

The



Cardinal

APRIL - MAY 2024 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

April and May Speaker Events Coming Up

Please plan to join St. Paul Audubon members and friends for the final two monthly speaker events of the year. These events, open to all, are held the second Thursday of the month, September-June, at 7:00 p.m. Our April and May gatherings will take place in person in room 207 of the Anpétu Téča Education Center at 1910 County Road B West, Roseville. Come early for refreshments and socializing. An option for watching via Zoom will also be available.

April 11, 7:00 p.m.: U of M Research Scientist Tim Mitchell presents “The Road to Recovery? Challenges of Roadsides as Habitat for Pollinators.” Habitat loss is the primary factor behind the decline of pollinators. Roadside right-of-ways represent a substantial area of publicly managed land that can serve as potential pollinator habitat. However, roadsides have risks associated with them. Tim’s two-part talk will explore his research quantifying the risk of pollution for butterflies along roadsides, and how Minnesota can improve revegetation efforts for pollinators in a cost-effective manner.

Tim Michell grew up in Minnesota and studied biology at St. Olaf College. He then obtained a Ph.D. from Iowa State University, focusing his dissertation on how turtles may be responding to climate change. After completing a postdoc at Auburn University in Alabama, Tim has been a research scientist at the University of Minnesota.



Roadside caterpillar

May 9, 7:00 p.m.: Maggie Lorenz presents “Restoring honor, connections, and land at Wakan Tipi.” Maggie Lorenz is the executive director of Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi (WTA), a native-led environmental nonprofit in Saint Paul whose mission is to honor and care for our natural places and the sacred sites and cultural value within them. The organization’s main



work site is Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the site of a sacred cave called Wakan Tipi (dwelling place of the sacred). Her work centers on restoring the honor, ecosystems, and community connection to the land and natural world here as stewards and protectors. Part of this work is engaging community to create and care for bird habitat as part of the Mississippi River Twin Cities Important Bird Area. WTA also engages community in bird monitoring and birding education through public programs in partnership with the Urban Bird Collective, a nonprofit founded by Monica Bryand, who will introduce Maggie. The Urban Bird Collective works to create safe and welcoming spaces for all communities to come out and explore birding and the outdoors.

Maggie Lorenz (Dakota/ Anishinaabe) is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe and has maternal ties to Spirit Lake Dakota Nation. She has served as executive director for Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi for the past 5 years. She is also a leader with the Urban Bird Collective. **Monica Bryand** is the current co-executive director at Voices for Racial Justice and moving into the full-time executive director position at Urban Bird Collective. Monica has been involved with the Audubon Saint Paul conservation committee and joined the board in 2023. She also serves on the board of Hawk Ridge and the Great River Passage.

••••• Complete information, zoom links, and any last-minute updates can be found at <https://saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events/>. •••••

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Welcome!

To the Saint Paul Audubon Society. We're a chapter of the National Audubon Society. **Our mission** is to engage a diverse community in enjoying, understanding, and protecting birds and the habitats they need to survive.

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.

Get Involved

We are a volunteer organization that relies on people willing to donate their time to our shared mission. Please consider getting involved with volunteer opportunities involved with birding walks, conservation efforts, or other activities. Visit <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/volunteer/> for a full list of committees and committee chairs, or get in touch with us on our contact page at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/contact/>.

Become a Chapter Member

You are invited to become a Saint Paul Audubon Chapter Member by making a gift of \$25 or more. Your donation goes directly to our chapter's local efforts to educate about, advocate for, and protect our birds. Make a gift online at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/get-involved/donate/>.

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. **Monthly chapter meetings** are held the second Thursday of the month, September-May, and are open to the public.

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. Martha Douglas is the editor and Laurie Wachter is the graphic designer. 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."

Contact Us

If you have a comment or question for a board member or the Cardinal editor, please use the contact form on the website at <https://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/contact/>. Your message will be forwarded promptly to the appropriate person.

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Next issue: June / July 2024

Budget Review and Annual Elections

As required by our by-laws, the proposed Saint Paul Audubon budget for the coming fiscal year is now available for 30 days for members to review and comment [here](#). The proposed budget was approved by the board at the March 4 meeting.

