

The



Cardinal

JUNE - JULY 2024 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.ORG • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Warbler Weekend 2024

More than 135 birders identified 25 warblers among 123 total species at this year's Warbler Weekend, May 10-12. This included a Connecticut Warbler, which has only been seen 11 times in 51 years.

Photos clockwise from upper left: Common Nighthawk by Monica Bryand; Cape May Warbler by Neil Carlson; Red-headed Woodpecker by Monica Bryand; Bird Watchers by Cathy Croghan; Rose Breasted Grosbeak by Neil Carlson



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: August / September 2024

Kestrel Nest Boxes Showing Promise

Four of the eight American Kestrel nest boxes managed by Saint Paul Audubon volunteers are in use so far this year. The active boxes are at Afton State Park, Glacial Valley, and the Belwin Conservancy. This volunteer-run program has produced 119 fledglings since it began in 2012.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this program possible and for Saint Paul Audubon to achieve its mission. See "Get Involved," above, for information on how you can help too.



An American Kestrel on eggs in a nest box at Afton State Park.

Calendar

June-September – See pages 4-10 for an array of bird walks taking place throughout the metro and beyond.

June 1 – Landscape Revival expo and market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Rockpoint Church, 5825 Kelvin Ave. N, Lake Elmo

June 18, July 24, August 21 – Birds & Beers St. Paul, 6-9 p.m., Sweeney's Saloon, 96 N Dale Street, St. Paul

July 6 – Annual Butterfly Count. See page 11.



What's In a Name?

Is the Audubon name becoming a critical barrier to our mission of protecting birds and habitats?

Members, Partners, and Friends:

Thank you for supporting our chapter. Your time and financial contributions are critical to our shared mission of *'Engaging our community in protecting birds and the habitats we all need to thrive.'*

With your support, our chapter is already involved in many important activities, and the board and our many volunteers are creating plans and implementing actions to support our future success. This future depends on the chapter living its stated values and welcoming everyone from our community to share our love of birds and protect them. For the following reasons, including "Audubon" in our chapter's name is a barrier to this goal.

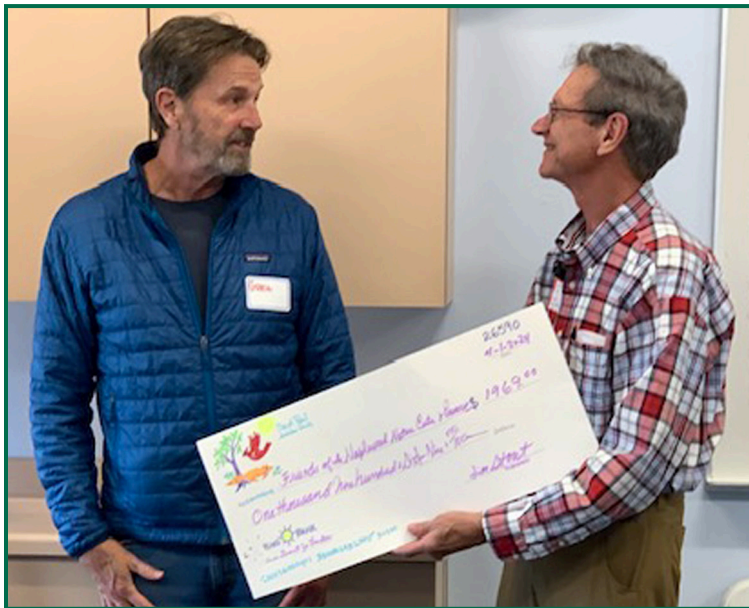
There is no dispute that JJ Audubon was a brilliant artist. After his death, his artwork was leveraged by many to raise bird conservation to the forefront of the nation's consciousness. However, in the last years, it has come to light that he was a strong supporter of slavery

and an enslaver. His desecration of indigenous graves in the name of pseudo-science is deeply troubling, and many of his contributions to ornithology have come into question. Because of these actions, we no longer think the Audubon name aligns with our chapter's incredible work or its values of welcoming everyone who shares our mission.

The board is exploring the removal of Audubon from our chapter's name and installing a new name that is more representative of our mission. If we move forward with this initiative, **our work won't change:** We remain committed to protecting wild birds and habitats. However, by eliminating barriers to engagement and extending a warm welcome to all who share our mission, we can help ensure our future.

We are gathering input from members, volunteers, partners, and those currently outside our organization who could be valuable contributors to our mission. Please take a few minutes to review this [FAQ document](#) and [click here](#) to give us your feedback.

