



Three Not-to-Miss Presentations Coming Up in April and May

Saint Paul Audubon members and friends are invited to a special presentation with naturalist and photographer Kim Eckert on the morning of April 8, followed by our monthly evening meetings on April 13 and May 11.

All these events will be in room 207 of the Anpétu Tēca Education Center, our regular meeting spot at 1910 County Road B West, Roseville. Here are the details:

April 8, 9:00 a.m.: Kim Eckert presents "A Birder's Guide to Minnesota." Using the new edition of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* as a travel guide, Kim will provide an overview of Minnesota birds, birders, and where they come together. After the presentation, there will be time to ask questions and purchase a signed copy of his new book.

The new fifth edition of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota* includes more than 1,400 birding locations, an annotated list of some 450 species recorded in the state, numerous identification tips, and much more.

Eckert's career in birding began after moving to Duluth in 1977, where he served as Naturalist at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve for 20 years, taught bird identification classes for a decade, and started leading birding tours, including 30 years with Victor Emanuel



Kim Eckert

Nature Tour. In 1986, he created the Minnesota Birding Weekends & Weeks program of tours in Minnesota and elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada, which is now starting its 38th season. Eckert has written numerous articles for *The Loon* and other publications, plus *Birding By Hindsight*, a compilation of 70 bird ID articles, and four previous editions of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*.

Doors open at 9 a.m. for this special event, with Eckert's talk at 9:30. Refreshments will be served.



Michael North banding black-backed woodpeckers

April 13, 7:00 p.m.: Michael North, Forest Wildlife Habitat Coordinator for the Minnesota DNR, presents "Woodpeckers of Minnesota and Their Habitat Needs." Woodpeckers are keystone ecological species wherever they occur, shaping the structure of our forests by providing nesting sites and dens for many other species of wildlife. Michael will talk about the nine species of woodpeckers that reside in

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Zoom options will be available for the April 13 and May 11 meetings. No zoom option for the April 8 presentation. Board elections will take place in person at the May meeting.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Welcome!

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society. We're a chapter of the National Audubon Society. **Our mission** is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and Earth's biological diversity.

The Saint Paul Audubon Society **welcomes everyone** to become a member or participate in activities as a non-member regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status or age.

Membership

You will automatically become a member of the Saint Paul Audubon Society if you make a gift of \$30 or more to the National Audubon Society and reside in Ramsey or Washington counties and surrounding areas.

About our chapter

Founded in 1945 as the St. Paul Bird Club with 12 members, our chapter now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities and has around 2500 members. **Monthly chapter meetings** are held the second Thursday of the month, September-May, and are open to the public.

For more **information**, please visit www.saintpaulaudubon.org or contact the board members and committee members listed here.

About the *Cardinal*

The *Cardinal* is published 6 times a year and posted on www.saintpaulaudubon.org at the beginning of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Copy is due on the 15th of the month preceding publication. Martha Douglas is the editor and Laurie Wachter is the graphic designer. The *Cardinal* is available for everyone to view on our website. If you would

like to receive an email when it is available, go to www.saintpaulaudubon.org, scroll down and click on "Join our email list."

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Next issue: June / July 2023



Chip Notes

Though we all come from diverse life experiences, we are drawn together by our passion for birds and the habitats they need to thrive. Saint Paul Audubon exists as a conduit for us to work together to celebrate and preserve both.

In March, the Board of Directors approved ten grants to support our goal of positively impacting habitat conservation and connecting a broader audience to nature (see page 9). Thank you to those who donated their time and dollars; you are the ones who make this possible. We will provide more information about these grants at monthly meetings and on our website.

These grants and all the other activities Saint Paul Audubon supports are significant. However, we must do more to build an inclusive community working towards our shared goals. Please consider joining one of our committees, the board, or volunteering. We need your voice to broaden our understanding of how we can be better stewards of our mission. If you have funds available, please consider donating.