Another important business matter to take care of this time of year is our annual board elections. The slate of new and continuing officers and directors is coming together now and the election will be held in May.

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.

Landscape Revival Moving to New Location

Landscape Revival, the annual market for purchasing native plants from local growers, and opportunity to visit with local conservation and restoration groups, will be held on one day only this year and in a new location. The event is free and takes place rain or shine.

Date and Time Saturday, June 1, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location Rockpoint Church, 5825 Kelvin Ave. N, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Calendar

April 17-June 29 - Spring and summer birding walks are underway! See pages 4-10 for birding throughout the metro area. Walks scheduled for after June will be announced in future issues.

April 11 - Chapter meeting with Tim Mitchell. Page 1.

April 20 - St. Paul Spring Clean-up. Page 3.

April 23, May 22, June 18 - Birds & Beers Saint Paul. 6-9 p.m. Sweeney's Saloon, 96 N Dale Street, St. Paul

May 9 - Chapter meeting with Maggie Lorenz. Page 1.

May 10-12 - Warbler Weekend. Page 11.

May 18 - Birds and Bugs Sketching Festival. Page 3.

June 1 - Landscape Revival expo and market. Page 2.



Chip Notes

Hi Folks! As another Spring Migration is underway, think about all the reasons we love birds so much. I don't know about you, but I am amazed at all there is still to learn about birds.

We learn a lot about birds in our Chapter activities such as field trips, monthly meetings with informative speakers, wonderful Winter Bird Counts, annual Warbler Weekend, monthly Birds & Beers, and more.

Now we are embarking on a new undertaking by re-establishing our Education Committee. This time we won't concentrate on being teachers. We will embrace and emphasize being lifelong learners together. Interested? We'll be having an organizing committee meeting in early April. Email me if you're interested.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for these sure-to-be learning experiences:

- **Groundbreaking Open House Party** for the Bird & Pollinator Garden at the Maplewood Nature Center on Friday, April 19 at 4-6 p.m. Light refreshments served. Friends of the Nature Center recently received a \$1974 grant award from our Chapter for the garden. Location: [2659 E. 7th St, Maplewood, 55119](#).
- **Birds & Bugs Sketching Festival** co-sponsored by Frogtown Green, Local Artists, and Saint Paul Audubon, at Frogtown Park & Farm Saturday May 18, noon - 3 pm. We'll be watching and sketching birds and

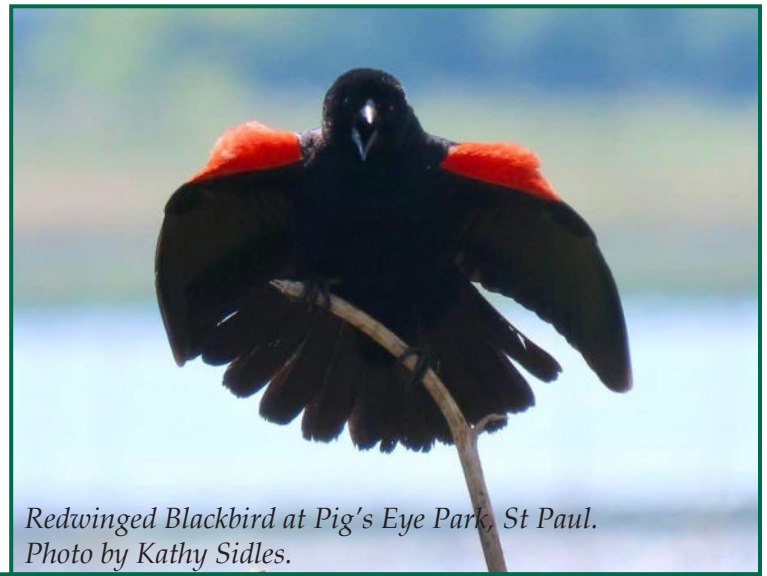
insects we encounter. Artists of all ages and all skill levels--professional to stick figure drawers--are welcome. This is a kid-friendly and young-at-heart event. Bring your own art materials or use the ones we will supply. You may also need a camp chair. Location: top of the hill, Frogtown Park & Farm, [946 W. Minnehaha, St Paul, 55104](#).

