

# The Cardinal

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 2019 WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

## “Minnesota’s Birds: What We Thought We Knew, What We Now Know, and What We Still Don’t Know

with **Bob Dunlap, President of the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union**

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Humans have learned a few things about Minnesota’s birds since the turn of the century. We have increasingly more data, better ways of keeping records, faster means with which to record observations, and an increasing network of observers that have all contributed to a better understanding of Minnesota’s avifauna. Some previous assumptions have proved to be incorrect and others confirmed, yet some questions remain unanswered and some areas unexplored. This presentation will guide you through

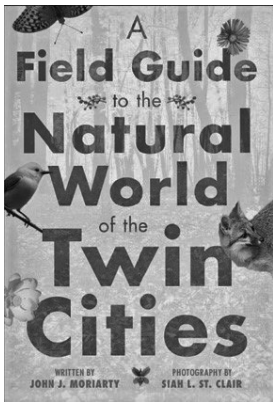
some new insights and new frontiers for birding in Minnesota. It will also highlight some of the changes we’ve seen since the year 2000 and may yet see in years to come.

Bob Dunlap has been a birder ever since he received his first field guide to birds at age 5. Birds are both his passion and his career. He has volunteered countless hours for the MOU over the past 12 years and now works for the DNR as a zoologist and data manager with a focus on birds. In 2014 he obtained his Master’s degree in wildlife ecology from the University of Minnesota; his thesis work focused on grassland birds in western Minnesota and their response to harvesting native prairie vegetation for biofuels. He still goes birding as much as he can in his free time, although with a wife, a dog, a cat, three turtles, and a house, his time is constantly occupied by other priorities.

## “Natural World of the Twin Cities”

with **John J. Moriarty**

Thursday, November 14, 2019



Author John Moriarty will speak about the various natural areas and habitats across the Twin Cities and the plants and animals found there. The program will highlight the photos and maps found in Moriarty’s book *The Field Guide to the Natural World of the Twin*

*Cities*.

From the University of Minnesota Press website: “Though the Twin Cities and environs have proven a fine habitat for one particular species, the three million humans who call the area home share these 3,000 square miles with myriad animals and plants, all in a mosaic of various ecosystems. While most of the region’s wildlife has lost its original habitat to agriculture and urban development, a significant patchwork of native and restored habitat remains – prairies, woods, and wetlands, along with pockets in

the parks and open spaces throughout the cities and suburbs...

“This field guide invites readers to investigate the Twin Cities’ wildlife – familiar and obscure, sun-loving or nocturnal, shy or easily observed. Here are snapping turtles, otters, and Cooper’s hawks, the wild lupines, white water lilies, and sprawling white oaks, among hundreds of species found in the wild, the park, or even the backyard.”

John will have books for sale and do a signing after the presentation.

John J. Moriarty is senior manager of wildlife for the Three Rivers Park District where he works on restoring habitats, especially prairies, and a variety of wildlife. He has been a natural resources manager for the park systems of Ramsey and Hennepin counties and has been exploring the Twin City habitats for over 30 years. He is active in local and national natural history organizations and is author of five books on Minnesota natural history, including, *Amphibians and Reptiles in Minnesota* with Carol D. Hall.

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 P.M. at the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Office, 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada.

Upcoming: **Tuesday, Oct. 1**



### SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.audubon.org) to notify the National Audubon Society of a change of address, to continue to receive *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*.

## President's Message

### New Format for The Cardinal

As I hope you know, the Cardinal is changing. After the December/January issue it will no longer be printed but will be emailed and be available on the SPAS website. To continue to receive the Cardinal you must register your email address on our website: [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org). The reasons for this change are the great amount of work required to attach mailing labels and mail the Cardinal, the cost (about \$11,000 a year) to print and mail it, and the lack of communications flexibility due to the time delay in printing, addressing and mailing.

Please go to [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org) to register your email address. The Cardinal will remain an important link to the birding community in the east metro area. The Cardinal will also still contain news about Audubon monthly meetings, events and field trips but it will be sent to you via email.

