

The Cardinal

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2018 WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER MEMBER MEETING

NOVEMBER MEMBER MEETING

Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum, University of Minnesota

Thursday, October 11, 2018

Don Luce has worked in the museum world for four decades. He earned a degree in zoology and a master's degree in medical and biological illustration from the University of Michigan. At the Bell Museum, he has combined his interests in science, art and nature to produce original temporary and permanent exhibitions. Exhibition topics included art and nature, ecology, evolution, animal behavior, endangered species, and current university research. Many of these exhibitions tour nationally as part of Bell Museum's Touring Exhibition Service.

As curator of exhibits, he also curates the museum's collection of art, which includes many works by Francis Lee Jaques who painted the museum's dioramas, a complete set of John James Audubon's original *Birds of America* folio, and many other historical and contemporary works of wildlife art.

For nearly two decades, Luce has worked on plans for a new Bell Museum. The new building opened this summer on the University's St. Paul campus. The project includes the move and restoration of the museum's historic dioramas, and the design of new permanent exhibition galleries.

Luce also remains active as an illustrator and artist. He illustrated books such as *Minnesota's Natural Heritage* by John Tester, and has been an artist-in-residence with the National Park Service. A retrospective exhibition of his art and illustrations, *A View from a Canoe*, showed at the Bell Museum in fall 2016.



Photos by Monica Bryand all 166 Minnesota birds that are threatened by the changing climate. So far she's captured 130 of the 166.

Formerly an accountant, in 2015 Bryand decided to make a major career change and has taken on many consulting opportunities and followed her passion for bird photography, working on a special project with Audubon MN. Bryand currently consults with various nonprofits. Her passion for the environment has her working half-time for a community bike shop Cycles for Change.

Bryand doesn't just walk the paths to get her birds: she'll take her equipment on a bike, in a kayak, and sometimes has three dogs tethered to her.

Bryand is a member of the Saint Paul Audubon Conservation Committee, and serves on the board of Hawk Ridge and Voices for Racial Justice. She volunteers for her local District Council on the West Side of St. Paul.

Every day, Bryand shares her bird photos with her Facebook friends and shares many of her favorite places and secret spots with friends and family. She considers herself an urban birder who wants to engage other Minnesotans in the incredible resources we have right in our back yards.

"Climate-Threatened and Endangered Birds of Minnesota"

with **Monica Bryand**

Thursday, November 8, 2018

"My camera doubles as my binoculars."

Monica Bryand is a longtime environmental activist who caught the birding bug when some friends took her and her partner birding more than 15 years ago.

"I couldn't believe what we had right here in the Twin Cities, and I loved being out in the woods," she wrote. In her climate presentations, she talks about her personal quest to photograph

all 166 Minnesota birds that are threatened by the changing climate. So far she's captured 130 of the 166.

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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 6:30-8:30 PM at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada.

Upcoming: **Monday, October 1**

President's Message

Strategic Planning

When I joined the Board of SPAS about a year and a half ago I was amazed by the breadth of activities in which the Chapter engages. This summer, as a first step in creating a strategic plan for our Chapter, the Board identified 32 separate activities our Chapter undertakes. That shows what an energetic and busy organization we have and underscores my interest in creating a new strategic plan.

Strategic planning takes time and people vary a lot in their interest and tolerance for it. Some people hate it and want to "just get on with our work." Others could spend a great deal of time getting the plan exactly right. I am not sure where I am on that scale but I can outline our process and tell you why I think strategic planning is worth our effort.

The Chapter's planning process will be pretty simple. First, we need to affirm our vision – what we are seeking. This is something like--"to increase both the number of species and the abundance of birds in our region." Then we have a mission, essentially the reason for existence of our chapter. Finally we will develop a few broad strategies to achieve our mission and vision.

Here is what I hope our Chapter plan will achieve:

1. Identify common goals to get everyone working together on the highest priorities.
2. Allow us to set directions and prioritize actions. Once we have a clearer direction we can measure our progress toward our objectives.
3. Help simplify decision making and drive alignment between our goals and activities.
4. Help our Chapter communicate clearly what we are trying to achieve to stakeholders including our membership and potential new members.

I expect the planning process will take until year end to complete. We will be giving the membership updates at the

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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*.

monthly membership meetings and in issues of The Cardinal. We welcome your suggestions. As we move along this process please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board.

2018 Farm Bill

Earlier this year I suggested that Audubon members need to keep a close eye on the 2018 Farm Bill as it moves through Congress. The Farm Bill is typically the nation's largest source of financial support for wildlife habitat on private lands. This year's legislation continues to encourage overproduction while skimping on conservation programs that would help farmers develop healthy long-term farming practices. The Bill rewards farmers producing massive quantities of corn and soybeans for export or ethanol while ignoring those who wish to produce locally. The House bill has major cuts in the Conservation Reserve Program (taking marginal farmland out of production), the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. At present these programs, which assist farmers who want to protect soil health and water quality, only fund about half of the demand. If cuts proposed by the House prevail the number of farmers who can be assisted in conservation efforts will dwindle further.