Thank you,
Saint Paul Audubon Board of Directors



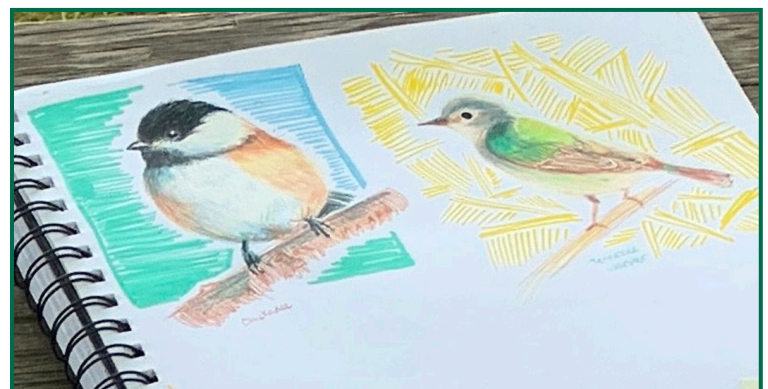
John Zakelj, president of the board of the Maplewood Nature Center, accepts the grant from Greg Burnes, St. Paul Audubon president, at a garden groundbreaking ceremony.

Maplewood Nature Center Breaks Ground on New Garden

Thanks to a grant of \$1964 from the Saint Paul Audubon Society, the Maplewood Nature Center broke ground on a new garden in their bird and pollinator viewing area. The grant money was used to purchase native plants and shrubs known to attract birds and pollinators.

Bird and Bug Sketching Fest Held

Nine people engaged in making art and sharing bird stories at Frogtown Park & Farm on a beautiful day in May! They saw 12 species of birds and about 5 species of bugs – but no mosquitoes and no ticks! Frogtown Park & Farm is at 946 W. Minnehaha, St. Paul. Co-hosts of the event were St Paul Audubon and Frogtown Green.



TUESDAY MORNING WALKS

*No registration needed. Start times vary. Meet at the site. Bring water, insect repellent and field guide.
Contact leaders if you need additional information.*

June 4, 7-9AM: 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. 44.87616, -92.79211

DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.3 miles on grass and dirt trails. Some gradual small hills. Porta-potty available at parking lot.

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



Bobolink

Photo by Diane Taylor

June 11, 7-9AM: 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 the Saint Paul Audubon website.

INFORMATION [Venue website](#)

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, 7-9AM: 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, 7-9AM: 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.

LEADERS Neil Carlson, ngcarsl0@gmail.com 763-245-3556 and Mark Gilbertson

BIKE AND BIRD IS BACK!

Both Sunday and Friday Trips!

Our Bike & Bird roster is growing! This year there will be 2 Friday morning trips (June 14, June 28) and 5 Sunday morning trips (June 2, June 23, July 14, August 4, September 15) – All led by Sherry Gray.

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

Sunday Bike & Bird Trips for 2024

Sunday, June 2, 8:00 AM to Noon: Bike & Bird Saint Paul's Como Park and Frogtown Farm, 1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul, MN 55117

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle in some of Saint Paul's prime city green spaces. Located 2.5 miles from one another and connected by Lexington Avenue bike path and Minnehaha Avenue bike lanes, Como Park includes a lake, recreational areas (golf, picnic) and the "Audubon Woods;" Frogtown Farm is an urban demonstration farm and park situated on a hilltop with views over the city (<https://www.frog-townfarm.org>). Landscape is urban park and organic farm fields with wooded surrounds. Optional coffee break at Groundswell Café (and they have a bakery), on the corner of Thomas and Hamline.

LOCATION Saint Paul, both locations easily accessed by Metro Transit

DIRECTIONS Meet in south parking lot at Como Lakeside Pavilion, 1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St Paul, MN 55117. (44.981765236343946, -93.1436632493205) Bus routes 3 and 83

INFORMATION Bring bicycle, helmet, binoculars, snacks, sunscreen and water. Leader will bring a scope and first aid kit. Riders encouraged to wear high vis clothing and bring bike lights.

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate. 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, very welcome to join.

Sunday, June 23, 8:00 AM to Noon: Bike & Bird the Mississippi River levee on the Robert Piram Trail, 380 E. Lafayette Frontage Rd, St. Paul, MN 55107

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle along the Mississippi River, riding from the Saint Paul Airport past the Pigs Eye Island SNA Heron Rookery to Kaposia Landing (2.6 miles one way) and the Rock Island Swing Bridge (7.8 mi, one way), visiting prime birding locations for Ramsey and Dakota Counties. Landscape is urban, following both the big river and train tracks from Saint Paul to South Saint Paul, with wetlands at the start (near the airport) and

small wooded areas along the way. Option for full day ride continuing to Hastings, including biking through Spring Lake Park.

