

The Cardinal

JUNE JULY 2018 WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Butterfly Count takes place Saturday, July 7, 2018

Our annual Butterfly Count will take place the first weekend after July 4. We hope you'll join us on Saturday, July 7 for this great citizen science project.

The census will take place at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) from 9:45 AM-2 PM. Dean Hansen, our amazing and entertaining butterfly expert, will again be our expert leader. Because of land use controls, no one under age 18 may participate. A map and information packet will be mailed to registered participants the week before the count. Registrants will be contacted if there is a last minute change of date.

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR: Be sure to bring plenty of cool drinks, snacks, and a bag lunch. A wide-brimmed hat, lightweight long pants, a long-sleeved shirt (for protection from both sun and sharp grasses), sunscreen, high socks, old sneakers or rubber boots for bog-tromping, and insect repellent are recommended. You'll want to bring binoculars, a camera, a butterfly field guide, and a butterfly net. There is quite an interesting bird list for AHATS, so you may also wish to bring binoculars and a bird field guide.

REGISTRATION Contact **Dorothy Waltz** at 651-917-0930 or waltz.ds@yahoo.com for more information or to register, no later than Sunday, July 1. Saint Paul Audubon pays the NABA Census fee, so this count is free to all.

DIRECTIONS Come prepared to carpool with others. Registered participants will meet in the parking lot at the Arden Hills Readiness Center, 4761 Hamline Avenue North (just north of Highway 96). The recently installed gate is not in use yet, so you can just drive to the Readiness Center – the first building on the left after you enter the training site. Restrooms are available in the Readiness Center.

We will **carpool** to various sites.



Northern Crescent Butterfly. Photo by Maurice "Mo" Whelan.

USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP YOU PREPARE:

- www.naba.org The official website of the North American Butterfly Association. Find everything to do with these beloved insects: Membership options, magazine PDFs, gardening information, checklists, regional information, beautiful photos. A very great source of information about butterflies.

- www.wisconsinbutterflies.org A very good site, up-to-date data of sightings all across Wisconsin, but centered mainly in the SW part of the state. GREAT photos and information about life-cycles, etc.

- ecobirder.blogspot.com

A blog mainly about nature photography. There are some great photos of butterflies!

- butterfliesandmoths.org Another nationwide source for recent distribution data is the original United States Geological Society (USGS) site, now maintained in Montana.

Dorothy's Recommended Butterfly Field Guide: *Butterflies Through Binoculars: The East, A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America* by Jeffrey Glassberg. Used copies are frequently found at used bookstores or websites.



Mating Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterflies. Photo by Maurice "Mo" Whelan.

For other books, go to your local library! Or, type "butterfly" into your browser. The list seems endless, whether you wish to focus on field guides, data-gathering, children's books, caterpillar ID, life cycles, gardening and plant lists, or read both fiction and non-fiction stories about enthusiasts and researchers.

BOARD MEETINGS

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

Upcoming: **Monday, June 18**



2017-2018 Annual Fund Drive Donors

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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

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*.

er & Carol Cramer, Ann Wilcox, Warren Wildes, Ben G. Zimmerman.

Cardinal: Craig Andresen (In honor of Holly Peirson), Jan Baker, M. D. Boraas (In memory of Marie Lindner), Char Brooker, Tim & Helen Canfield, Lockwood & Darlene Carlson, Dean Doering, Jackie Eastman, Karen Eckman, Mary Glaeser, Florence Gleason, Glen & Donna Hambleton (In memory of Dean & Mary Anne Honetschlager), Ginny Housum, Charles & Hope Lea, Jim Lindner, Anne Lowe (In honor of Marcia Lowe), Debra L. Magnuson, Sue & Tom McCarthy, H. G. McNeely, Dave & Jane Moline, Dale & Linda Otteson, James J. Pearson, Holly Peirson (In honor of Jackie Bussjaeger), Carol Perkins, Debra & Marschall Smith, Jim Thommes, Katie Urban (In memory of Marie Lindner), Connie Van Valkenburg (In memory of Florence Caldwell), Gilbert & Dorothy Ward, John Zakelj (In honor of Julian Sellers)

Tuesday Summer Prairie Walk Series

Four prairie Tuesday walks will highlight numerous bird and native plant effects.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS All are easy walks. Bring your 10 power magnifier or borrow one from Chase. Consider a camera and bug repellent. Wear closed-toe shoes with socks above the ankle. No registration required. All trips led by Chase Davies, 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com.

PT1: Long Lake Prairie

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30-8 PM

LOCATION 1500 Old Highway 8, New Brighton

TOPIC How do native plants improve the bird-life web?

DIRECTIONS Park entrance is on Old Highway 8 in New Brighton. Enter the park and drive to the second parking lot which is on the RIGHT side of the road. I-35W to MN Hwy 96, one exit north of I-694, go west on MN 96 to the T at Old Highway 8. Turn south on Old Highway 8, go about ½ mile to the entrance on the right (west) side of the road.

PT2: Rachel C Lilly Preserve

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30-8 PM

LOCATION 680 MN-110 Mendota Heights

TOPIC How do native plants support this bird-life landscape?

