

The Cardinal

AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2018 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER MEMBER MEETING



“From Giant Owls to Striped Cats: Endangered Species Conservation in the Russian Far East”
with **Jonathan Slaght of the Wildlife Conservation Society**
Thursday, September 13, 2018



The Russian province of Primorye, neighbored by China, North Korea, and the Sea of Japan, is one of the most biologically-rich temperate forest zones in the world. Here, northern species such as brown bears and Eurasian lynx live with subtropical species such as Amur tigers and Asiatic black bears.



Jonathan Slaght of the Wildlife Conservation Society holds a Blakiston's Fish Owl. Note the salmon in the owl's beak.

In addition to wolves and Amur leopards, the Blakiston's Fish Owl is also present. The fish owl is the largest owl in the world. Jonathan Slaght, of the Wildlife Conservation Society, has spent more than twenty years working on conservation issues in the region.

He will provide an overview of the landscape and the bird and mammal species and detail several on-going conservation projects to protect the region's iconic wildlife, including the tigers, leopards, and the fish owls. He also has rare video of the owls.

Dr. Slaght is the Russia and North-east Asia Coordinator for WCS. He manages research projects involving endangered species and also works to coordinate WCS avian conservation activities along the East Asia-Australasian Flyway from the Arctic to the Tropics. He received M.S. and

Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota.

His writing, scientific research, and photographs have been featured by the BBC World Service, the New York Times, and Audubon Magazine, among others. He also authors a blog for Scientific American about his fieldwork titled “East of Siberia.”

This will be a fascinating program by a world authority on the wildlife and conservation of the Russian Far East.

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

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

The next meeting of the Board will be September 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN 55117.

Bylaws Change re Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes

Background - Nonprofit organizations are required by law to take minutes at all annual and board meetings. Approval of these minutes often is the job of the board of the organization rather than waiting 12 months for the next assemblage to approve. Our bylaws are silent on this matter. Therefore, at the September 13, 2018 meeting, the following addition to the bylaws will be submitted for member vote.

Section 3.10 The Secretary of the Board shall serve as the secretary at all member meetings. If the Secretary is absent, the Chair shall appoint a secretary for the meeting. The Minutes of each meeting of the members shall be approved by the Chair and the secretary of the meeting and shall be retained with Minutes of the Board.

Vice President's Message

As someone who is relatively new to birding, I've observed a few things about what has been most helpful on field trips in learning the many subtleties of bird spotting and identification. You know - getting past the part when you think you just finally figured one out, and then someone mentions it's actually a juvenile of some other species...

Up front, it clearly is not the responsibility of any other birders to help us beginners find or identify anything. But, many experienced (or new and already

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Treasurer	651-231-0453	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	
Louise Eidsmoe	eidsmoel@comcast.net	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 .	
Secretary	651-633-1663	Members may also receive the newsletter by downloading PDF's from our website.	
Chase Davies	ccdavies@aol.com	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 <i>Audubon Magazine</i> and <i>The Cardinal</i> .	
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really good) birders are very generous and eager to share their knowledge with those who are new to the activity, and maybe a few thoughts from a beginner could be helpful. We have a national and local goal to try to bring more people into birding in order to sustain the activity and its associated conservation benefits, so helping out new people provides a real benefit.

The first area involves describing a bird's location - particularly height and distance. A phrase such as "About 9 o'clock in the far left of the three large oaks on the other side of the pond" confers a great deal of specific and helpful information fairly quickly. (And really beats the excited, "In that tree right there!")

Second, it's great to get one or two fairly simple distinguishing items: "The buzz that goes up at the end," or, "This one's bill is as long as its head," or "They usually are found out

at the tips of branches" all are simple and memorable. Too much information about visual characteristics or similar songs can be overwhelming. I personally have found I can only really learn about 3-4 new birds on a single hike, and a definitive characteristic for each really helps.

Finally, a little guidance on bird etiquette is always welcome. Kudos to the trip leaders who remind folks to keep voices low and conversation to a minimum, provide information on whether it's important to stay on a trail in a particular area, and explain about when playing calls is and is not OK.

Many thanks to you all for any help with all there is to learn. Please know that your information and guidance are very much appreciated!

Jane Braun, Vice President

Tuesday Summer Prairie Walk Series

PT3: Valley View Park's Hidden Prairie

Thursday, August 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

555 Osgood Avenue N., Oak Park Heights, MN 55082

One unique, lush prairie. This is the third of four 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 the effects topography has in support of prairie plant diversity. I hope you will come to enjoy some delightful, blooming, summer prairie plants and some winged creatures that may visit them in this prairie gem!

WHY PRAIRIES? Briefly: Birds need insects. Insects need food. Plants provide food for birds and insects. People, as well as needing food, thrive on the calm and beauty of natural places.

