

The



Cardinal

APRIL - MAY 2025 • WWW.SAINTPAULBIRDALLIANCE.ORG • SAINT PAUL BIRD ALLIANCE

April and May Presentations Coming Up

Please join us for the two final chapter meetings and presentations for the 2024-2025 season, both with in-person and zoom options for viewing. The events will take place at our usual meeting site, room 207 of the Anpétu Tēča Education Center, 1910 County Road B West, Rosville, beginning at 7:00 pm. See the details below and check the [Events](#) page on our website for last-minute updates, zoom links, and other details.



Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.: Jackie Fallon will present “Celebrating Success! 40 Years of Peregrine Research,” with a live bird in hand! The remarkable success of the Peregrine Falcon recovery program is one of the most highly celebrated restoration efforts of the 20th century. With more than a 70% decline throughout its global range, the species was on the fast track to potential extinction, especially in the lower 48 states. Thankfully, falconers created a captive breeding program that was able to produce over 7000 falcons. Within 30 years, the species was declared recovered in North America. Today, the Peregrine Falcon has expanded its range and surpassed historical population levels. Fallon will discuss the history, process, and monitoring discoveries such as fecundity, migration, density, and adaptability to an ever-changing landscape.

Jacquelyn Fallon is vice president of field operations for the Midwest Peregrine Society and Minnesota state coordinator. She has been involved with Peregrine Falcon monitoring and research since 1988, focusing on population fluctuations and human-peregrine conflict mitiga-

tion. Jackie has nearly 35 years’ experience with endangered species programs and restoration efforts, primarily canids and raptors. She has a B.S. in Biology from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA.

Thursday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.: Lee A. Pfanmuller will present “The Breeding Birds of Minnesota: The Work and Science that Led to the Book’s Publication.” Conducted between the 2009 and 2013 breeding seasons, Minnesota’s first Breeding Bird Atlas geographically catalogued the distribution and abundance of birds that breed in Minnesota at a scale of resolution much finer than had ever been attempted in the past. One of the most valuable aspects of the Atlas was that every corner of the state was surveyed by over 700 birders from all walks of life. Their remarkable effort was the cornerstone of the 2024 publication, *The Breeding Birds of Minnesota: History, Ecology, and Conservation*. This talk will focus on the atlas work, the subsequent analysis of its findings, and some of the highlights.

With an M.S. in Ecology and Behavioral Biology from the University of Minnesota, Lee worked for the MN Department of Natural Resources for 30 years, focusing on natural resources administration, forest bird management, endangered species policy, invasive species, and biodiversity conservation. That was followed by 10 years working with Audubon Minnesota and the Natural Resources Institute, including development of a Conservation Blueprint for Minnesota birds and extensive involvement in the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas.



SAINT PAUL BIRD ALLIANCE

Welcome!

To the Saint Paul Bird Alliance. 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 all living beings need to thrive.

The Saint Paul Bird Alliance **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.saintpaulbirdalliance.org/volunteer/> for a full list of committees and committee chairs, or get in touch with us on our contact page at <https://www.saintpaulbirdalliance.org/contact/>.

Become a Chapter Member

You are invited to become a Saint Paul Bird Alliance 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.saintpaulbirdalliance.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.saintpaulbirdalliance.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.saintpaulbirdalliance.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.saintpaulbirdalliance.org/contact/>. Your message will be forwarded promptly to the appropriate person.

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Next issue: June/July 2025

Habitat Restoration Opportunities

Volunteer for AHATS Clean Up Days

For many years, the Arden Hills Army Training Site has partnered with the Saint Paul Bird Alliance to allow birders access to its expansive area with many habitats for field trips and special events, such as looking for owls and woodcocks. Twice a year, the site invites the public to help pick up trash, clean up vegetation, gather seeds (fall), maintain trails, and more. Participants are also welcome to bird and look for butterflies and other wildlife. The **Spring cleanup** is Friday, April 25, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. All are welcome and you can find complete details [here](#).