LOCATION See [trail map](#)

DIRECTIONS We will start at [Runway 52, 380 E Lafayette Frontage Rd, St Paul, MN 55107](#).

(44.93600871167755, -93.0719683383748) If you do not want to bicycle the return from Rock Island Swing Bridge, you will need to arrive at parking area 30 minutes earlier (arrange with ride leader) to shuttle cars.

INFORMATION Bring bicycle, helmet with sun visor, binoculars, sunscreen, snacks and water. Scope is optional but could be useful for locating birds on Pigs Eye Island across the river. Leader will bring a scope and first aid kit.

DIFFICULTY Easy. Some side trails might have hills, but route is mostly river levee flat. [Optional route to Hastings/Spring Lake Park is hilly and might include a few blocks of on-road riding] As group will hear and see many birds, riding pace is relaxed. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, very welcome to join.

Sunday, July 14, 8:00 AM to Noon: Bike & Bird the Vadnais-Snail Lakes & Grass Lake Regional Parks, 4191 Snail Lake Blvd., Shoreview, MN 55126

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. Group usually birds Grass and Snail Lakes, then stops at Taste of Scandinavia Bakery (bring bike lock) for brunch or early lunch. Option to continue on to Sucker and Vadnais lakes from the Bakery.

LOCATION See [trail map](#)

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)

...continued on page 6

BIKE AND BIRD IS BACK! (continued)

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

DIFFICULTY Easy to moderate. 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, very welcome to join.

Sunday, August 4, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM: Bike & Bird the Sherburne NWR Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive, 17076 293rd Ave NW, Zimmerman, MN 55398

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle on the gravel road of the Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive, seven miles (road shared with cars, ground squirrels and turtles). Landscape includes wetlands, grassland and wooded/shrubby areas. 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 Sherburne NWR is located in Zimmerman, MN, about 60 miles NW of Saint Paul.

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sherburne>

DIRECTIONS Meet in the parking lot at the start of the Prairie's Edge Wildlife Drive

INFORMATION Bring bicycle, helmet with sun visor, binoculars, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and water. Leader will bring a scope and first aid kit. There are no picnic tables and few benches, so birders encouraged to bring something to sit upon for lunch break. There are short walking trails along the route, so a bike lock is useful.

DIFFICULTY Easy, mostly level, graded seven-mile route with good visibility. As group will hear and see many birds, riding pace is relaxed. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, very welcome to join.

Sunday, September 15, 9:00 AM to Noon: Bike & Bird Saint Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone, 993 Hampden Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55114

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle while checking out the public art in a vibrant mixed industrial/residential section of Saint Paul. We will search for urban birds in pocket parks, vacant lots, and along the UMN Transitway and RR tracks while exploring the murals sponsored by the [Chroma Zone Festival](#). The 2024 festival will start September 19 so we will have the opportunity to see the newest murals (and possibly some nervous artists doing final painting), and avoid the crowds. Optional ride after along the Mississippi River to find riverside birds.

LOCATION [Saint Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone](#)

DIRECTIONS Park nearby or take Metro Transit (Green Line stop: Raymond) and meet on bikes in Hampden Park, 993 Hampden Ave W, St Paul, MN 55114 – **DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM HAMPDEN PARK CO-OP** (pictured here) 44.97000495061184, -93.19900698929779

INFORMATION Bring bicycle, helmet, binoculars, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and water. Leader will bring a first aid kit. You may want a camera for the murals.

DIFFICULTY Route is level and paved, but mostly on city streets which at times can be high traffic, including very large trucks (semis), so participants encourage to have bike lights and wear high vis clothing. As there are many excellent murals, the pace will be relaxed. Birders, art lovers and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, very welcome to join.

Friday Bike & Bird Trips for 2024

Join Sherry Gray Friday mornings to stretch our legs and listen for the birds. Suggested starting time for all rides is 7:30 AM, but registered participants can vote on the starting time. Pace is not fast as the birds will be calling and singing. Rides include:

Friday, June 14, 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Bike & Bird the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes, Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55038

We'll ride the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes, starting at [Wargo Nature Center](#)

LOCATION 7701 Main Street, Lino Lakes, MN 55038 (This will require an Anoka County parks pass.) 45.1822288920191, -93.08538891627603

DIFFICULTY Route is level and paved, mostly off-road bike trail (shared with peds). Numerous wetlands, wooded areas, two lakes, and several small grasslands are on the route.

