

The Cardinal

FEBRUARY MARCH 2018 WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY MEMBER MEETING

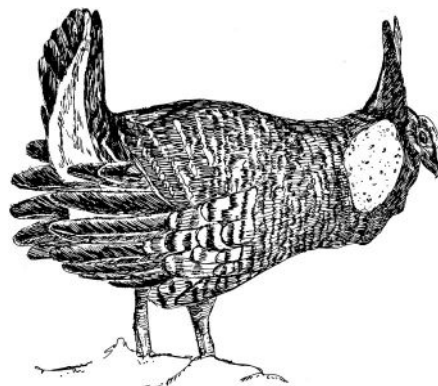
“Developing High-Efficiency Agricultural and Food Systems” with Donald Wyse, Professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota

Thursday, February 8, 2018

The Forever Green Initiative (FGI) is leading an effort to improve the efficiency and sustainability of Minnesota agricultural systems by developing new crops that can be planted by farmers to produce a continuous living cover and provide them with new, economically viable options for their farming operations. Based at the University of Minnesota, the FGI involves many partners in the commercial, research, and conservation sectors. FGI's goal is to develop a wide range of commercial products from the new winter annual and perennial crops which will make it economically possible for farmers to produce the crops, and thereby achieve previously unattainable solutions to the state's water quality challenges. The key to transforming Minnesota's agriculture is the emergence of a new demand for a wide range of bio-based products (food, fuel, polymers) that can be provided by the new Forever Green Initiative crops.

This new bio-economy is building on the strengths of current agriculture by integrating new crops and providing feedstocks for a wide range of new food, energy, and bio-based products.

Integrating new crops, such as perennials and winter-tolerant species, in current agricultural production systems enables substantial increases in total production by making better use of soil, water, nutrients, and solar energy. Adding crops besides corn and soybeans to Minnesota agriculture will help provide diversity to Minnesota farm country. Getting the farmers on board to improve the soil and water of Minnesota crop land can only help the birds and other creatures who make their homes in Minnesota's farm country.



“Prairie Chickens in the History and Culture of the Midwest and Modern Conservation”

with Greg Hoch

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Greg Hoch will start his presentation with the basic biology of prairie chickens and grassland grouse, but quickly move to the historical role they played during the settlement period. Last, he will discuss modern conservation issues of prairie chickens and

all grassland wildlife.

Greg Hoch grew up and went to college in Indiana, then spent 8 years in Kansas where he received his MS and PhD in grassland ecology at Kansas State University. He moved to Minnesota 16 years ago, and after teaching for 7 years worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before moving to the DNR. For the last three years, he has been in St. Paul as the DNR Prairie Habitat Team Leader.

Warbler Weekend 2018

St. Paul Audubon Society's 47th annual Warbler Weekend will be held May 11-13 (Mother's Day Weekend) at Hok-Si-La Park in Lake City, MN. Hok-Si-La Park in Lake City will be the hub for everything: gathering, socializing, eating, recording, dispersing, and more. Check out www.hoksilapark.org/ to learn more about this location.

The registration fee for **Warbler Weekend** remains at \$5 per person. Meals are available on Saturday thanks to **Lake City Kiwanis International**. Gluten free and vegetarian options are available. There are numerous motel/hotel options in the Lake City/Red Wing area. Camping is available at Frontenac State Park and at Hok-Si-La Park.

All levels of birders are welcome! Some Saturday leader-led walks might focus on a particular habitat, basic birding skills, bird songs, walking distance, or a favorite place such as the several trails at Hok-Si-La Park, Sand Point, town cemetery, Old Frontenac, or Frontenac State Park. All of these sites offer wonderful opportunities for birders as the migrants travel the Mississippi Flyway toward northern breeding grounds. We and the birds will be rewarded with all the hospitality this area has to offer us. And, happily, SPAS can continue to document spring bird migration along this particular stretch of bluff lands and lowlands of the Wells Creek area of the Mississippi River. Note that this year the number of registrants is limited to 150, so be sure to send in your registration form (see inside) by April 26.

**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.

BOARD MEETINGS

The Chapter’s Board Meetings are held the first Monday of most months 6:30-8:00 PM at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada.

Upcoming: **Monday, February 5**

Board Announcement

It was the old switcheroo. The board of directors didn’t think you’d mind. We had good reason. And, it worked. Congratulations to Donn Waage, the new president of Saint Paul Audubon Society (SPAS)! I have switched to the office of vice president, and I’m happy to be here.

In spring of 2017, SPAS President Matt Jacobson accepted a new position in Fargo, ND. Our bylaws state (Section 5.14) “If an office shall become vacant, the board may proceed to elect an officer pursuant to section 4.13.” Board member Donn Waage, was willing to serve as SPAS president. But, he was new to the board and wanted a little time to become acquainted with its workings. I agreed to serve as president for the remainder of the 2017 calendar year. The board agreed. It has been an honor to lead this venerable organization, however briefly.