WHY THIS PRAIRIE? When seeking great places for birding and botanizing, Washington County in East Metro St. Paul is an important part of the SPAS membership area. And East Metro has retained many delightful natural areas of which this is but one. This is a new location for an SPAS prairie walk and one that seems to draw me with a combination of expectation and hope for surprise. Our co-leader will be Kathy Widin, former Oak Park Heights arborist and leader for the St. Croix Oak Savanna Wild Ones.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS This easy/moderate walk begins with a three-block-long stroll from the parking lot down the paved hillside road. The rest of the walk is gentle on turf trails. Bring your 10-power magnifier or borrow one from Chase. Consider a camera and bug repellent. Wear close-toed shoes with socks above the ankle. No registration required. All trips led by Chase Davies, 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com.

All four prairie Tuesday walks will highlight some bird and native plant interactions.

2019 Warbler Weekend Introduces New Coordinator

Hi, I'm Jo Ann Morse and I'll be assuming the role of 2019 Warbler Weekend coordinator from Chase Davies. On behalf of St. Paul Audubon and the Warbler Weekend committee, I'd like to thank Chase for her inspiring commitment and leadership.

Being retired from IT gives me the time to work on various citizen science projects and to be a part of the team that puts Warbler Weekend together each year. At Warbler Weekend you can spend time outdoors in the spring birding with people of all experience levels. You can go on field trips being led by volunteers who are quick to share their knowledge, good humor and spotting scopes. It just doesn't get any better than that.

We hope that you can join us May 10-12 at Hok-Si-La Park on Lake Pepin for Warbler Weekend 2019.

Jo Ann Morse

Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

Tuesday, October 16, 4:00-8:15 p.m.

Hundreds or thousands?

Since historic times, Greater Sandhill Cranes have congregated by the thousands every autumn in the marshes and ponds now called Crex Meadows, located on the north side of Grantsburg, Wisconsin. 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 PM at the Visitors 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 returning about 8:15 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 early September if you are interested in that.

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

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 VC, 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 VC. Meet at 4 PM in the VC parking lot to form carpools and then go to view hundreds and probably thousands of Greater Sandhill Cranes.

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

DIFFICULTY Easy. In an effort to not spook the cranes, we stay close to the cars.

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.

LEADERS

Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 eidsmoel@comcast.net

Chase Davies 651-633-1663 ccdavies@aol.com

Field Trip Coordinator in Training

Hello, I am training to take over SPAS field trip coordination. For now, Chase Davies, our long-time coordinator, is kindly introducing me to my duties. I am a retired public health nurse and geriatric community health advocate. I spend my volunteer time as a member of the Friends of the Ramsey County Library Board of Directors, Roseville League of Women Voters, and Minnesota Master Naturalists. I started my professional life as a forest pathologist and mycologist, and am happy to have my volunteer work return me to the natural world. Thanks for opportunity to get more involved with SPAS.

Cathy Croghan

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2018

Next Deadline 9/5/2018

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!*

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U.S. Postage
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Twin Cities, Minnesota

Conservation Committee

Monica Bryand here, co-chair of the Conservation Committee. I've been on the committee for about three years and am always looking for fun ways to engage new folks in getting outside birding, much of the time using my photography to engage folks, especially young people.

This year I helped with the planning of Twin Cities Urban Bird Festival, May 10-20. We had a small but active planning committee that hosted over 25 events during the 10-day Festival. The Conservation Committee kicked off the festival with a fun interactive set-up at the Merriam Park Library. I focused my time on events and activities in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. I was thrilled to have the Conservation Committee sponsor a movie in the park at Raspberry Island, *Hometown Habitat*, *Stories of Bringing Nature Home* (it got rained out, still looking for a new date this fall), five walks led by the new cohort called the Urban Bird Collective and a Native American speaker, Hope Flanagan, who shared native stories related to birds.

The Urban Bird Festival is all volunteer and is always looking for new folks on the planning committee, so if you want to learn more before you sign on the dotted line, connect with me. We're also looking for new folks to join the Conservation Committee.

Wanted - space and a little of your time

SPAS has no regular office and we need to consolidate a relatively small number of items used for outreach activities and archive of board minutes and *Cardinal* newsletters. One 2-drawer filing cabinet with Cardinals and minutes has space for most brochures on hand now. Also there are one 6' folding table, two 6" x 6" x 3' cases with the banners, and a couple not huge boxes of brochures.

The outreach/display items have little use other than in springtime. The individual who accepts this position will: have board support to set up policies for timely reservation of outreach items, want to develop an electronic check-out and check-in system that requires users to pick up and bring back items in a timely manner, help monitor supplies for purposes of reordering, maintain inventory and location of SPAS property not in their storage area, proactively make recommendations to the board when changes to current systems are needed and be able to demonstrate organization skills. *And you can even create your own title!*

To volunteer, ask questions, or make comments contact Chase Davies, SPAS Board Secretary at ccdavies@aol.com or 651 633 1663.

Thank you for considering this small but important position which possibly will fill quickly.