With spring just around the corner, we are excited to visit our favorite birding spots to see familiar avian friends and possibly get introduced to a few new ones. For me, spring brings ever-increasing layers of birdsongs as they compete for food, territories, and mates. I have been reading and listening to Donald Kroodsmas's book *Birdsongs for the Curious Naturalist*. I've been fascinated by the many recordings linked to the book, such as a Wood Thrush song played back at quarter speed. The nuances and complexity are beyond amazing. I would love to hear your stories about birdsongs and how they impact your life.

Please be careful and kind, and if we meet on one of the many field trips or at other Saint Paul Audubon-sponsored events, please say hi.

Greg Burnes
President, Saint Paul
Audubon Society



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Minnesota, their habitat needs, population sizes and trends, and recent research about the availability of suitable nest trees in the landscape.

Michael North has worked for the Minnesota DNR for 25 years and 10 years for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska. He studied yellow-billed loons for his master's degree in Zoology from North Dakota State University. He is also a master bird bander, with some 23,000 birds banded.

May 11, 7:00 p.m.: Heather Holm, biologist and author, presents "Restoring Ecosystem Functionality and Biodiversity in Minnesota's Changing Climate." Four unique biomes converge within Minnesota along a southwest-to-northeast continuum. Prior to Euro-American settlement, the four contiguous biomes included prairie grassland, tallgrass aspen parkland, boreal forest, and a mixture of oak savanna, oak woodland, and deciduous forest. These landscapes have since been radically altered and, with the climate warming, what does the future have in store for Minnesota's landscape and remaining biome fragments? This presentation will look into the past to understand these biomes at the time of Euro-American settlement, and look into the future. Using projected climate modeling, Heather will address the ecological conditions today and paint a picture of what a functional, biodiverse, and resilient landscape



Heather Holm

may look like in the future and what actions are needed to achieve these outcomes.

Heather Holm is a biologist, pollinator conservationist, and award-winning author. She passionately informs and educates audiences nationwide about the fascinating world of native pollinators and beneficial insects, and the native plant communities that support them. Heather is the author of four books, among them *Bees* and *Wasps*, both of which have won multiple awards. Her expertise includes the interactions between native pollinators and native plants, and the natural history and biology of native bees and predatory wasps. Heather is a National Honorary Director of Wild Ones and serves on many nature-based nonprofit boards. In her spare time, she is an active community supporter, and coordinates and participates in volunteer ecological landscape restoration projects. The latest is a 13-acre oak savanna restoration that will provide thriving habitat for pollinators, birds, and mammals.

Calendar

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April 13 – Chapter meeting, with Michael North, Page 1

April 25, 26 or 27 – Woodcocks of Rush City, Page 5

April 29 – Field trips and birding walks begin, Pages 4-9

May 11 – Chapter meeting, with Heather Holm, Page 3

May 12-14 – Warbler Weekend, Page 11

June 3 and 10 – Landscape Revival, Page 10

Many dates – Big River Journey and Wild River Journey volunteer opportunity, Page 10

BIRDING WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS

Fish Creek Early Migrants

1487-1507 Henry Ln, Maplewood, MN 55119
Saturday April 29, 2023, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

We hope to see early migrants such as sapsuckers, flickers and bluebirds. The second hour is a moderately difficult hike, following a rustic 1-mile trail along the creek itself.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Fish Creek Natural Area at the south end of Henry Lane in Maplewood. From Carver Ave, turn south on Henry Lane. Park in the designated area on Henry Lane.

DIFFICULTY Moderate (see description above).
LEADER John Zakelj, jzakelj@yahoo.com

Warblers and Waterfowl Along the Minnesota River — Old Cedar Ave. Bridge

9500 Old Cedar Ave S., Bloomington, MN 55425
Sunday, May 7, 7:30-11 AM

One of the very best birding locales in the state and so close to St. Paul! We will check the area between Old Cedar Avenue and the Bass Ponds. The Minnesota River flyway makes this a great spot for migrating passerines and waterfowl.

DIRECTIONS Go south from I-494 on Cedar Avenue then left on Old Cedar Avenue, which dead-ends in the parking lot for the Old Cedar Avenue bridge and Minnesota River Valley NWR trails.