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

Friday, June 28, 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Bike & Bird the Gateway Trail, 2290 2nd St, North St Paul, MN 55109

We'll ride the [Gateway Trail](#) from North Saint Paul to I-35 and back.

LOCATION Meet on bikes at Rotary Park, Gateway State Trail, North St Paul, MN 55109. 45.01204192456802, -92.99923412328951

DIFFICULTY Ride is level, paved, off-road and goes through residential areas and past wetlands, woods, and urban parks.

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

FIELD TRIPS

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 appropriate 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)

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

4761 Hamline Avenue North, Arden Hills, MN

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

June begins summer 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. We will be 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 Enter the AHATS campus on the Hamline Ave extension just north of MN Hwy 96. Turn left (west) on to Ben Franklin St; immediately take first right into parking area; immediately take another right hand turn onto short driveway leading to front (east side) of building. Park near the entry doors of 4761 Hamline



American Robin, photo by Mary Berry

Ave N., Arden Hills, MN. We will gather in the parking lot. 45.084303078802584, -93.15795346045763

INFORMATION The site has restricted access. Be prepared to ride in a car caravan with 4 individuals per vehicle. All caravan vehicles will enter and exit the property together.

REGISTRATION Registration required. Attendance is limited to 20 adults on a first reply, first served basis. Email Chase Davies (RockyBirder@gmail.com) your mobile phone number with the names of individuals in your party. PLEASE report any changes in numbers as soon as learned so Wait Listed hopefuls can enjoy this opportunity.

DIFFICULTY Ride in car caravan, get in and out of vehicles, walk short distances from vehicles in car caravan. Outdoor toilets are very widely spaced across the site.

LEADERS Mary Lee, AHATS Environmental Protection Specialist; Chase Davies 651-246-9754 RockyBirder@gmail.com; Greg Burnes

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.

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

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
mjrbryand@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 .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



Eastern Bluebird, photo by Travis Bonovsky

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

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
mjrbryand@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

Birds and Trees, Langton Lake Park, Roseville

1950 County Rd. C2 W, Roseville, MN 55113 (This is correct address for west side of park)

Saturday July 13, 7:30 - 9:30 AM

Join us for a stroll at Langton Lake Park to observe and identify birds and trees, and consider their interactions.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the parking lot on County Road C2 on the west side of the lake. 45.027451, -93.183333

INFORMATION Bring binoculars, bird guide and tree guide if you have them.

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Paved paths, mostly level, approximately 1 mile, no restroom.

LEADERS Kathy Robbins 651-636-6475 Krobbins@umn.edu and Cathy Croghan

Beginning Birding at Crosby Farm Regional Park

2595 Crosby Farm Rd, St. Paul, MN 55116

Saturday, July 20, 8:00-10:00 AM

Saint Paul Audubon is partnering with the [St. Paul Library](#) to offer a beginning birding field trip. Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. Come to have some summer fun outdoors.

DIRECTIONS Traveling south on 35E, 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

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.

REGISTRATION Required registration and limited to 15 participants. Registration link is available on SPAS website after July 1.

DIFFICULTY Variety of natural surfaces, generally level terrain, approximately 2 miles, restrooms at parking lot.

LEADERS Linda Whyte 651-815-7045 and Cathy Croghan

Urban Trees and Birds, Frogtown Park and Farm

946 Minnehaha Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55104

Sunday, August 11, 7:30-9:30 AM

Join us for a visit to this unique urban farm site to observe and identify birds and trees, and to consider their interactions. You'll learn some basic tree identification tips, the importance of our urban tree canopy and what [Frogtown Green](#) is doing to add trees to their neighborhood.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the parking lot next to the greenhouse on the top of the hill. 44.962084, -93.139490

INFORMATION Bring binoculars, bird guide and tree guide if you have them.

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Mostly paved and level, less than .5 mile, porta potty at parking lot.

LEADERS Kathy Robbins 651-636-6475 Krobbins@umn.edu and Cathy Croghan



Coopers Hawk, photo by Alan Toczydlowski

Bruce Vento Trail and Bird Walk

1301 Arlington Ave. E St. Paul, MN 55106

Saturday, August 10, 8-10 AM

Saint 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 stroll along a portion Bruce Vento Regional Trail. Learn the history of the land, the Trail, and current activities to save this important corridor from transit development. Along the way we'll look for some summer birds. Beginners are most welcome.