Thanks for helping our birds and our community!

Kiki Sonnen

Vice President, St Paul Audubon

Contact: kikisonnen@gmail.com



*Redwinged Blackbird at Pig's Eye Park, St Paul.
Photo by Kathy Sidles.*

Help Clean Up Saint Paul on Earth Day!

Join others for Saint Paul's annual Earth Day City-wide Spring Clean-up event on Saturday, April 20, 9:00-11:30. Information about where you can sign in and pick up trash bags, recycling bags, and gloves is [here](#).

After picking up your supplies, go to your favorite park or anywhere in Saint Paul to pick up trash. Return bags to any park trash can by noon. There is no need to pre-register and you can share the [Facebook page](#) with your friends.

Saint Paul Audubon's Conservation Committee has targeted clean-up efforts on the east side as part of their commitment to support conservation work in that part of the city. The host site for this neighborhood is East Side Heritage Park, 735 Phalen Blvd, hosted by Friends of Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County. The Bruce



Vento Bike Trail along Phalen Blvd. to Johnson Parkway is especially in need of trash pickup.

Conservation Committee member Kathy Sidles, who lives on the east side and serves on the Friends of Parks and Trails board, also hopes to draw attention to current plans for the Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit. "Two Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit bus lanes and their storm ponds are scheduled to be built where the Bruce Vento Bike Trail green space and former Phalen Creek bed trees are, instead of putting buses on the existing road," said Kathy. "The event on April 20 is a chance to help clean up the trail and understand this project's impact on this safe trail and urban wildlife corridor. The design is [here](#), and see especially 30% roll-out plots 7 to 20."

For more information, contact Kathy Sidles at 651-771-7528.

WOODCOCKS of RUSH CITY

April 21, 22 OR 23- exact date tbd
7:45-9:15 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 21, 22, or 23, please do register so you learn THE DATE, which will be e-mailed to all registrants on Saturday, April 20, no later than 8 PM.

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 pm.

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.

DRIVING 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.

DIFFICULTY Walk 150 yards across an un-mowed field with grasses and scattered shrubs; no toilet or water at site.

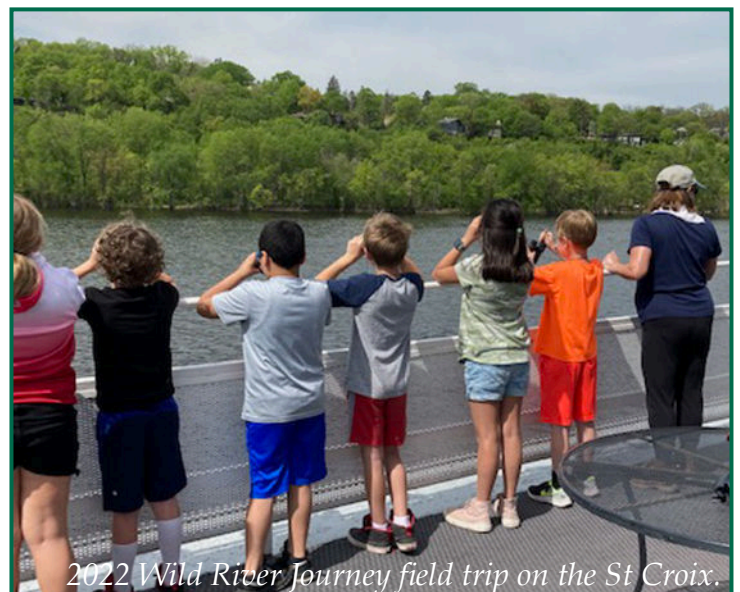
LEADERS Ed and Chase Davies. Contact Chase at RockyBirder@gmail.com to register. If necessary, on day of event, use her cell: 651-246-9754.

Volunteers Needed for Big River Journey

Saint Paul Audubon volunteers staff the "bird station" on river paddle boats and share the importance of the river flyways, bird identification, adaptation, and how to use binoculars with Twin Cities and St. Croix Valley 4th-grade students. You don't have to be a teacher or an expert; you must only love sharing your passion for birds. Volunteers are needed for:

- **Big River Journey**, leaving from Harriet Island in St. Paul: May 21-23. Shifts at 10:30-11:30 or 12:00-1:30. Training and support are provided.