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate.

LEADER Paul Spreitzer, 651-808-2147,
paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

Migrant and Nesting Birds — Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

15501 Murphy Lake Blvd, Savage, MN
Thursday, May 18, 7-10 AM

One of the best birding areas in Twin Cities Metro! Focus is on songs and calls of nesting birds in a hardwood forest as well as spring migrants. Hooded Warbler is a target species.

DIRECTIONS Take 35E or W to Co 42, go west ~ 2 miles, then south ~ 2 miles on Burnsville Parkway, which becomes Hanrehan Lake Blvd. At Highway 75 aka Murphy Lake Rd, turn left and immediately into the parking lot on the left.

DIFFICULTY Wide natural trails. Medium to strenuous.

LEADER Bill Stjern, 651-458-1542,
norskestar@comcast.net

Woodland Birds

Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Eagan, MN 55123
Saturday, May 20, 7:30-11:00 AM

Lebanon Hills Regional Park in Eagan is a terrific place for migrant and resident songbirds! Join friendly birders seeking the sounds and colors of spring-time in a section of this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. We will walk on maintained woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. 2018 sightings included Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush.

INSTRUCTIONS Meet at the Holland Lake entrance of the Park.

DIRECTIONS From St. Paul, take 35E south. Exit at Cliff Rd/Cty Rd 32, go east approx. 2 miles. The park entrance is on the north boundary, just west of Holland Lake.

DIFFICULTY Strenuous due to distance and hilly terrain.

LEADER Paul Spreitzer, 651-808-2147,
paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

Spring Migration at Swede Hollow Park

622 Beaumont St, St Paul, MN 55130
Sunday, May 21, 7:00-9:00 AM

St. Paul Audubon Society joins with the Friends of Swede Hollow to offer this great spring birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what spring migrants might be passing through the Hollow.

SUGGESTIONS Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binocu-



Baltimore Oriole, photo by Ray Hennessy

Be sure to check www.saintpaulaudubon.org for more field trip details and changes throughout the season

Woodcocks of Rush City

April 25, 26 OR 27- exact date tbd
7:30-8:45 PM

The American Woodcock song and sky dance are remarkably entertaining. They migrate spring and fall using the prime habitats of the St. Croix River valley, and some breed near Rush City, MN, in a location described as early upland successional forest, which is their favorite. This truly is an incredible woodland shorebird with unique adaptations for seeing, feeding, communicating, and courting. Paying little attention to bird watchers, courting males spiral high, then come twittering down to land in nearly the same place as the take-off.

A special opportunity to view Woodcocks performing the sky dance is being offered as a Saint Paul Audubon field trip, led by Ed and Chase Davies. They will lead a discussion on the unique qualities of American Woodcocks and what makes the place so special for both resident and migrant populations, followed by a very short walk to the viewing area. Viewers usually have several birds to approach for closer observation in this easily accessible area. (Of course, there are no guarantees, wild birds being what they are even when so single-minded.)

THE EXACT DATE is weather dependent, and will be chosen to allow for the best overall conditions for viewing male woodcock sky dances. If you have any interest and availability on any of the dates of April 25, 26, or 27, please do register so you learn THE DATE, which will be e-mailed to all registrants on Monday, April 24, no later than 8 p.m.

This is a new approach, choosing one night from amongst three to allow the best overall weather

conditions, to lengthen viewing distance and time farther into the deepening dusk. The best weather would be the cooler, clearest evening, with low moisture in the air. The time on site will be 7:30-8:45 p.m. and sunset on April 26 is at 8:12.

REGISTRATION Registration is required so that you can receive the email with the exact date and any other pertinent information. Please inform Chase using RockyBirder@gmail.com and include your name, mobile phone number, and email address.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS As darkness falls, so does the thermometer. Dress much warmer than you think necessary - plan for at least 15° degrees cooler than where you live. Warm footwear, gloves, knit hat. . . consider wind pants. Flashlights are not needed; you will learn and experience why.