Cardinal Woods/Como Park Cleanup

With help from the St. Paul Parks department, our chapter has cared for a small section of woodland within the Como Regional Park system for many years. We have managed these woods as a preserve for birds and other wildlife. Over time, this section has had several names. Now, we refer to it as **Cardinal Woods**. Join us and the St. Paul Parks Department in pulling invasive plants and removing trash from the area so that it can better support birds and other wildlife. There will be several cleanup opportunities this year and the first is May 19, from 5:30-7:30 pm. All the details are [here](#).

Calendar

April 10 - Chapter meeting with presentation on Peregrine Falcons. Page 1

April 22, May 14 - Birds & Beers St. Paul. Back room of Sweeney's Saloon, 96 Dale Street, St. Paul. 6:00-8:00 pm.

April 25 - AHATS Cleanup. Page 2

May 8 - Chapter meeting with presentation on *The Breeding Birds of Minnesota*. Page 1

May 9-10 - Warbler Weekend. Page 4

May 17 - Twin Cities Bird Festival. Page 3

May 19 - Cardinal Woods cleanup. Page 2

Woodcock field trip and birding walks - Pages 5-15



Chip Notes

--From the Board of Directors

Business "Not" As Usual

For members and friends of the Saint Paul Bird Alliance, and our partners in organizations with kindred missions, these are challenging and uncertain times. Budget and resource cuts, and divisive rhetoric and actions, threaten our progress in engaging a diverse community to enjoy, understand, and protect birds and habitats. How do we respond productively? What actions would be meaningful?

We must stay united and focused on our mission to advance our work as a bird conservation organization. You can visit our [website](#) or the sites of other conservation groups to [volunteer for a habitat cleanup](#), advocate for [protecting birds and habitat](#), [enjoy nature as your soundtrack](#), [serve on a committee](#), or donate to any conservation group that is making a difference. Combined with those who share our commitment, these small acts create progress and further our mission. Stay involved, show up, and be strong.

Please share your ideas for how we, as a community, can support each other and our mission. We will share your ideas through our various communication channels with your permission. Visit contact@saintpaulbirdalliance.org.

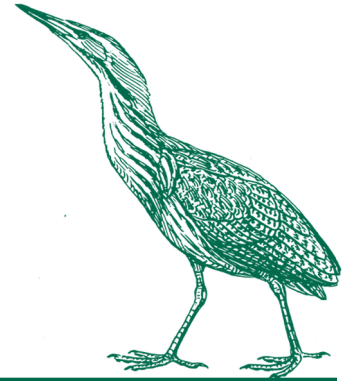
Our Work Continues – We Need You!

We maintain our commitment to our organization's three pillars: **engagement, conservation, and advocacy**. We have many incredible volunteers, but we need more of you to join us. As an all-volunteer organization, we can only continue to grow our impact through you. Please contact us so we can find a place for your talents. You can reach us at contact@saintpaulbirdalliance.org

We are **engaging** the community with over 40 field trips this upcoming season, exciting programming and events, and outreach through our numerous new and existing partners. We have provided nearly \$25K in grants to community organizations that align with our mission. Our **conservation** work continues with Kestrel box monitoring, the Chimney Swift program, East Side projects, Cardinal Woods, and AHATS restoration. Our **advocacy** efforts persist at Pig's Eye and Battle Creek Grasslands, and we are intensifying efforts at Keystone WMA, Big Marine expansion, and the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area Zoning Ordinance.

This is all due to our dedicated volunteers and supporters.

Thank You!