Many people have contributed articles to the Cardinal through the years and that will continue. As we near the final print edition it is an appropriate time, however, to recognize those who have helped print it,

put on mailing labels and deliver it to the post office. We would like to recognize:

Susan Fuller, John O'Connell, Crystal Boyd, Louise Eidsmoe, Jane Schuler, Marge Senninger, Barb Burleigh, Connie Van Valkenburg, Katie Johnson, Sheila Knudson, Bob Sherman, and Holly Peirson. I am sure there are others who have assisted in this process over the years. If you can send me an email ([Donnw@yahoo.com](mailto:Donnw@yahoo.com)) I would like to recognize them in a future, emailed edition of the Cardinal.

-Donn Waage, SPAS President



## “Minnesota Water: Trends, Tales, and Tips for Making a Difference”

with **Angie Hong**

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Every year, Minnesotans spend millions of dollars in local, state and private funding to protect and restore water resources. What do we have to show for our efforts?

During this presentation, Angie Hong will talk about clean water work in the Twin Cities Metro and St. Croix Basin and share some of the surprising results. She'll also discuss local programs designed to engage area residents in keeping our water clean.

Get tips on planting for clean water at your home and learn about simple actions everyone can take to help keep our water clean.

Angie Hong coordinates the East Metro Water Resource Education Program, a local government partnership hosted by the Washington Conservation District with 24 city, county and watershed partners. She holds a M.S. degree in Natural Resources Science and Management with an emphasis on Environmental Education (UM Twin Cities, 2004) and a B.S. in Zoology (UW Madison, 2000). Prior to this position, she worked as a naturalist in the Twin Cities area. In her free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors and competing in triathlons. She is also the mom of a nature-loving seven-year old boy. Read her tips and tales about keeping water clean at [www.eastmetrowater.org](http://www.eastmetrowater.org).

## Whooping Crane sighted at Crex Meadows

Visitors to Crex Meadows this fall have been lucky enough to catch sight of a rare visitor, an endangered Whooping Crane. The crane was first spotted in late summer and has been seen keeping company with flocks of Sandhill Cranes into early September.

Individuals and pairs of Whooping Cranes mostly nest in Canada, occasionally appearing in the fields and marshes of western Wisconsin during the summer, and spend their winters in the southern U.S.

In 1941, only 21 Whooping Cranes remained in the wild, due to hunting pressures and habitat loss. Recovery efforts over time led to a record historic high in 2018, when a survey of wintering cranes in south Texas counted more than 500 individual cranes.



## FIELD TRIPS

### Sandhill Cranes at Crex Meadows SWA

Grantsburg, Wisconsin

Tuesday, October 22, 4-8:15 PM

Since 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 PM at the Visitor Center (VC) at Crex Meadow State Wildlife Area in Grantsburg. We will talk briefly about the cranes, Crex, and carpooling and leave from the VC about 4:30 PM, returning about 8:15 to the same parking lot. The VC closes at 4:30 PM.

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

**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 stoplight 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. Meet in the VC parking lot at 4 PM.

**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 Visitor Center.

**REGISTRATION** Register with Louise Eidsmoe: 651-231-0453 [eidsmoel@comcast.net](mailto:eidsmoel@comcast.net)

**DIFFICULTY** Easy. We stay close to the cars so as not to spook the cranes.

#### LEADERS

Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453

[eidsmoel@comcast.net](mailto:eidsmoel@comcast.net)

Chase Davies 651-633-1663 [RockyBird-er@gmail.com](mailto:RockyBird-er@gmail.com)

Be sure to check [www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org) for field trip changes throughout the season.

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**SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275

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**Next issue: Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020**

**Deadline Nov./5/2019**

Welcome...

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

We're a chapter of the  
National Audubon Society.

Our mission is to promote the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of birds and other wildlife by engaging people of the East Metro in birding, education, and conservation.

*Please check our website at  
[www.saintpaulaudubon.org](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org)  
for calendar updates!*

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**CALENDAR**

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**November**

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