

The Cardinal

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2017 WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER MEMBER MEETING

“History and Purpose of MN Scientific and Natural Areas”

with **Kelly Randall**

Thursday, October 12, 2017



There are 164 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's) around the state of Minnesota. The purpose of the MNDNR SNA program is to "preserve natural features and rare resources of exceptional scientific and educational value." The natural

areas within SNA's include native plant communities, rare species, and geologic features of statewide significance.

Kelly Randall is the outreach coordinator for Minnesota SNA's. He has worked 25 years with MNDNR. Part of his job involved assessing and designating these unique lands. SNA's include representatives of rare or uncommon species and geology types in the four biomes around the state. Parts of shorelines, remnant prairies, blufftops, and old growth forest are safeguarded in the SNA inventories. The Piping Plover is one rare bird that has benefitted from the SNA program.

Randall's talk will review the process of identifying unique species and habitats and the lengthy designation process. He will feature a number of SNA's from different parts of the state. Many SPAS members are familiar with some of the SNA's. Some members will have hiked on some, looking for and identifying its unique species. As conservationists, we appreciate the role of SNA's in protecting land and species as part of our natural heritage and for future generations.

This DNR link has an alphabetical list of all the SNA's: www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/index.html. It also provides a map for each.

NOVEMBER MEMBER MEETING

“Documenting Time in the Outdoors”

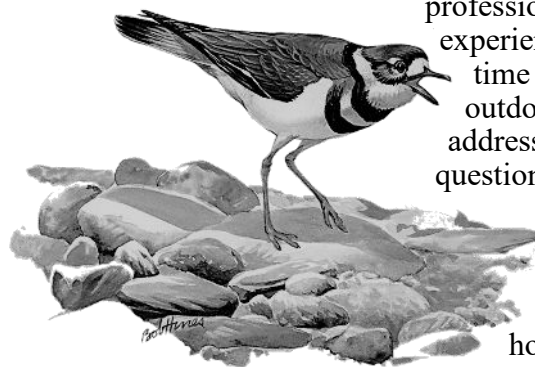
with **Bob Timmons**

Star Tribune Outdoors Weekend Editor

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Bob Timmons is a longtime journalist who has worked in a variety of roles in the field. He was on the front lines of news as a Page One editor and news designer at the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1997-2005. Since spring 2005, he has worked at the Minneapolis Star Tribune. He has edited and managed the outdoors section since January 2015.

Timmons will talk about some of the outdoors coverage, and some of his



professional reporting experiences from time in the outdoors. He will address common questions about the section, such as how topics are decided, and how photos and words are

One notable article in the “My Portal Species” series described how a nesting killdeer got the writer hooked on birds.

reported and edited each week. What makes a good story?

What makes a compelling image, or series of images? What about combining the two? Outdoors Weekend has a feature called My Portal Species, written by and illustrated by readers and birders. Timmons will talk about recent contributions, what makes them compelling, and how you can contribute if interested.

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.

December 7 Member Meeting: Sax-Zim Bog with Sparky Stensaas
No meeting in January; see you February 8!

BOARD MEETINGS

The Chapter's Board Meetings are held 6:30-8:30 PM at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada.

Upcoming: **Tuesday, October 17**

Our Chapter Needs YOU!

What will the catalyst be, for YOU to become involved as a volunteer with our chapter? Will it be global warming? Restoring habitat? Minnesota's water issues? Field trips? Bird ID information? Learning more about environmental issues at our great Member Meetings? In addition to becoming active to learn about these topics, we the current leadership and volunteer base, need YOU to consider your strengths, and join one of the efforts outlined below!

Nominating Committee

Donn Waage is Chair of the Nominating Committee and asks you, members and friends of SPAS, to suggest others or volunteer themselves to be part of this important group. The major work of this committee occurs after New Years to assure publication in the April/May *Cardinal*. An organization meeting may occur sooner.

Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) occurs annually the Saturday between Christmas and New Years Days. Bill Stjern has coordinated this event for several years and needs to train in a new chair this year. He has it well organized! It is a short job with some detail that perhaps you or someone you know could do well. Contact Bill for details and with names: norskestar@comcast.net, cell: [651-470-3112](tel:651-470-3112)

Warbler Weekend

If you were part of Warbler Weekend this year, SPAS is requesting you to submit your high-resolution photos to help generate interest in the event for 2018! Please send photos to: cardinalstpaul@gmail.com by November 15.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

- President 651-647-1452
Brian Goodspeed good0038@umn.edu
- Vice President 612-735-4085
Donn Waage donnw@yahoo.com
- Treasurer 651-231 -0453
Louise Eidsmoe eidsmoel@comcast.net
- Secretary 651-633-1663
Chase Davies ccdavies@aol.com
- Programs Publicity 651-489-0318
Barbara Lindeke barbaralindeke@comcast.net
- Conservat'n Co-Chr 651-247-1718
Nancy Uppgren nancy.uppgren@icloud.com
- Field Trips Chair 651-633-1663
Chase Davies ccdavies@aol.com
- Education Chair
OPEN
- Newsletter Editor 651-295-3967
Jackie Bussjaeger cardinalstpaul@gmail.com
- Newsletter Mailing 651-483-8597
Susan Fuller susan.j.fuller@gmail.com
- Speakers' Bureau 651-631-0949
Clay Christensen clay.christensen@comcast.net
- Webmaster 651-332-1362
Ben Wilson ben@simpledesigns.biz