DIRECTIONS Drive time from the northern junction of 35W/35E to the parking area is 40 minutes at the posted speed limits. Drive north on I-35 to Exit 159 for Rush City. Turn right (east) onto 4th Street/MN 361. Travel 1.4 miles through Rush City to the only stop sign on this road. Turn left onto Bremer, which soon becomes Forest Blvd. Travel 2.3 miles and turn right onto to Co 56 aka 530 St. Travel east on County 56 for 4.4 miles to where County Road 56 turns right (south). SLOWLY turn right and immediately turn left down into the parking area. We will help you to park tightly, facing for easier departure. We plan to all depart at the same time.

LEADERS Ed and Chase Davies. Contact Chase at RockyBirder@gmail.com to register. If necessary, on day of event, use her cell: 651 246 9754.

lars can be reserved when you register. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

REGISTRATION Registration is required, limited to 20 people, and starts April 1. Be sure to indicate if binoculars are needed. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saint-paul-audubon-spring-migration-birding-field-trip-at-swede-hollow-tickets-545384819677>

DIRECTIONS Meet at the entrance to Drewry Tunnel at Swede Hollow Park across from 622 Beaumont St. East, St. Paul. Off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy (located in the old Hamm's Brewery Building) at 720 Payne Ave.

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate. Includes both up-hill and downhill paved pathway.

LEADERS Kathy Sidles, 651-233-6804, kesid@aol.com and Chase Davies, Rockybirder@gmail.com

Birds, Bogs and Bantams

15280 Pilar Rd, Scandia, MN 55073
Saturday, June 3, 7:30-10:30 AM

This private 20-acre homestead located just north of Scandia includes a terrific variety of habitat (hardwood, prairie, wetland, open water, bog) as well as bird feeders that are bound to run up the day's bird count. For those who are interested, our hosts will top off the field trip with a demonstration of their hobby beekeeping and bantam chicken operations. It should be a fun and productive morning.

SUGGESTIONS Wear comfortable closed-toe shoes for hiking and comfortable clothing and layers appropriate for the weather. Bring water bottle, sun protection, insect repellent, field guide and binoculars.

DIRECTIONS Drive time from Rosedale Shopping Center is 45 minutes at the speed limit. Drive north on I-35 to exit 129 for MN97. Follow MN97 through Forest Lake. Continue east on MN97 to Scandia (approximately 11 miles from I-35). Turn left (north) onto Olin-da Trail N. Travel 1.9 miles to Pilar Rd. N. Turn right. Travel 0.2 miles. Driveway on left (this is the first house on the left (north) side of the street). Turn around in the driveway and park along the north side of Pilar Rd. Short walk along the driveway to the house.

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate; walking sticks welcome; lots of benches along the pathway.

LEADERS Curt and Pat Hadland, 651-433-4314, curtheadland@gmail.com (email or call only if you need additional information).

Nesting Areas and related happenings at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS)

Saturday, June 10, 7:30-10 AM

June begins summer birding when territories generally are all set and families are busily growing. In contrast to migration-style bird watching, we move to different habitats where the breeding territories are located. A walk on the hard-surfaced, one-mile path around Sunfish Lake will be followed by birding in a guided car caravan, stopping at choice locations. The site has lots of prairie and wooded edges for us to explore for their birding potential.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Sunfish Gate parking area on Hamline Ave extension just north of MN Hwy 96.

INFORMATION The site has restricted access. All vehicles will enter and exit the property together. Outdoor restrooms are widely spaced when available.

REGISTRATION Required registration. Attendance is limited to six cars or 20 adults on a first reply, first served basis. Email Chase Davies your mobile phone number with the total number in your vehicle. PLEASE report any changes in numbers as soon as learned so Wait Listed hopefuls can enjoy these opportunities.