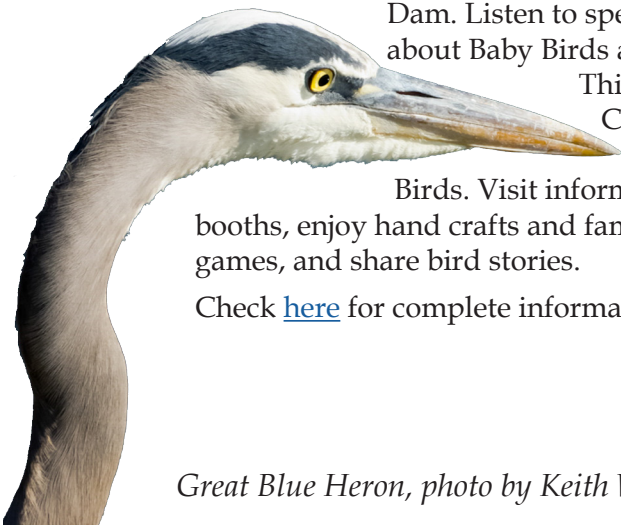


Twin Cities Bird Festival May 17

Join in the fun birding the Mississippi River Flyway during Spring migration, at the Twin Cities Bird Festival. The festival takes place at the [Mississippi Gateway Regional Park](#) on May 17. It includes guided excursions in the park woods, where spring warblers and other songbirds can be found, and along the waterway to see waterfowl, herons and eagles. See and hear the roar of the Mighty Mississippi from the top of the Coon Rapids

Dam. Listen to special talks about Baby Birds and 7 Things You Can Do to Help Birds. Visit information booths, enjoy hand crafts and family games, and share bird stories.

Check [here](#) for complete information.



Great Blue Heron, photo by Keith Wescourt

Speak Up for Strong Riverfront Rules in St. Paul

St. Paul residents have a chance to strengthen their city's riverfront rules this spring by adding requirements for bird-safe buildings and other provisions. In January 2023, St. Paul released a draft ordinance that included excellent bird-safe guidelines, but it was never finalized. A newly updated draft that is now in play leaves out some of the bird-safe building requirements and other vital riverfront protections.

The Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR), which has been actively involved in this issue from the start, believes that St. Paul can balance urban density with wildlife protection in ways that add very little to the cost of new construction. FMR is now leading the effort to raise awareness about what's at stake and how St. Paul residents can weigh in.

Learn more on the FMR website [here](#), and then scroll down to find out how to sign a petition, write a letter, or speak at a public hearing. The St. Paul Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for comments on May 2 at 8:30 a.m. and this is a critical step in the process.

Please do what you can to speak up for the birds!

WARBLER WEEKEND 2025, MAY 9-10



Black Throated Blue Warbler photo by Megumi Aita

Everything you need to know

Warbler Weekend 2025, coming right up, will include many familiar activities as well as a **new opening presentation** on Friday evening. Registration and pricing have also changed, so please look carefully at all the details.

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

Accommodations Birders staying overnight need to make their own reservations. Red Wing, Lake City, and Wabasha are good options.

Schedule

Friday May 9

6:30 pm Welcome -- Coffee, cookies, socializing
7:00 pm Presentation with Stan Tekiela (see below)

Saturday May 10

Birding Walks

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

Saturday Meals and 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 6:45 pm

Friday Presentation

Our speaker on Friday is naturalist, author, and wildlife photographer **Stan Tekiela**, presenting "Bird Migration." Stan has been an active professional naturalist for more than 25 years and is a member of the MN Ornithologists' Union, the North American Nature Photography Association, and Canon Professional Services. He studies and photographs wildlife throughout the US and has received multiple awards for his books and photographs.

Saturday Guided Birding Walks

For all walks, gather on the grass at the parking lot around appropriate signs to form groups. Trips depart promptly at the times listed. Likely spots include Frontenac State Park's Sand Point Trail and Overlook, Old Methodist Cap area, Frontenac town cemetery and town, Villa Maria grounds, Hok-Si-Lah North and South, and a beginning birder walk. Birding by ear will be offered if we have a leader for it. Birding by car or on your own is an option as well.