At the December board meeting we officially switched presidents. Please congratulate our new president, Donn Waage. There is no doubt that 2018 will be another good year for SPAS.

Happy Birding!

-Brian Goodspeed, Vice President

President’s Message

Conservation Science Today

The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) is under attack again. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, wants to dramatically alter it. That doesn’t sound like news, does it? The ESA seems to have been under attack since it was passed. However, the ESA was passed in 1973 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Rep. Bishop claims the ESA restricts development and has not achieved its goal of species recovery.

Rep. Bishop’s claim that the ESA has slowed development is probably true. But part of its purpose is to consider the implications of development, which takes time. Critics allege

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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

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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*.

the ESA has not been successful because only 1 percent of the species listed as endangered or threatened have recovered. The Center for Biological Diversity, a nonpartisan group, conducted a study of species recovery plans under the Act in 2012 and found that 91 percent are on time and on target.

I believe, however, the greatest impact of the ESA is the expansion and maturation of conservation science. The ESA required federal agencies to determine which species are “endangered” and “threatened.” What followed was an incredible increase in our knowledge of the life cycle of species, habits, interdependencies, interactions with other species and the environment, their vulnerability and other key issues.

In 2001, Congress, made a major effort to advance conservation science at the state level. It required every state to prepare a state Wildlife Action Plan which identifies species of greatest conservation need and determines what actions are needed to assist them. The idea was to strategically invest federal grants before species became too rare or costly to restore. Like the ESA, this requirement has resulted in an explosion of knowledge about conservation science.

Whatever the temporary setbacks, the advance of conservation knowledge has ensured a better framework for wildlife decision making. Conservation science has shown that actions in the environment have broad impacts, and decision making must reflect that complexity. Conservation science also provides a platform for our voice on public issues. We can, and should, use both our emotional attachment to nature as well as conservation science to make effective arguments to our Congressional representatives.

-Donn Waage, President

Elections take place May 10

Saint Paul Audubon Society will be holding our annual elections at our May 10, 2018 meeting. The nominating committee is open for business. If you would like to run for a position on the board of directors, or for one of the club offices (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) please contact the nominations committee chairperson, Brian Goodspeed, by phone 651-647-1452 or email good0038@umn.edu.

Warbler Weekend Overview

Accommodations: Birders staying overnight need to make their own reservations soon. Lake City and Red Wing are closest. Cell phone numbers for information or help before and during the Weekend are 651-270-9345 (Richard) or 651-955-2086 (Joanne).

Advance reservations: Required for all meals including requests for gluten free and/or vegetarian food.

Registration and meal reservations close April 26.

Information Boards: The usual Bird Board, Schedule, and Notices will be posted in prominent places.

Evaluation Forms: We want your input! All birders will be asked to fill out an evaluation form so that we can continue to improve Warbler Weekend!

Friday, May 11

Daytime: bird on your own

6:30 PM shelter open for coffee, cookies and socializing

7:00 PM Warbler 101 presentation – Bill Stjern

Warbler 101 Presentation

The evening program on Friday night with Bill Stjern will focus on visual warbler identification for new birders or those new to Warbler Weekend along with interesting facts and background for more experienced folks. Included will be an overview of migration and the challenges in the future for these remarkable creatures. It should send everyone out on Saturday with an appreciation for and an eager desire to find and learn more about warblers. In 46 years of Warbler Weekend, we have seen 250 species of birds and all of the regular warbler species ever seen in the state. This is the best place in the state, and arguably in the Upper Midwest, to learn about and see these beautiful birds.

Saturday, May 12

Meals: prepared and served by Lake City Kiwanis in Riverside Dining Hall.

8:00 - 8:30 AM Full, hot breakfast

12:00 - 12:30 PM Sandwiches with fruit and dessert

6:00 - 6:30 PM Spaghetti, bread and salad supper

Special sightings, identification of Saturday leaders, and places to bird will be on a handout available Friday evening and Saturday with changes announced during meals. The Warbler Weekend Count will be tallied after the Saturday supper.

Saturday Birding Walks:

6:30 AM - 8:00 AM

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Gather outside the Dining Hall around appropriate signs to form groups for each scheduled leader-led walk. Some of the possible places from the list below will depend on weather, trail conditions and number of available leaders.

Frontenac State Park Prairie walk

Frontenac State Park Campground

Frontenac State Park Sand Point Trail

Frontenac State Park Overlook

Hok-Si-La north

Hok-Si-La south

Old Methodist Camp area

Frontenac Town Cemetery

Frontenac Town walk

Beginning birder walk

Audio walk

Sunday, May 13

6:30 AM at Hok-Si-La parking lot to bird with leaders.

Please report any additions from the Saturday birding to Bill Stjern (norskestar@comcast.net) for inclusion in the Final Count.