Contact Greg Burnes at gburnes@comcast.net.



2022 Wild River Journey field trip on the St Croix.

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS

No registration needed. The timing is 7-9 a.m. for all walks except May 7 at Snail Lake. Meet at the site. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide. Contact leaders if you need additional information.

April 30: Crosby Farm Regional Park, 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul, MN 55116

Early warblers and other passerine migrants.

DIRECTIONS Traveling south on 35ES take exit 103B for MN5/West 7th Street. Turn right onto West 7th. Go 0.7 miles. Turn left onto S. Homer St. Go 0.3 miles. Turn right onto Shepard Rd. Go 1.4 miles. Turn left onto Crosby Farm Road. Follow road past the marina to end of road. Meet in front of the Pavilion/toilets. 44.897723, -93.165835

DIFFICULTY Route approximately 2 miles, includes a variety of natural surfaces, generally level terrain, restroom at parking lot.

LEADER Linda Whyte 651-815-7045

May 7, 8-10 AM: Snail Lake Regional Park, 4191 Snail Lake Blvd, Shoreview, MN 55126

ATTN: Meeting time is later than other Tuesday Morning Trips. Wetlands and woodlands with lots of edges make this a good birding site.

DIRECTIONS Meet in the parking lot at Snail Lake picnic area/boat launch/beach parking lot; second entrance, past Mackubin Street intersection: 45.067178, -93.123040

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.5 miles on paved trails with small, gradual hills. Benches available. Restrooms (seasonal) or porta-potty near beach.

LEADERS Louise Eidsmoe 651-231-0453 and Terri Walls

May 14: Rachel Lilly Preserve, part of Dodge Nature Center, 656 MN-110, 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 110 - bear left to park by the barn or right to park in the church parking lot. Meet by the red barn. 44.882571, -93.116334

DIFFICULTY Approximately 2.2 miles on grass trails with small, gradual hills.

LEADER Linda Whyte 651-815-7045

May 21: 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 experience the trails, sights, and 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. Meet in parking lot. 44.967492, -92.988381

DIFFICULTY Approximately 0.7-1.0 mile, depending on whether boardwalk or trail is followed in one area. Mostly flat, packed dirt trails, and possibly composite boardwalk. Porta-potty near parking lot.

LEADER Neil Carlson ngcarslon0@gmail.com 763-245-3556

May 28: William O'Brien State Park, 16821 O'Brien Trail N, Marine on St Croix, MN 55047

William O'Brien has a wide variety of habitats for us to explore. We will start by following the grass trails along the forest's edge, looking and listening for warblers, finches,

sparrows, and vireos.

As we move along the trail, we will pass through the walk-in campgrounds and possibly hear Towhees singing from the hillside.

The next stop is the Beaver Pond, where herons, egrets, and Kingfishers usually hang out. A little bit further along the trail, we may hear Wood Thrush sing, and then we are out into the marsh area to search for wrens and flycatchers.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Visitor Center parking lot. 45.222898, -92.767705 Follow Hwy. 95 North of Marine St. Croix and turn left into the park entrance. The visitor center is the first left and right after entering the park - follow the signs.

NOTES 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. Email leader if you need to borrow a pair of binoculars.

DIFFICULTY Uneven wood chips and grass trails with one short but steep climb and decent. 1.5 - 2 miles. Restrooms in the Visitor Center.

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



White-eyed Vireo
Photo by Megumi Aita

...continued on page 6

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS (continued)

June 11: Bobolinks at Battle Creek Park, 2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood, MN 55119

The Battle Creek Grassland is a critical nesting area which we have been working to preserve. It is next to Battle Creek Park, managed by Corrections, with restricted public access. Contingent on Corrections approval, we will carpool from the park into a restricted area where we hope to hear and see Bobolinks, Henslow's Sparrows and other grassland birds. One

way to prep for this walk is to watch [From Bobolinks to Blue Jays - Bird at Battle Creek](#). This trip is offered in collaboration with [Friends of Maplewood Nature](#).