Dodge Nature Center installed and has actively managed this prairie on part of the Rachel C Lilly Preserve since 1963.

DIRECTIONS Enter from Hwy 110 – bear left to park near the barn or right to park in the Mendota Heights UCC church parking lot.

PT3: Watch for Washington County location in late July

Tuesday, August 14, 6:30-8 PM

TOPIC How has abundance and diversity of native plants impacted the local bird-life web?

DIRECTIONS www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events will have detailed directions

PT4: Fish Creek Prairie at Sundown

Tuesday, September 11, 6:30-8 PM

LOCATION Fish Creek Nature Preserve, Maplewood

TOPIC How does the addition of native plants impact this local bird-life web? What are the adaptations and interrelationships of prairie plants and animals?

Fish Creek Preserve's prairie offers fabulous westward views from Maplewood across the Mississippi River valley.

DIRECTIONS From I-94 and Century Avenue, go south about 3.5 miles to the end of Century Avenue where it turns west, becoming Carver Avenue. Go west and immediately past I-494, turn south (left) onto Henry Lane. Travel about a half mile to the Fish Creek Natural Area; turn around and park on the street.

Birding at Sunfish Lake Park, Lake Elmo

Saturday, June 16, 7-10 AM
10000 Stillwater Lane North, Lake Elmo



Sunfish Lake Park is a large, hilly, mature woodland with some wetland openings in Lake Elmo. Later migrating and nesting species overlap at this time of year. Of course, sightings cannot be guaranteed, but species normally found in large woodlands have resided here in recent years. Natural clearings that have ponds are favorable for a nice variety of waterbirds. Human-made clearings provide plenty of edge habitats favorable to many more species. Stillwater schools' cross-country ski teams train on some of the paths we will walk.

DIRECTIONS Drive on I-694 to Exit 55 (just south of MN 36), for Hwy 14/34th St. N., go east 1.8 miles, then bear left onto Stillwater Lane. After 100 yards, turn left (north) at the Sunfish Lake Park entrance sign. Meet in the parking lot.

INFORMATION Bring water, binoculars, insect repellent, and a field guide.

REGISTRATION None required

DIFFICULTY Moderate, well-defined walking paths with some hills.

LEADERS Linda Kellar, 651-275-0461 or aandlkellar@comcast.net, and Chase Davies, 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com

Be sure to check www.saintpaulaudubon.org throughout the summer for field trip additions and weather caused cancellations

Want more field trips? Select a familiar birding place and volunteer to lead there. Since all birders are knowledgeable, the title of Expert is shared among all those on the walk.

Plan Ahead for October Field Trip

Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

Tuesday, October 16, 4-8:15 PM

Details to come in August-September *Cardinal*.



SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

August September 2018

Next Deadline 7/5/2018

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
for calendar updates!*

CALENDAR

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Twin Cities, Minnesota

Conservation Committee: Urban

Wildlife Corridors

As a high school student I learned the importance of natural area corridors – genes have to flow for healthy populations.

Though not a biologist, I have learned that insects, the birds and plants that depend on insects, and other plants and animals need connected habitats full of native plants to thrive. And that we should live within and not instead of nature.

Near where we live in St. Paul I see good natural area up-keep near the Bruce Vento Trail. St. Paul Parks burns Ames Lake, East Side Heritage Park, and the shores of Lake Phalen.

Elsewhere native plant wetlands are filling in with burdock and spotted knapweed, storm ponds are mowed and taken over by lawn grass, and rail right of ways are filling in with garlic mustard. Trash blows in and builds up.

The metro area is planning for a large population increase. St. Paul's plan adds denser industrial, mixed use and public transit corridors and removes green spaces from the map. There is an approved plan for bus lanes, which removes much of the Vento Trail natural areas. These plans make the lack of continuous wildlife corridors through the city even worse.

There is money to preserve and improve natural areas. From what I could find online there is about \$46 per person available each year – \$11 from gambling and \$35 from our 3/8 percent sales tax.

About \$13 million of this money goes each year to metro

wildlife corridors - about \$4.50 per person per year in the Metro area. It is called Metro Conservation Corridors – MeCC.

Even with sales tax and gambling money available in Minnesota the MeCC web site says 60 acres of natural areas are being lost in the Metro area each day.

Many parks, railroads, utility right-of-ways and cemeteries aren't regional parks so they receive no gambling or sales tax funds. These neglected natural areas are where there are high numbers of children, lower income and diverse populations of people. Maybe this causes removal of natural areas.

We are lucky to have gambling and sales tax money for natural area enhancement. Plants and animals in Wildlife Corridors pay for themselves by keeping rodents and mosquitos in check and water clean. Green spaces bring private dollars to recycle neighborhoods. Local wildlife corridors let people enjoy nature without paying for a trip.

We could keep corridors and interpretive programs for families in all neighborhoods, remove invasive plants, support development that doesn't interrupt corridors, and landscape with native plants. By supporting urban wildlife corridors we will be living within and not instead of nature.

Kathy Sidles, Saint Paul Audubon member

Send an email to kesid@aol.com to request a longer version.