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADERS Mary Lee, AHATS Envir. Protection Specialist and Chase Davies, 651-246- 9754 RockyBird-er@gmail.com



Magnolia Warbler, photo by Patrice Bouchard

Beginning Birding at Battle Creek Park

**2350 Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119
Sunday June 11, 8:30 - 10:30 AM**

Saint Paul Audubon is collaborating with the St. Paul Library and the Urban Bird Collective to offer a beginning birding field trip. Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide.

DIRECTIONS From McKnight Rd turn east onto Upper Afton Rd., drive 0.2 mi, turn right, destination will be on the right. Meet at the parking lot next to the off-leash dog park.

INFORMATION Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat, water, sun-block and a field guide with maps or a smart phone with an app already installed. Indicate at registration if you would like to use a pair of loaner binoculars.

REGISTRATION Required registration and limited to 15 participants. (Registration link available at saintpaulaudubon.org/events after June 1)

DIFFICULTY Easy

LEADER Monica Bryand, 651-246-5522, mjbryand@gmail.com

Carpenter Nature Center

**12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN 55003
Sunday, June 18, 8-10 AM**

Carpenter is a beautiful nature park on a bluff overlooking the St. Croix River. We will explore a variety of habitats looking for late migratory warblers and summer residents, and adapt our route based on conditions and what is being seen in the park.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Visitors Center.

INFORMATION Bring your binoculars and bird book. If you need binoculars, email Greg before the trip and he will bring an extra pair for you.

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY The paths are either paved or wood chip with moderate hills.

LEADER Greg Burnes, 612-205-3071, gburnes@comcast.net

Be sure to check www.saintpaulaudubon.org for more field trip details and changes throughout the season

BIKE AND BIRD IS BACK

Sherry Gray is the leader of all Bike and Bird field trips. Registration is required for all trips and is limited to 8 participants. Contact Sherry at sherrygray@yahoo.com to register. Participants will be asked to sign a liability release form at the start of the trip.

Bike & Bird Carlos Avery WMA

9067-7801 205th Ave NE, Wyoming, MN 55092

Sunday, June 25, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle on several miles of level gravel roads that connect varied habitat in this large WMA near Wyoming, MN. Carlos Avery is a prime birding location for Anoka and Chisago counties (top hotspot on eBird for Anoka). Landscape includes lakes, small woods, wetlands, and open grassland. A hybrid or street bike that can handle gravel roads, or a mountain bike, is recommended (racing style, skinny tires probably not best here).

LOCATION WMA

DIRECTIONS Meet in the Carlos Avery North Loop Parking Area. This is where 205th Ave NE meets Wyoming Road: 45.341380434033844, -93.0717141694866.

GEAR Bring a bicycle, helmet, binoculars, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, and water. Scope optional, but could be useful. Leader will bring scope and first aid kit.

DIFFICULTY Several miles. Terrain is mostly flat and area uncrowded, but roads are gravel and can be rutted or muddy. As group will hear and see many birds, riding pace is relaxed and stops frequent. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, are most welcome to join.

Bike & Bird the Vadnais-Snail Lakes & Grass Lake Regional Parks

4191 Snail Lake Blvd., Shoreview, MN 55126

Sunday, July 16, 8:00 AM to Noon

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle on more than 5 miles of mostly level, paved, multi-use trails that connect four lakes in Shoreview: Grass, Snail, Sucker, and Vadnais, all of which are prime birding locations for Ramsey County (top 10 hotspots on eBird). Landscape here is varied and includes lakes, woods, wetlands, and open grassland. Optional bakery-stop midway (bring bike lock): Taste of Scandinavia Bakery is a block off the trail in North Oaks.

DIRECTIONS Meet in parking lot at Snail Lake picnic area/boat launch/beach parking lot, 4191 Snail Lake Blvd, Shoreview, MN 55126 (2nd entrance, past Mackubin Street intersection: 45.067178, -93.123040)

GEAR Bring bicycle, helmet, binoculars, snacks, sunscreen, and water. Leader will bring a scope and first aid kit.

REGISTRATION Required (see above).

DIFFICULTY At least a 5-mile route. A few short hills, but otherwise a winding, mostly level route. As group will hear and see many birds, riding pace is relaxed. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, are most welcome to join.