DIRECTIONS

Meet in the South Battle Creek parking lot. From I-94 E take exit 246B for McKnight Rd S., go 0.2 mi. Merge onto McKnight Rd S, go 1.2 mi. Turn left (east) onto Lower Afton, go 0.2 mile, turn left into the

South Battle Creek Parking lot. 44.933382, -92.999838
ATTN: Details for this trip may change. Check [this link](#) before attending.

INFORMATION [Venue website](#)

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Contingent on Corrections approval to carpool, first hour includes easy walk on flat unpaved trail. Second hour on unpaved hilly trails. Porta-potty at the parking lot.

LEADER John Zakelj jzakelj@yahoo.com

June 18: Silverwood Regional Park, 2500 Cty Rd. E, St. Anthony, MN 55421

Silverwood Park is a beautiful urban park on the shores of Silver Lake. The variety of habitats in the park--oak forest, marsh, grassland, and lakefront--make it a great birding destination, with over 180 different species sighted in the park.

DIRECTIONS From 35W, take Cty Rd D/37TH Ave. west, turn north (rt) onto Silver Lake, or, from I-694, take Silver Lake exit, go south. Finally, go west on

Cty Rd E for ~1,000 ft, entrance on left. Meet at the large main parking lot. 45.047141, -93.225707

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.5 miles on paved and gravel trails with small, gradual hills or on a level grassy area. Benches available. Indoor restrooms, water, and café on-site.

LEADER Mark Gilbertson

June 25: Reservoir Woods - Roseville City Park, Larpenteur Ave., 55113

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 parking lot, between Rice and Dale Streets on Larpenteur Ave. (Location listed on eBird hotspots as "Reservoir Woods - Woodview Open Space".) Park snugly in the small parking lot or street park on Mackubin St. directly across Larpenteur from the dog area parking lot. 44.992056, -93.120548

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.2-1.7 miles on paved paths. Small portion on packed dirt paths possible depending on route chosen that day. Moderate decline at the beginning, and incline when returning at the end. Porta potty at the parking area.

LEADER Neil Carlson, ngcarlson0@gmail.com 763-245-3556 and Mark Gilbertson



Henslow's Sparrow
Photo by Joshua Clark



American Redstart
Photo by Denise Dupras

MORE BIRDING WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS



Black-capped Chickadee. Photo by Adam Johnson

Beginning Birding – Silverwood Park

2500 County Road E, Saint Anthony, MN 55421
Wednesday, April 17, 2-4 PM

Silverwood Park is a beautiful urban park on the shores of Silver Lake. The variety of habitats in the park--oak forest, marsh, grassland, and lakefront--make it a great birding destination, with over 180 different species sighted in the park. Most years April showers melt the ice on Silver Lake, which brings more waterfowl, along with sparrows, swallows, and maybe even some early warblers or phoebes. With some luck, we might catch a glimpse of a migrating shorebird along the lakeshore or see the fluffy head of an owlet. We'll see what this unusual spring brings. In addition to getting to know the birds of Silverwood, participants will also be introduced to basic birding techniques and tools, including digital resources. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars; a few extra pairs will be available.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the doors leading into the Visitor Center from the parking lot. 45.046808, -93.224715

REGISTRATION No registration necessary. Come for any of the sessions--attending all is not required.

DIFFICULTY Most paths are paved, but may be icy in the winter, restrooms and water in Visitor Center. Walks will range from 1-1.5 miles.

LEADERS Jen Miller birdingjen@gmail.com and Liz Richards

Fish Creek Early Migrants

1487-11507 Henry Ln, Maplewood, MN 55119
Saturday, April 27, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

We hope to see early migrants such as sapsuckers, flickers and bluebirds. One way to prep for this walk is to watch: [Fish Creek: A Hidden Jewel](#). This trip is offered in collaboration with [Friends of Maplewood Nature](#).