Pricing

Registration. New this year is that there are two options for registration, as follows:

Option 1 - Registration for Friday and Saturday -- \$20
Option 2 - Registration for Saturday only -- \$15

There is no option for Friday only; you must register for Option 1 if you plan to attend on Friday evening.

Meals

Saturday breakfast -- \$12
Saturday lunch -- \$16
Saturday dinner -- \$16

Meals are provided by Lake City Kiwanis and Warbler Weekend is their largest fundraising event of the year! More information about the Kiwanis mission can be found [here](#).

How to Register

Registration is required in advance for the weekend and all meals, including gluten-free or vegetarian meals. Registration is **online only** this year, using this [form](#).

The **registration deadline** is April 20 but space is limited so please register early to guarantee a spot. After space is filled, we will keep a waitlist.

Evaluation Forms We want your input! Everyone will be asked to complete an evaluation form so that we can continue to improve Warbler Weekend.



Blackburnian Warbler photo by Charlie Trapani

WOODCOCKS of RUSH CITY



American Woodcock, photo by Vincent Iadevaia

**April 10, 11 OR 12- exact date tbd
7:30-9:00 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 Bird Alliance 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 10, 11, or 12, please do register so you learn THE DATE, which will be emailed to all registrants on Saturday, April 9, no later than 8 PM.

This approach of choosing one night from amongst three allows us to take advantage of 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.

REGISTRATION Registration is required so that you can receive the email with the exact date and any other pertinent information. Please inform Ed using eddavies60@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 Ed at eddavies60@gmail.com to register. If necessary, on day of event, call Ed's cell, 612-819-1196 or Chase's, 651-246-9754.

Seeking New Field Trip Coordinator

At the February 2024 Board Meeting, Field Trip Coordinator Cathy Croghan announced she planned to step back from Field Trip Coordination at the end of May 2025. Would you, or do you know someone who might enjoy this terrific volunteer position? It would be a good fit for a

detail oriented, people-person with some minimal tech skills (e.g., Excel, email, etc.). Duties could be split by two people. Contact Cathy to learn more about this position: croghancathy@gmail.com

HELP

Field Trip Coordination at the end of May 2025. Would you, or do you know someone who might enjoy this terrific volunteer position? It would be a good fit for a

- Be sure to check our website events page for more details and field trip changes throughout the season.

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.

April 29, 7-9 AM: 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 6, 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 13, 7-9 AM: 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 20, 7-9 AM: 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.

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

May 27, 7-9 AM: 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



*Eastern Towhee
Photo by Tom Skala*

TUESDAY MORNING WALKS (continued)

June 3, 7-9 AM: 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

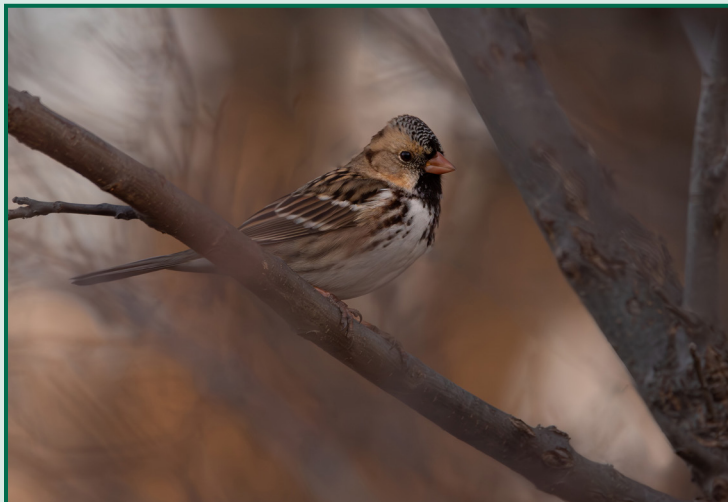
DIFFICULTY Approximately 1.3 miles on grass and dirt trails. Some gradual small hills. Porta-potty available at parking lot.

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

June 10, 7-9 AM: 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.