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 Meadows 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 car-pools 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

Audubon swag available soon

SPAS will be offering logo apparel this fall. It's a great opportunity to increase visibility for the club and to show your support. Items will include polo shirts, T-shirts, a fleece jacket, a pullover all-weather jacket, and two styles of hats, all sporting a 5-color embroidered logo.

We plan to have samples to show styles, colors and sizes at the October member meeting, and then we will leave the ordering period open for two weeks. More information and instructions for ordering will be provided in October.



River outing teaches kids about birds

"This was my favorite field trip ever. I got to use binoculars and see birds like eagles that I never saw before."

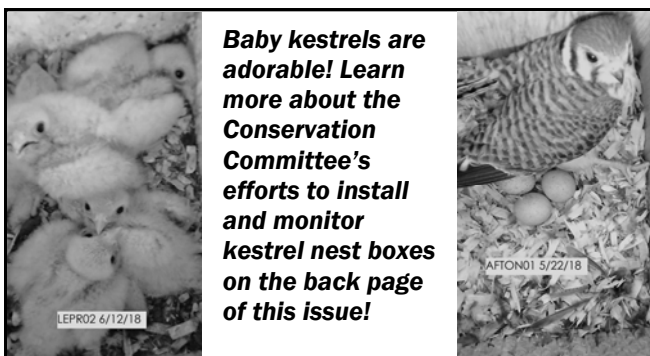
This was a quote from one of the students who took the Big River Journey offered by the National Park Service in partnership with the Jonathon Padelford Packet Boat Company, the Minnesota DNR, the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Saint Paul Audubon Society. We've been a partner since the 2011-12 school year and this past year we served a record number of 4,928 students on 48 trips including 60 schools. Most of our students are 4th graders and more than half are on free or reduced lunch scholarships. This is a real opportunity to make a difference.

Club members Dick and Gloria Wachtler, Cheri Steinmueller, Jeanne Porazzo-Carroll, Lynn Swift and Barbara Lindeke have taught a brief lesson on bird adaptations, then introduced the students to how to use the binoculars before going to the bow of the boat and seeing what the Mississippi River has to offer. As one of the teachers commented, "This is a formative experience and will be a lifetime memory for our kids."

Our River Birds learning station is popular. Another teacher said "This was by far our students' favorite station. Many had never seen an eagle close up."

The enthusiasm of the students and the pleasure of the trip during 2 weeks in the fall and 3 weeks in May has been a very rewarding experience for those of us who have been involved. If you would like to share this with us, please contact me, Barbara Lindeke. We usually volunteer for one or two days each of the two seasons and the boat leaves Harriet Island around 9:30 a.m. and is back at the dock by 2 p.m.

Don't miss the boat!! Come share your enthusiasm.



SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG

December 2018/January 2019

Next Deadline 11/5/2018

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

October

Board Meeting 1
Member Meeting 11
Field Trip: Crex Meadows 16

November

Board Meeting 5
Membership Meeting 8

December

Board Meeting 3
Membership Meeting 13

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 3795
Twin Cities, Minnesota

Kestrel Nest Box Project—2018 Results

Members of the Saint Paul Audubon Society's Conservation Committee began placing nest boxes for American Kestrels, our smallest falcons, in 2012. The steep decline of the kestrel population in Minnesota has been documented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey

from 1966 to 2015, as shown in this chart: The Conservation Committee saw a nest box project as a way to help kestrels since they typically nest in tree cavities, which are in short supply.

The 2018 Nesting Season
We had eight nest boxes in place for the 2018 nesting season: two at Lake Elmo Park Reserve, two at

The Belwin Conservancy, and one each at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Trout Brook Nature Sanctuary, Rice Creek North, and Afton State Park.

When kestrels returned last March, the snow cover melted by the end of the month. With their main food supply no long hidden under snow, the kestrels got serious about defining their territories and intensifying their pair

bonds. Then came April, with a lot of snow. That put a damper on the kestrels' reproductive activity. When the snow finally disappeared for good, Kestrels occupied three of our nest boxes.

Our most successful nest box has been the one we call LEPR02, located in Lake Elmo Park Reserve (LEPR). Kestrels have nested in that box in each of its four years of existence. The other LEPR nest box, LEPR01A, was also occupied in 2018, its first year.

The LEPR02 pair raised five young, which fledged on or before July 1. The LEPR01 and AF-TON01 pairs raised five and four young, respectively, fledging on or before July 11 and July 14, respectively. So our three kestrel pairs survived the April blizzard, and sent 14 young ones out into the world.

A big "thank-you" to our team of nest box monitors: Monica Bryand, Gordon Andersson, Linda Kellar, Lynn Swift, Lynette Anderson, Janet Kortuem, Kathy Sidles, Larry Sirvio, Val Cunningham, and Gerry and Kendall Fuller. Thanks also to Gus Koutsouvas, who enjoys climbing ladders a lot more than I do.

If you would like to join the team, please email me at juliansellers@msn.com. We hope to add a few more nest boxes in appropriate habitat in the coming years.