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Fish Creek Natural Area at the south end of Henry Lane in Maplewood. From I-94 take exit 246B for Mc Knight Rd S., go 0.2 mi. Merge onto

McKnight Rd S, go 3.3 mi. Turn left on to Carver Ave, go 0.5 mi. Turn right (south) onto Henry Ln. Park in the designated area on Henry Lane. 44.896682, -92.998608

[Venue website](#)

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY The first hour is approximately one mile on paved trails with gradual hills, and benches available. Group will return to starting point. The second hour is a rustic 1-mile trail along the creek, with moderate hills, rocks, roots, and possibly muddy conditions. No toilet.

LEADER John Zakelj jzakelj@yahoo.com

Beginning Birding at Katherine Abbott Park

1000 Lincolntown Ave, Mahtomedi, MN 55115
Saturday, May 4, 2024, 8:30- 10:30 AM

Varied habitat at [Katherine Abbott Park](#) includes two small ponds, a mixture of oak and pine forest, and a section of prairie thus making it a good location for a variety of birds. Several overlooks allow for long distance viewing of shorebirds and ducks.

INFORMATION Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised.

DIRECTIONS Meet in front of the Katherine Abbott Park Building adjacent to the parking lot. 45.044672, -92.962044

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY 3 miles route; main trails are paved or coarse gravel; other small trails are uneven; small hills and overlooks are part of trails system; outdoor toilets available.

LEADERS Greg Burnes gburnes@comcast.net and Neil Carlson ngcarlson0@gmail.com 763-245-3556

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

9500 Old Cedar Ave S., Bloomington, MN 55425
Sunday, May 5, 7:30-11 AM

One of the very best birding locales in the state; and so close to St. Paul! We'll 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 Old Cedar Avenue which dead-ends in the parking lot for the Old Cedar Avenue bridge and Minnesota River Valley NWR trails complex. 44.830642, -93.244936

REGISTRATION None

••••• Be sure to check <https://saintpaulaudubon.org/upcoming-events/> for more details and field trip changes throughout the season.

DIFFICULTY Approximately 2 miles on gravel, dirt or paved trails and wooden boardwalk, with some small, gradual hills. Certain areas can be muddy. Benches available in some areas. Pit toilets available on site.

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

Beginning Birding – Silverwood Park

2500 County Road E, Saint Anthony, MN 55421
Wednesday, May 15, 2-4 PM

Silverwood Park is a beautiful urban park on the shores of Silver Lake. The variety of habitats in the park--oak forest, marsh, grassland, and lakefront--make it a great birding destination, with over 180 different species sighted in the park. May brings warblers, warblers, and more warblers! We'll also begin to see some of the beautiful summer residents of the park, including orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and bluebirds. While the leaves returning to the trees makes seeing birds more challenging, the variety of species in the park in May makes this one of the most exciting times of year for birding. In addition to getting to know the birds of Silverwood, participants will also be introduced to basic birding techniques and tools, including digital resources. Participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars; a few extra pairs will be available.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the doors leading into the Visitor Center from the parking lot. 45.046808, -93.224715

REGISTRATION No registration necessary. Come for any of the sessions--attending all is not required.

DIFFICULTY Most paths are paved, but may be icy in the winter, restrooms and water in Visitor Center. Walks will range from 1-1.5 miles.

LEADERS Jen Miller birdingjen@gmail.com and Liz Richards

Migrant and Nesting Birds -- Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

15501 Murphy Lake Blvd, Savage, MN 55378
Thursday, May 16, 7-10 AM

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

DIRECTIONS Head south from Minneapolis on 35W. Take Exit 2 for Burnsville Pkwy. Turn L on Burnsville Pkwy., go 2.1 miles. Turn right on Burnsville Pkwy W., go 1.6 miles. Continue straight ahead on Hanrehan Lake Blvd., go 1.1 miles. At the traffic circle take 2nd exit onto Murphy Lake Blvd., go 0.1 mile. Turn left into Park. Meet in parking lot. 44.724223, -93.348243

REGISTRATION None



Hooded Warbler. Photo by Adam Brandemihl

DIFFICULTY Approximately 3+ miles on wide, natural grass and dirt trails (some areas slightly rocky) with some moderate, long hills. This is our longest and most challenging trip. Pit toilets available at main trailhead near parking lot.

