actual labor. It is a power to inspire — to demonstrate our conservation values and interests to others — especially into the next generation. In an increasingly urbanized, technologically-focused society, there are still those who prefer a natural experience to an iPod. As we participate in Audubon activities we demonstrate our immense satisfaction of a deep understanding of the natural world, a curiosity that allows us to learn more, and a willingness to share this knowledge with others.

— By Donn Waage, Vice President

## Summer Prairie Walk Series

This series offers an opportunity to observe, comment on, and enjoy native flower diversity. Each walk will have a secondary focus for discussion.

### Fish Creek Prairie at Sundown

**Tuesday, August 29, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**

This is the third of three of SPAS' summer Tuesday evening prairie walks to observe, comment on, and enjoy native prairie plant diversity. Each walk will have a secondary focus for discussion – the topic for this walk will be adaptations and interrelationships of prairie plants and animals. I hope you will come to enjoy the activity in this young prairie.

**LOCATION** Fish Creek Nature Preserve, Maplewood.

**WHY THIS PRAIRIE?** Fish Creek Natural Area is one of a great assortment of parks, preserves and natural areas in Maplewood. We will walk the prairie about a mile using the new blacktop trail and some mowed trails on gently rolling bluff-top terrain. We will not scramble to Fish Creek. Fish Creek Preserve's prairie faces west with a view across the Mississippi River valley. Sundown occurs during this event. The expectation of surprises first drew me to this prairie just last year; I was not disappointed.

**DIRECTIONS** Go south from I-94 and Century Avenue about 3.5 miles to the end of Century Avenue where the road turns west becoming Carver Avenue. On Carver, just past I-494 turn south (left) onto Henry Lane. Travel about a half mile to the Fish Creek Natural Area turn around and park as directed.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS** Bring sunscreen, bug spray, water and a 10 power magnifier or Chase will have some 10 power loupes to loan. Consider a camera.

**REGISTRATION** No registration required.

**DIFFICULTY** Easy. The walk will be about a mile, mainly on wide trails.

**LEADER** Easy. Chase Davies, 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com.



## All About the Monarch Butterfly

with Aislyn Keyes

University of Minnesota Monarch Lab

Know any children who want to learn about Monarch Butterflies? These well-loved insects (*Danaus plexippus*) are known for their extensive spring and fall migrations, but their numbers have been declining over recent years. At the University of Minnesota, the Monarch Lab provides education to classroom teachers and students, in addition to guiding scientists in research in an effort to understand the monarch's natural world and to increase its population.

The Monarch Joint Venture is a partnership of more than 50 organizations, including the U's Monarch Lab, working together to conserve the monarch migration within the United States. Aislyn Keyes is the Education and Outreach Assistant with Monarch Joint Venture here in Minnesota.

We will learn the life cycle stages of the monarch, migration patterns, efforts underway to re-establish the population and what we, as individuals, can do to attract monarchs to our surrounding habitat.

Event takes place 6:45-8:30 p.m. Thursday, September 14 at Fairview Community Center, 1910 County Rd. B W., Roseville, MN 55113.



## Audubon needs your help to monitor Bluebird nest trails!

There are four Eastern Bluebird boxes in Bloomington at 102 and Park Avenue, and six boxes at Tanners Brook Golf Course in Forest Lake. There are plans to expand to 10 boxes at Tanners Brook in the future. If you are interested, contact Jack Hauser at jgshausser@gmail.com.



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**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

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**AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2017**

Next Deadline 9/5/2017

Welcome...

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

We're a chapter of the  
National Audubon Society.

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

*Please Check our Website  
for Calendar Updates!*

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**CALENDAR**

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## Our Chapter's Conservation Committee

The Saint Paul Audubon Conservation Committee is partnering with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation for a celebration of birds on National Public Lands Day September 30 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Hidden Falls Regional Park! The event is part of a larger National Public Lands Day of service held in lands cherished by all across the United States. There are several activities for individuals and families of all ages. Come plant a tree, follow a bird through migration, and look for birds with spotting scopes and binoculars! We invite you all to attend, and encourage you to sign up and share your bird knowledge with others! Please contact **Monica Bryand** ([mjbryand@gmail.com](mailto:mjbryand@gmail.com)) or **Nancy Uppgren** ([nancy.uppgren@icloud.com](mailto:nancy.uppgren@icloud.com)) if you are interested in volunteering. Hope to see you there!