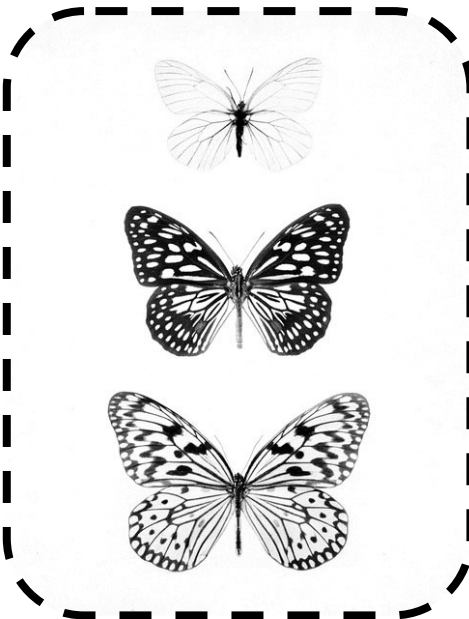
ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

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 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.

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



2017 Butterfly Census

Members of SPAS participated in the 2017 Butterfly Count at Arden Hills Army Training Site July 8. Over the course of eight hours, 16 volunteers observed 12 species and 30 individual butterflies, as well as 13 species of birds and five species of bumble bees.

Butterflies by Species

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Cabbage White | 10 |
| Common Wood Nymph..... | 8 |
| Eastern Tailed-Blue..... | 2 |
| Monarch..... | 2 |
| Clouded Sulphur | 1 |
| Great Spangled Fritillary | 1 |
| Northern Crescent..... | 1 |
| Silver-spotted Skipper..... | 1 |
| Northern Broken-Dash | 1 |
| Delaware Skipper..... | 1 |
| Mulberry Wing | 1 |
| Dun Skipper..... | 1 |

Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

Tuesday, October 17, 4:00–8:15 PM

Nine million year old fossils of Sandhill Cranes have been found in the Midwest! In historic times, Greater Sandhill Cranes have congregated by the thousands every autumn evening in the marshes and ponds now called Crex Meadows, located on the north side of Grantsburg, WI. 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 PM at the Visitors Center (VC) at Crex Meadow State Wildlife Area in Grantsburg WI. We will talk briefly about the cranes, Crex, and carpooling and leave from the VC about 4:30 PM returning about 8:15 PM to the same parking lot. The VC closes at 4:30 PM.

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

LOCATION Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area
102 E Crex Ave, Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS Dress for cooling temperatures during the evening, bring spotting scope if you have one, sunscreen, bug spray, and a brimmed hat. We will carpool from the Visitors 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 stop light 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 Visitors Center. Meet in the VC parking lot at 4:00.

REGISTRATION Register with Louise Eidsmoe

DIFFICULTY Easy. In an effort to not spook the

cranes, we stay close to the cars.

LEADERS Louise Eidsmoe: 651-231-0453, eidsmoel@comcast.net; Chase Davies, 651-633-1663, ccdavies@aol.com



work with the museum and its staff on future collaborative events and opportunities.

However, the new Bell Museum will not have a space large enough to hold an event for the number of people who attend the Paper Session each year, so the MOU has changed locale to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen.

The Arboretum is well known to birders, who have traveled there two years in a row to see the Summer Tanagers that have taken refuge there, as well as a fascinating variety of other birds attracted by the lush habitat.

The arboretum has undergone some major changes of its own in the last fifteen years, adding a larger visitor center that not only looks beautiful and is more functional but also contains a state-of-the-art auditorium for hosting larger events, the MacMillan Auditorium. It is in this auditorium where the MOU will be hosting its Paper Session in December. Check out the arboretum's website for more information about the space: www.arboretum.umn.edu/.

MOU Paper Session

Moves to

Landscape Arboretum

Saturday, December 2,

4:00–8:15 PM

The Minnesota Ornithologist Union (MOU) annual Paper Session will be held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on Saturday, December 2. In the past, the Paper Sessions have always been held at the Bell Museum of Natural History on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. As the museum transitions to its new home in a brand new building on the St. Paul campus, the MOU continues to

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

December January 2017

Next Deadline 11/5/2017

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!*

CALENDAR

September

Public Lands Day at Hidden Falls30

October

Membership Meeting12

FIELD TRIP: Crex Meadows17

Board Meeting17

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Membership Meeting9

December

MOU Paper Session2

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Our Chapter's Conservation Committee

The biggest news in our committee is the development of a birding app for phones! Matt Jacobson, working with an intern at the University of Minnesota, has developed a prototype app for finding birding sites in Ramsey and Washington County. When the app is opened, the user will be able to see a map of the area, and click on any markers that identify a birding site. Each marker will have specific directions to find the site, along with notes for the user to provide more information. We are hoping to get more birding sites included, so please contact Matt to share! We need as many as possible.

Matt's email is: matthew.jacobson28@gmail.com

At the time of writing this article, the Conservation Committee is busy planning for our role in National Public Lands Day. We are scheduled to be at Hidden Falls on September 30 to provide breakfast and birding hikes to participants.

In other news, Julian Sellers is working to expand the kestrel program. Through the SPAS chair, Brian Goodspeed, he has contacted managers of 4 state parks in the area that are conducive to kestrel nesting sites to ask if kestrel boxes can be posted in their park. Two have given positive responses so far, and we are continuing to pursue the remaining two sites. Fingers crossed for baby kestrels next spring!

One new focus for SPAS has been to develop a more visible presence in Washington County. Our first step in that direction is an alliance with the St. Croix River Association. We are excited and honored to be co-sponsors of a fund raising event for them in early October. We'll be sure to update you in the next Cardinal edition.