Bike & Bird along the Mississippi River Levee on the Robert Piram Trail

Sunday, August 6, 8:00 AM to Noon

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle along a flat, paved trail along the Mississippi River, from Harriet Island and the Saint Paul Airport past the Pig's Eye Island SNA Heron Rookery to Kaposia Landing (2.6 miles one way), the Rock Island Swing Bridge (7.8 miles, one way), and also connecting to Dakota County trails that lead to Lilydale or Thompson Parks or Simon's Ravine, all of which are prime birding locations for Ramsey and Dakota Counties. Landscape is mostly riverside, with options to visit small urban woods, a ravine, and/or riverine wetlands.

DIRECTIONS We will start at either Harriet Island or the Saint Paul Airport (south side).

GEAR Bring bicycle, helmet, binoculars, sunscreen, snacks and water. Scope is optional, but could be useful for locating birds on Pig's Eye Island across the river. Leader will bring a scope and first aid kit.

REGISTRATION Required (see above).

DIFFICULTY Some side trails might have hills, but route is mostly river levee flat. Route to Swing Bridge might include a few blocks of on-street riding. As group will hear and see many birds, riding pace is relaxed. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, are most welcome to join. See distance description above.

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS

All Tuesday Walks are from 7:00 to 9:00 A.M. and easy unless noted. No registration needed. Meet at the sites. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Contact leaders only if you need additional information.

May 2: Crosby Farm Regional Park, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul, MN 55116

Early warblers and other passerine migrants.

DIRECTIONS Southwest of downtown St. Paul off Shepard Rd. Meet in the parking lot.

LEADER Linda Whyte 651-815-7045

May 9: Snail Lake Regional Park, 4191 Snail Lake Blvd, Shoreview, MN 55126

Wetlands and woodlands with lots of edges make this a good birding site.

DIRECTIONS Enter from Snail Lake Blvd at lake level, go straight ahead to park and meet.

LEADERS Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 and Terri Walls

May 16: Rachel Lilly Preserve, a part of Dodge Nature Center, 680 MN-62, Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Don't miss this gem! Many possible sightings await you at this little-known preserve. Distance up to 2 miles.

DIRECTIONS Enter from Hwy 62 - bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn.

LEADER Linda Whyte 651-815-7045

May 23: Silverwood Regional Park, 2500 County Rd. E, St. Anthony, MN 55421



Passerine migrants, wetlands.
DIRECTIONS From 35W, take County Rd D/37th Ave. west, turn north (right) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on County Rd E

for ~1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the large main parking lot. Paved trails. Restrooms available. Bring a field guide and water.

LEADERS Jane Braun, jane@promotional.com and Mark Gilbert

May 30: William O'Brien State Park, 16821 O'Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

This family-friendly walk along the beautiful St. Croix will explore the lower part of William O'Brien State Park, looking for spring warblers, vireos, and eagles soaring over the river. If we listen closely, we may hear wood thrush singing and later in the walk we will visit a small stream where both Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush have been seen. The last part of the walk passes Alice Lake, which is usually a good place for waterfowl and herons.

DIRECTIONS We will meet at the parking lot by the swimming beach. When you enter the park from Hwy. 95 follow the signs to the beach and boat launch (road passes under Hwy. 95 and down the hill). **NOTE - Annual or Daily MN State Park Pass Required** - if you don't have one, please arrive early so you can use the self-serve kiosk. Flat wood chip and paved trails. About 1.2 miles. Restrooms at the boat launch area and about halfway at campgrounds. Email leader if you need to borrow a pair of binoculars.

LEADER Greg Burnes, 612-205-3071, gburnes@comcast.net

June 6: Afton State Park, 50th Street S Parking Lot, Afton, MN 55001

The Park has a rich variety of habitats and the target bird for this trip is the Dickcissel. Note: trip starts at the 50th Street Parking Lot.