Harris's Sparrow, photo by Brady Karg

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 17, 7-9 AM: 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.

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

June 24, 7-9 AM: 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 Mark Gilbertson and Neil Carlson,
ngcarlson0@gmail.com 763-245-3556

MORE BIRDING WALKS AND FIELD TRIPS



Eastern Phoebe, photo by Robyn Newman

Birding Through the Months at Silverwood Park

2500 County Road E, Saint Anthony, MN 55421
Tuesday, April 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. 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.

DIFFICULTY Most paths are paved, but may be icy in the winter. 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 26, 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 3, 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 4, 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

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

Birding Through the Months at Silverwood Park

2500 County Road E, Saint Anthony, MN 55421
Tuesday, May 13, 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.

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

Walks at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) - Spring Migration I

1567 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills, MN
Wednesday, May 14, 7-9 AM (with optional extension to 11 AM)

The Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) is a 2370-acre military training area for the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. Its vast area and variety of habitats are also used for environmental and wildlife conservation programs. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded at the site.

Spring migration across the variety of AHATS habitats should be both exciting and very rewarding. 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. For all walks we will bird



Wood Thrush, photo by Megumi Aita

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) onto Ben Franklin Rd and proceed about ¼ mile to the Ben Franklin gate. Meet inside the gate, roughly at 1567 Ben Franklin Road. We will proceed in a car caravan as group to multiple sites within the property. 45.08330° N, 93.16482° W

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 is required, and **begins March 30**. Attendance is limited to 25 people taken in the order replies are received. Email kryssa.schmidt@gmail.com your mobile phone number with the names of individuals in your party. PLEASE report any changes in numbers right away so those on the waitlist can enjoy this rare opportunity.

DIFFICULTY Ride in car caravan, get in and out of vehicles, travel short distances from vehicles on gravel, paved, or grassy surfaces. Outdoor toilets are very widely spaced across the site.

LEADERS Mary Lee, AHATS Environmental Protection Specialist with Jocelyn K

Woodland Birds

Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Eagan, MN 55123
Saturday, May 17, 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 18, 7:00-9:00 AM

St. Paul Bird Alliance 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.



Mourning Warbler, photo by Russel Smith

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 Greg Burnes

Walks at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) - Spring Migration II

1567 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills, MN

Wednesday, May 19, 7-9 AM (with optional extension to 11 AM)

The Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) is a 2370-acre military training area for the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. Its vast area and variety of habitats are also used for environmental and wildlife conservation programs. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded at the site.

Spring migration across the variety of AHATS habitats should be both exciting and very rewarding. 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. For all walks we will bird 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) onto Ben Franklin Rd and proceed about ¼ mile to the Ben Franklin gate. Meet inside the gate, roughly at 1567 Ben Franklin Road. We will proceed in a car caravan as group to multiple sites within the property. 45.08330° N, 93.16482° W

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 is required, and **begins March 30**. Attendance is limited to 25 people taken in the order replies are received. Email kryssa.schmidt@gmail.com your mobile phone number with the names of individuals in your party. PLEASE report any changes in numbers right away so those on the waitlist can enjoy this rare opportunity.

DIFFICULTY Ride in car caravan, get in and out of vehicles, travel short distances from vehicles on gravel, paved, or grassy surfaces. Outdoor toilets are very widely spaced across the site.

LEADERS Mary Lee, AHATS Environmental Protection Specialist with Krys Schmidt

St. Paul West Side Birding at the Riverview Library

1 George Street E, St. Paul, MN 55107

Thursday, May 22, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

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

DIRECTIONS Traveling east on I94, take exit 242D to merge onto US-52 S (this is the Lafayette Fwy); travel 1.8 miles; take the MN-156/Concord St. exit; travel 0.1 miles; turn right onto Cesar Chavez St; travel 0.7 miles to George St. E.; slight left onto George St E; travel 0.3 miles; destination on right. Meet in front of the Riverview Library. 44.93017495398102, -93.08467083933706

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 SPBA website after May 1]

DIFFICULTY We will start at the Riverview Library, walk around the neighborhood, and visit the bluffs and a small pocket park.