Warbler Weekend 2018

Registration Form (submit before April 26)

	Number of persons	Total
Friday night	_____ (no charge)	
Registration	_____ x \$ 5 =	\$ _____
Saturday breakfast, 8-8:30	_____ x \$ 5 =	\$ _____
Saturday lunch 12-12:30	_____ x \$10 =	\$ _____
Saturday dinner, 6-6:30	_____ x \$15 =	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

_____ Number birding Sunday morning

_____ Number Vegetarians _____ Number Gluten Free

Make check payable to St. Paul Audubon Society, or register online at saintpaulaudubon.org/events/warbler-weekend

Send check and this registration form to:

Saint Paul Audubon Society

c/o Richard Newmark, 810 Woodduck Dr.

Woodbury, MN 55125

No refunds after April 26, 2018

All prices are per person; no refunds for missed meals.

Please print clearly

Registrant's Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Names of all guests registering on this form:

For more information, call 651 340-3487 or, preferably, send email to ranemark@gmail.com

Wanted! Field Trips Scheduler

After quite several years of scheduling spring field trips, I must be replaced this year. In a couple weeks I will begin seeking leaders, places and dates for the 2018 Spring Birding Season. If you have an interest in this short term, annual project, let me know. I can send a job description and you can either shadow or help me this year. Communication is nearly all by email. Thanks for positively considering stepping into this important position.

-Chase Davies, ccdavies@aol.com

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

April/May 2018

Next Deadline 3/5/2018

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 at
www.saintpaulaudubon.org
for calendar updates!*

CALENDAR

February

Board Meeting 5
Member Meeting Forever Green..... 8

March

Board Meeting 5
Member Meeting Prairie Chickens 8

April

Board Meeting 2
Membership Meeting 12

May

Membership Meeting, Board Election ... 10
Warbler Weekend 11-13

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Highlights of the 2017 Christmas Bird Count

by Dorothy Waltz



Oh, the weather outside was not frightful on December 16, 2017! More than sixty St. Paul Audubon members and friends fanned out across the national Christmas Bird Count territory of "St. Paul (North)" to count as many birds as they could find.

In the evening, nineteen of the stalwart participants gathered at the home of our vice president, Brian Goodspeed, for the Potluck and Tally Party. In addition to Brian's warm hospitality and the delicious array of food, the group had a great time recounting their successes of the day. Thank you, Brian, for providing a wonderful place to enjoy and celebrate the participants' long day!

The Area 7 Team of Adam Herman, Betsy Kerr, Jeanne and Steve Tanamachi, and Helen Wang plus Fred, Robert and Dorothy Waltz probably had the most exciting finds of the day! Adam Herman, an outstanding birder who is a post-doc student at the university, volunteered to help on the count. As an avid follower of eBird, he led us into downtown Minneapolis where we observed two Peregrine Falcons plus a Lincoln's Sparrow that Adam photographed with my iPhone. Then, in the early afternoon, Jeanne and Steve Tanamachi, who live in Lauderdale, reported a Spotted Towhee living in their backyard brush pile - our most exciting sighting of all. Steve was able to photograph it for us through their screen door. It's a very rare sighting any time in Minnesota, but especially rare in December. We're crossing our fingers, hoping that brush pile keeps the towhee warm enough to survive our Minnesota winter. And I sure

hope Adam will still be in the Twin Cities next December to add his expertise to the St. Paul (North) CBC.

So what was the eventual number of species and individual birds counted? We won't know until all fifteen teams have sent in their reports to our compiler. Even though Bill Stjern, our consummate CBC organizer and compiler for many years, announced his retirement in November 2016 to enable him to have time to travel with his wife, Peg, and do more volunteering in South America, no one volunteered to take over as our CBC coordinator! In a moment of temporary insanity, I volunteered in November to organize the fifteen SPAS teams for the December 16th Count.

Fortunately for Saint Paul Audubon another birder volunteered to help: Gregg Severson. The very day after I was appointed the 2017 organizer, Chase Davies received the following email response to our earlier appeal for a CBC leader: "Hi Chase, My name is Gregg Severson, and I'd like to volunteer to coordinate the St. Paul CBC. I am very excited about citizen science, so when I saw the notice on Facebook that the count needed a coordinator, I thought that was a very exciting opportunity! I've participated in the Bloomington, MN CBC and the Ann Arbor, MI CBC in the past. I've led bird walks with the Mpls Park and Rec Board, as well as monthly bird walks on the campus of my employer in Eagan. I am a frequent user of eBird, so I understand scientific reporting protocols..."

What great news to have attracted someone so experienced to be our organizer and compiler next year! And, even though I coordinated the teams for 2017, Gregg is already handling compilation and report for our 2017 CBC. Furthermore, he has already announced the date for the 2018 Count: Saturday, December 15, 2018. To join the fun in 2018, mark your calendars now!