DIRECTIONS Take 94 west from St. Paul to exit MN-95 S/Manning Ave S (exit 253). Travel south for 3.9 mi. Turn left (east) on 40th Street S. Travel 2.4 mi to Trading Post Trail S. Travel 1 mi. Turn left onto 50th Street. Travel 0.9 mi. Afton State Park parking lot on right.

LEADER Monica Bryand 651-246-5522 mjbryand@gmail.com

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS

(continued)

June 13: Bobolinks at Battle Creek Park, 2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood, MN 55119

The first hour is an easy one-mile hike to and along the western edge of the grassland the community is trying to preserve. We hope to hear and see Bobolinks and Henslow's Sparrows. The second hour is a moderate difficulty hike to the northeastern part of the grassland.

DIRECTIONS From McKnight Rd turn east onto Lower Afton Rd., drive 0.2 mi, turn left into South Battle Creek Park parking lot. Meet in the parking lot.

LEADER John Zakelj 651-239-4119
jzakelj@yahoo.com

June 20, Reservoir Woods – Roseville City Park, Larpenteur Ave., 55113

MEETS 7-9:30 AM

Summer birding is more relaxed and presents possibilities for observing behaviors different from other times of year. Now they are briefly settled on family territories. Birders have opportunities for lingering identifications and group observations at a summer time relaxed pace. This slower pace is also ideal for beginning birders to learn and experience the basics to locate, describe, and identify birds.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Roseville Woodview Off-Leash Dog Area, between Rice and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. Park snugly in the small parking lot or street park on Mackubin St. directly across Larpenteur from the dog area parking lot.

LEADER Chase Davies, 651-246-9754,
RockyBirder@gmail.com

June 27, Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 E. 7th Street, Maplewood 55119

Wooded land and water deep within the metro area are prized by migrants and residents alike. This is an opportunity to walk the trails and see the sights and hear the sounds of Ramsey County's Maplewood Nature Center.

DIRECTIONS On Century Avenue, look for the Nature Center sign, and turn west onto East 7th St.

LEADER Chase Davies, 651-246-9754,
RockyBirder@gmail.com



A youth-centered birding walk in Hennepin County organized by MyBirdClub, an organization receiving a grant for the first time from Saint Paul Audubon. The grant will make it possible for them to expand these professionally guided field trips to Ramsey County.

New Grants Awarded

The Saint Paul Audubon Society board recently approved \$12,860 in grants to ten organizations in this year's first round of grant applications. Grantees in this round are:

- MyBirdClub, \$1060
- Creative Enterprise Zone, \$1000
- Metro Blooms, \$2000
- Cedar Creek Education, \$1800
- Friends of Swede Hollow, \$500
- Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery project, \$1500
- Carpenter Nature Center, \$1000
- Como Community Council, \$1000
- Osprey Wilds, \$1500
- University of Belize Environmental Research Institute, \$1500

Saint Paul Audubon puts its resources to work by supporting projects that further our mission, which 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.

Grant applications are reviewed twice a year and the deadline for the next round of applications is August 15, 2023.



Landscape Revival 2023

Two Landscape Revival expos and markets will be held in the same locations again this year, from 9 am to 1 pm on June 3 and 10. Local conservation and restoration groups will be there to answer your questions about selecting and growing native plants, and many local growers will have Minnesota native plants to purchase. These events are free and open to all, rain or shine.

Oakdale: June 3. Oakdale Fire Station #1, 5000 Hadley Ave. N. With a food truck. Details at tiny.cc/OAKDALE.

Shoreview: June 10. Shepherd of the Hills north parking lot, 3920 Victoria St. N. Details at tiny.cc/SHOREVIEW.

Annual Budget Review and Board Elections

As required by our by-laws, the proposed Saint Paul Audubon Society budget for the coming fiscal year must be available to members for review and comment for 30 days beginning April 1. The proposed budget was approved by the board at the March 6 meeting and you can find it at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Budget-Draft-23-24.pdf>.