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

Birds, Bogs, Bees and Bantams

15280 Pilar Rd, Scandia, MN 55073

Saturday, May 31, 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



Scarlet Tanager, photo by Linda Steele

field trip with a demonstration of their hobby beekeeping and bantam chicken operations. Kiki Sonnen will also offer a Bird Sit and Sketch opportunity, drawing the goldfish pond, native water plants and migrating songbirds. Bring a sketchbook, camp stool and art supplies for this.

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)

Walks at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) - Nesting Areas and Related Happenings

1567 Ben Franklin Road, Arden Hills, MN
Friday, June 6, 7-9 AM

The Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) is a 2370-acre military training area for the Minnesota National Guard and Minnesota Department of Military Affairs.



Evening Grosbeak, photo by Putneypics

Its vast area and variety of habitats are also used for environmental and wildlife conservation programs. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded at the site.

Spring migration across the variety of AHATS habitats should be both exciting and very rewarding. 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. For all walks we will bird 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) onto Ben Franklin Rd and proceed about ¼ mile to the Ben Franklin gate. Meet inside the gate, roughly at 1567 Ben Franklin Road. We will proceed in a car caravan as group to multiple sites within the property. 45.08330° N, 93.16482° W

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 is required, and begins March 30. Attendance is limited to 25 people taken in the order replies are received. Email kryssa.schmidt@gmail.com your mobile phone number with the names of individuals in your party. PLEASE report any changes in numbers right away so those on the waitlist can enjoy this rare opportunity.

DIFFICULTY Ride in car caravan, get in and out of vehicles, travel short distances from vehicles on gravel, paved, or grassy surfaces. Outdoor toilets are very widely spaced across the site.

LEADERS Mary Lee, AHATS Environmental Protection Specialist with Rebecca Flood

Beginning Birding at Battle Creek Park

2350 Upper Afton Rd, Maplewood, MN 55119
Sunday, June 15, 8:00-10:00 AM

Come and learn about birding, including how to use binoculars and a field guide. St. Paul Bird Alliance 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 SPBA website after June 1]



Eastern Bluebird, photo by Michael Thomas

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.

LEADERS Monica Bryand 651-246-5522
mjrbryand@gmail.com and Cathy Groghan

Beginning Birding at Phalen and Round Lakes

1980 E. Shore Drive, Maplewood, MN 55109
Saturday, June 28, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

St. Paul Bird Alliance 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.

LEADER Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 Kesid@aol.com

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

Guided Birdwatching for People with Mobility Challenges

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center

3815 American Boulevard, East Bloomington, MN, 55425

Sunday, May 4, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Sunday, June 1, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

St. Paul Bird Alliance joins with the [Land of Lakes Bird Alliance](#) to offer this opportunity for spring birdwatching at the feeder, adjacent fields, and nearby overlook. This outing is appropriate for birders with a range of mobility challenges including birders who use wheelchairs, walkers, or canes, as well as those who walk slowly, but all birders are welcome. We expect to see many species of bird at close range. All birders from beginners to experienced are welcome.

INFORMATION Binoculars will be available for those who need them. Please dress for the weather.

DIRECTIONS We will meet at the bird feeder just behind the MVNWR Visitor Center (no need to enter the building). If it is raining, we will meet inside the Visitor Center. ([map](#)) 44.85993446292338, -93.21629161688313

REGISTRATION [Advance registration for this free event is required.](#)

DIFFICULTY The path is paved and has curb cuts from the parking lot. The path is wide, flat and there are no slopes. The bird feeder is just 400 feet from the handicap parking spaces. Disability parking spaces are available and accessible portable toilets are located nearby. There are a few benches near the bird feeder, so you may also wish to bring your own folding stool or chair.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Birdability® Mark Paller (palle001@umn.edu). More information about Birdability® at <https://www.birdability.org> or contact Mark Paller.