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

Woodland Birds

Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Eagan, MN 55123
Saturday, May 18, 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 springtime in a section of this beautiful 2,000-acre regional park. We will walk maintained woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. 2018 sightings included Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, and Wood Thrush.

INFORMATION Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised.

DIRECTIONS Meet in parking lot at the Holland Lake entrance of the Park. 44.789989, -93.145208

From St. Paul follow 35E South to exit 97A for Pilot Knob Rd. Turn right on Pilot Knob, go 2.8 miles. Turn L on Cliff Rd., go 1 mile. Turn R onto Lexington Ave S., go 0.2 miles into parking lot.

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Approximately 3-4 miles on maintained dirt and grass trails with moderate to steep hills. Accessible restrooms and drinking fountain at shelter. 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 55106

Sunday, May 19, 7:00-9:00 AM

St. Paul Audubon Society joins with [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) and [Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) 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. Those who do not want to walk the route can bring a folding chair and join Kiki Sonnen for a "bird sit" opportunity at the meeting spot.

INFORMATION Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the entrance to Drewry Tunnel at Swede Hollow Park across from 622 Beaumont St. East, St. Paul 55130. 44.961473, -93.074421 Off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy (located in the old Hamm's Brewery Building) at 720 Payne Ave, St. Paul 55130

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.5 miles on rolling paved paths. Mostly flat, with a short, moderate decline at the start and incline at the end. No toilet on site.

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

Birds, Bogs, Bees and Bantams

15280 Pilar Rd, Scandia, MN 55073

Saturday, June 1, 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 appro-

priate for the weather. Use sun protection. Bring water bottle, insect repellent, field guide and binoculars.

DIRECTIONS Drive time from Rosedale Shopping Center 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 I35). Turn left (north) onto Olinda 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 northside of Pilar Rd. Short walk along the driveway to the house. 45.282574, -92.794492

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Trail has a variety of surfaces: grass, compacted dirt, wood chips; first half fairly level; second half rolling terrain. Walking sticks welcome. Benches along the pathway. Restroom available at homestead.

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

Beginning Birding at Battle Creek Park,

2350 Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119

Sunday, June 9, 8:00-10:00 AM

Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. St. Paul Audubon is collaborating with the [St. Paul Library](#) and the [Urban Birding Collective](#) to offer this beginning birding field trip.

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. 44.940752, -93.001840

INFORMATION Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat, water, sunblock and bug dope. Loaner binoculars will be available.

REGISTRATION Required registration and limited to 15 participants. [Registration link available on SPAS website after June 1]

DIFFICULTY Approximately 0.7-1 mile on paved and maintained grass surfaces with small gradual hills. Porta Potty is available at dog park. Restrooms available at Park Pavilion across Upper Afton Road.

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

Carpenter Nature Center

12805 St. Croix Trail S., Hastings, MN 55003

Sunday, June 16, 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 From St Paul, take US-10 E/US-61 S to 120th St S in Cottage Grove. Turn left onto 120th St S, go



Photo by Scott Hogan

.7 mi, 120th St S turns right and becomes Morgan Ave S, go 0.2 mi. Turn left onto 122nd St S, go 1.5 mi. Turn right onto St Croix Scenic Byway/St Croix Trail S, go 0.5 mi. Turn left, go 0.2 mi. Meet at the Visitor Center. 44.767646, -92.814577 Note: Google Maps will route you to a nearby field, not to the meeting site.

INFORMATION Please 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. About 1.5 miles.

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

Beginning Birding at Phalen and Round Lakes

1980 E. Shore Drive, Maplewood, MN 55109

Saturday, June 22, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. St. Paul Audubon is collaborating with the [St. Paul Library](#) and the [Urban Birding Collective](#) to offer this beginning birding field trip.

INFORMATION Dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes. Bring a brimmed hat and water; sun-block and bug dope advised. Loaner binoculars will be available.