Another important business matter to take care of at this time of year is our annual board elections. The slate of new and continuing officers and members is coming together now, and we will hold the election **in person** this year at the May 11 chapter meeting (see pages 1 and 3 for meeting details). And there is still time for you to step forward if you are interested in serving on the board. Contact Greg Burnes at (612) 205-3071 or gburnes@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed for Big River and Wild River Journey

Last year Audubon volunteers mentored close to 2,000 students (grades 3 – 5) aboard paddleboats on the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. Our Audubon River Bird Station provided students with information on bird identification, adaptation, and instructions on how to use binoculars. Students then watched birds from the deck of the riverboat. Bald Eagles, Belted Kingfishers, and Great Blue Herons were constant crowd-pleasers!

You don't have to be a bird expert; you must only love sharing your passion for birds. The volunteer coordinators will provide a short online training session and pair you with another volunteer to make it a fun and rewarding experience.

Big River Journey will operate on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from May 2nd through May 25th. The field trip runs twice daily from 10:00 to 11:30 and 12:00 to 1:30. Contact Greg Burnes (gburnes@comcast.net) with questions or if you're ready to volunteer.

Wild River Journey will operate out of Taylors Falls on May 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 26. The field trips will be from 10:30-12:30. If interested, please contact Wendy Tremblay at wtremblay@wildriversconservancy.org. (FYI - There are no trips out of Stillwater this year).



2022 Wild River Journey field trip on the St Croix.

Warbler Weekend 2023

Warbler Weekend 2023 is May 12-14 and here is everything you need to know.

Registration: Registration for the weekend and reservations for all meals, including requests for gluten-free or vegetarian meals, are required in advance, by April 20.

To register, use the online registration form at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events/warbler-weekend-reservation/> or use the form at right. Mail the completed form with your check to the address provided.

Accommodations: Birders staying overnight need to make their own reservations. Lake City and Red Wing are closest.

Location: Hok Si La Park Dining Hall, Lake City, MN is the hub for all activities. (www.hoksilapark.org)

On-site Information: Announcements will occur after each meal. The Bird Board, Schedule, Notice and Places to Bird will be posted prominently.

Schedule

Friday May 12

- 6:30 pm Coffee, cookies and socializing
- 7:00 pm Presentation

Saturday May 13

Birding Walks

- Morning: 6:45-8:30 am and 9:45 am-12:15 pm
- Afternoon: 1:45-3:15 pm and 3:45-5:00 pm
- Evening (after Bird Tally): Swifting at Villa

Maria, followed by Owling

Gather on the grass at the parking lot around appropriate signs to form groups for each scheduled walk. Please be on time. Likely spots include:

- Frontenac State Park’s Sand Point Trail and Overlook
- Frontenac Town Cemetery and Town Walk
- Villa Maria Grounds
- Hok-Si-La North and South
- Birding by ear will be offered if we are able to line up aurally talented individuals who know our avian denizens and migrants well
- Birding by car on your own is always an option as well

Meals

- 8:30-9:00 am Breakfast. Announcements 9:15 am
- 12:15-12:45 pm Lunch. Announcements 1:00 pm
- 6:00-6:30 pm Dinner. Announcements at 6:45 pm, followed by Bird Tally

Sunday May 14

Enjoy birding on your own!

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.

Warbler Weekend 2023 Registration Form

(Must be received no later than April 20)

	<u>Number of persons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Friday night	_____ (no charge)	
Registration	_____ x \$10 = \$_____	
Saturday breakfast, 8:30-9:00	_____ x \$10 = \$_____	
Saturday lunch, 12:15-12:45	_____ x \$14 = \$_____	
Saturday dinner, 6:00-6:30	_____ x \$16 = \$_____	
		Total \$_____

_____ Number birding Sunday morning

_____ Number Vegetarian

_____ Number Gluten Free

Make check payable to St. Paul Audubon Society.
Send check and registration form to:

Saint Paul Audubon Society
c/o Maria Murillo
14204 Chestnut Dr
Eden Prairie, MN 55347

No refunds after April 20, 2023
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, send an email to:
Maria@CostaRica-Authentic.com