Please feel free to share this with your friends and family.

This event is hosted by Land of Lakes Bird Alliance and St. Paul Bird Alliance, and cosponsored by Birdability®

Grants in Action

Every year the Saint Paul Bird Alliance (SPBA) awards grants to organizations whose goals are aligned with ours, as an important way to expand the reach of our mission. Last fall the Board of Directors approved nine grants implementing projects that advance one or more of our critical areas of emphasis -- engagement, conservation and advocacy. (See pages 3-4 of the [December 2024-January 2025 issue](#) of the *Cardinal*, or [Grants in Action](#) on our website for more information.)

This spring the Board approved four more grants:

St. Croix Montessori School

Purchase binoculars and bird books to create educational opportunities for students related to ornithology and support an ongoing project, The Bluebird Nest Box Trail.

Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center

Complete a project to improve 16.1 acres of habitats by seeding short and mixed prairie grasses and native early successional habitat for Sharp-tailed Grouse, Golden-winged Warblers and many other birds.

Urban Bird Collective

Support 15 majority BIPOC folks to attend and participate in Warbler Weekend and lead 5-6 walks at various birding hotspots.

Saint Anthony Park Community Council

Jump-start a project to add a native plant orchard and pollinator garden at the St. Anthony Park Community Garden.

SPBA has invested nearly \$25,000 this fiscal year in these 13 grants – a major effort to accelerate progress toward our mission to engage a diverse community in enjoying, understanding, and protecting birds and the habitats all living beings need to thrive. Thank you to our donors who make this program possible.

Please note: This fall we are shifting to a single round of reviewing and accepting grants. Grant proposals will need to be submitted by September 15, 2025. The grant guidelines and applications form are posted [here](#). If you know of an organization that would be a good candidate for a grant, please let us know, using our [contact form](#) on the website.

SUNDAY BIKE & BIRD TRIPS FOR 2025!

**Our Bike & Bird roster is rolling out with 5 Sunday morning trips this year
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, June 8, 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.frogtownfarm.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.

Bike & Bird Saint Paul's Creative Enterprise Zone

993 Hampden Ave. W, St. Paul, MN 55114

Sunday, June 15, 8:00 AM to Noon

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** 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.

Sunday, June 22, 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 Kapoia 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



Photo by Luke Franke

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.

Bike & Bird Lilydale Regional Park, Pickerel Lake, and the Big Rivers Regional Trail
 950 Lilydale Rd, St Paul, MN 55118
 Sunday, July 13, 8:00 AM - Noon

Discover the fun of birding from a bicycle along two rivers, starting in Ramsey County at Lilydale Regional Park, along the Mississippi River, and riding into Dakota County on the Big Rivers Rail Trail along the Minnesota River. Route to edge of Snelling State Park in Mendota Heights is about 5 miles one way. Habitats include riverside, lake, wetland, urban forest.

LOCATION Lilydale Regional Park, 950 Lilydale Rd, St Paul, MN 55118 (44.917164726895734, -93.12492944537591)

DIRECTIONS This park does not have a close bus/transit stop; closest bus is #62. Parking is available.

INFORMATION Bring bicycle, helmet, binoculars, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and water. Leader will bring a first aid kit, and may bring a scope. If you plan to add on any hiking or kayaking, bring a bike lock. If you plan to bike entire route, bring a picnic lunch.

REGISTRATION Required and limited to 8 participants. Contact sherrygray@yahoo.com to register. Participants will be asked to sign a liability release form at the start of the trip.

DIFFICULTY Route is mostly level and paved, but there may be a city street crossing to access the Big

Rivers Regional Trail. The pace will be relaxed. Birders and bicyclists of all levels, including newbies, very welcome to join.

LEADER Sherry Gray sherrygray@yahoo.com

Sunday, July 27, 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)

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.