DIRECTIONS Exit MN-36 onto US-61 South. Go 1.2 miles to Frost Ave. Turn left onto Frost. Go 0.6 miles to traffic circle. Take first exit onto E. Shore Drive. Go 0.2 miles. Turn right to stay on E. Shore Drive. Go 500 ft to parking lot. Meet in parking lot. 44.995550, -93.059734

Project Launched to Restore St. Croix Valley Bird Habitats

The Saint Croix River watershed functions as an important spur of the Mississippi River Migratory Flyway that supports over 329 species of resident, migrant and breeding birds. Noteworthy species include the state-endangered Henslow's Sparrow, species of special concern Red-shouldered Hawk and Louisiana Waterthrush, and Audubon stewardship species (species with more than 5% of the global population breeding in Minnesota) like the Golden-winged Warbler, American Woodcock, Veery, and Bobolink, among numerous waterfowl, raptors, and game birds.

Audubon Upper Mississippi River launched a new Outdoor Heritage-funded program in fall 2023 to restore and enhance bird habitats within the important bird areas in the St. Croix River Valley. Audubon is working with three partners, the Belwin Conservancy and Minnesota State Parks in Washington County, and Minnesota State Forests in Chisago and Pine counties. This project will expand the available habitat for priority bird species in the

REGISTRATION Required registration and limited to 15 participants. [Registration link available on SPAS website after June 1]

DIFFICULTY 1.5 mile asphalt route includes low gradual slopes, Porta Potty at parking lot.

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

Beginning Birding at Phalen and Round Lakes

1980 E. Shore Drive, Maplewood, MN 55109

Saturday, June 29, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

St. Paul Audubon Society joins with [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) and [Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) to offer this opportunity to explore the NW corner of Phalen Park including Round Lake. Along the way we'll look for both woodland and water birds. Beginners are most welcome.

INFORMATION Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. A limited number of binoculars can be borrowed from the leader. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised.

DIRECTIONS Exit MN-36 onto US-61 South. Go 1.2 miles to Frost Ave. Turn left on to Frost. Go 0.6 miles to traffic circle. Take first exit onto E. Shore Drive. Go 0.2 miles. Turn right to stay on E. Shore Drive. Go 500 ft to parking lot. Meet in parking lot. 44.995550, -93.059734

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY 1.5 mile asphalt route includes low gradual slopes, Porta Potty at parking lot.

LEADERS Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 Kesid@aol.com and Cathy Croghan

state forest lands in the St. Croix Bluffs and Kettle River - Banning State Park Important Bird Areas. A variety of activities will be used in the project: management of brush and tree species in grasslands, prairie restoration, invasive species control to support regeneration and savannah habitats, and preparing forests for resiliency in anticipation of the emerald ash borer. The projects were targeted and selected based on a prioritization model that focuses on suitability for priority bird species, core habitat, conservation state, acres of remnant habitat, and habitat condition. Audubon will work with MN State Parks in the summer of 2024 on volunteer opportunities to collect native plant seeds that will be used for the prairie restorations.

Contact Audubon Upper Mississippi River's Conservation Director Dale Gentry with any questions.
dale.gentry@audubon.org

Red-shouldered Hawk
Photo by David Rosenthal



Warbler Weekend 2024

Warbler Weekend 2024 is May 10-12 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 18.

To register, use the online registration form at <https://saintpaulaudubon.org/event/warbler-week-end-2024/> 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. **Another major event is scheduled in Lake City** that weekend, so please make your reservations early. Red Wing and Wabasha are good options.

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 Boards, Schedule, Notice and Places to Bird will be posted prominently.

Schedule

Friday May 10

6:30 pm Coffee, cookies and socializing

7:00 pm Presentation

Saturday May 11

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): Swifiting at Villa Maria.

Gather on the grass at the parking lot around appropriate signs to form groups, at least 5 minutes before each scheduled walk. Likely spots include: Frontenac State Park’s Sand Point Trail and campground, Frontenac Town Cemetery and Town Walk, Villa Maria Grounds, Hok-Si-La North and South. Birding by ear may 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, With Important Announcements

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 12

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 2024 Registration Form (Must be received no later than April 18)

	Number of persons	Total
Friday night	_____ (no charge)	
Registration	_____ x \$15 = \$ _____	
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 18, 2024

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.

Please indicate “new” or “returning” participant.

For more information, send an email to:
Maria@CostaRica-Authentic.com