INFORMATION Bring binoculars if you have them. A limited number of binoculars are available to borrow. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Water and bug dope advised.

DIRECTIONS Meet at the Bergeron Pass Marker 44.984910, -93.045536 on the corner of English St. And Arlington Ave. Street, parking available along the east side of English St.

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Level pathway both paved and natural surfaces. Route approximately 1.5 miles. No toilet.

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

Fall Migrants and Grassland Goldenrod at Battle Creek Park

2301 Lower Afton Rd., Maplewood, MN 55119

Saturday, September 7, 9-11 AM

The Battle Creek Grassland is a critical nesting area that we have been working to preserve. It is next to Battle Creek Park, managed by Corrections, with restricted public access. We will hike on park trails along the western and northern edges of the grassland, where we hope to hear and see migrating fall warblers, sparrows, and hawks, along with the early fall colors of the grassland. One way to prep for this walk is to watch [From Bobolinks](#)



Chipping Sparrow, photo by Hazel Erikson

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 take exit 246B for Mc Knight 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

INFORMATION [Venue website](#)

REGISTRATION None

DIFFICULTY Approximately 2-mile hike on unpaved, hilly trails. Porta-potty at the parking lot.

LEADER John Zakelj jzakelj@yahoo.com

Swede Hollow Park – Birding in the Heart of St. Paul

622 Beaumont St, St Paul, MN 55130

Saturday, September 21, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Saint Paul Audubon Society joins with [Friends of Swede Hollow](#) and [Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County](#) to offer a fall migration birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what fall 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. A limited number of 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 Kiki Sonnen

Common Redpoll, photo by Mary Lou Ziebarth



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



Blue Jay, photo by Sarah Hughes

Annual Butterfly Count Returns on July 6

By Bob Dunlap

Saint Paul Audubon's annual butterfly count will take place on Saturday, July 6, from 9:45 to 2:00 PM at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS). To register, follow this link: [AHATS Butterfly Count Registration 2024](#).

Registration will remain open through **Wednesday, July 3**. A map and other information will be emailed to participants in the days prior to the count. Registrants will be contacted if weather causes a last-minute change of plans.

This annual event is part of the July 4th Butterfly Count coordinated by the [North American Butterfly Association \(NABA\)](#). Saint Paul Audubon pays the NABA count fees, so the count at AHATS is free to all participants.



Left:
Eastern Tiger
Swallowtail

Right:
Least Skipper

Photos by
Bob Dunlap

with these beloved insects: membership options, magazine PDFs, gardening information, checklists, regional information, beautiful photos. A great source of information about butterflies.

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org An excellent site with species accounts and range maps of all butterflies encountered in Wisconsin; the vast majority of these species are also found in Minnesota.

www.inaturalist.org A community science hub for submitting and exploring observations of organisms throughout the world. Over 35,000 observations of butterflies in Minnesota have been submitted to iNaturalist!

WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR Be sure to bring plenty of cool drinks, snacks, and a bag lunch. A wide-brimmed hat, lightweight long pants, long-sleeved



DIRECTIONS Registered participants will meet in the parking lot at the AHATS Arden Hills Readiness Center, 4761 Hamline Avenue North, just north of Highway 96. Drive through the AHATS gate to the Readiness Center, the first building on the left after you enter the training site. Restrooms are available in the Readiness Center.

DURING THE COUNT We will carpool to the various sites. Mary Lee, the Environmental Protection Specialist for the National Guard, will again be our great host and tour leader.

USEFUL INFORMATION TO HELP PREPARE
www.naba.org The official website of the North American Butterfly Association. Find everything to do

shirt (for protection from ticks, sun, and sharp grasses), sunscreen, high socks, old sneakers or rubber boots for bog-tromping, and insect repellent are recommended. Binoculars, a camera, and a butterfly field guide are recommended but not required.

RECOMMENDED BUTTERFLY FIELD GUIDES

- *Butterflies through Binoculars: The East, A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Eastern North America* by Jeffrey Glassberg
- *Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America*, by Jim P. Brock and Kenn Kaufman

Spring Migration at Swede Hollow Park

Twenty-three people converged at historic Swede Hollow in St. Paul for birding adventures on Sunday, May 19 and tallied 35 species. Trip leader Kathy Sidles brought blueberry muffins and beverages in celebration of International Bird Migratory Day. The event was co-sponsored by St. Paul Audubon, Friends of Swede Hollow, and Friends of St Paul and Ramsey County Parks and Trails.

