



Saint Paul Bird Alliance

Board of Directors Minutes Monday, December 1, 2025, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

**Amherst H. Wilder Conference Center
451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104
Conference Room 2510**

1) Welcome and Call to Order

The Saint Paul Bird Alliance Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, December 1, 2025. President Kiki Sonnen called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. Those attending were Vice-President Debbie Brown, Treasurer Neil Carlson, Secretary Amanda Rice, Monica Bryand, Lucas Lin, and Craig Cox.

2) Approve Last Month's Minutes, Communications Update

Neil motioned to approve minutes with one revision, Craig seconded. Unanimously approved.

Amanda plans to adjust future monthly Cardinal releases to go the day before the monthly program. Then registration information on the monthly program will go out the day before the program and be combined with the rest of the newsletter.

3) Treasurers Report - Neil Carlson

Neil provided the following update on our current assets as of December 1, 2025.

- US Bank Checking: \$14,789.74
- US Bank Savings: \$13,441.39
- US Bank Certificate: \$17,088.14 – Maturity date is July 10, 2026
- TruStone Certificate: \$35,408.77

Give to the max: \$2,665 in donations from 43 contributors. This compares with \$1,928 from 43 contributors last year. Neil drafted a thank you note to donors, and Greg Burnes emailed it out to them.

4) Grants Program - Craig Cox

The Friends of Maplewood Nature Center has an unused balance of \$514.02 due to discounts received on native plant purchases. They are looking for permission to use the balance for 3 interpretive signs next to the pollinator garden. Debbie moved to approve this plan, Neil seconded. Unanimously approved.

Frogtown Green will not exist as an organization after December 30, 2025. Withdrawing grant proposal for this current round. Craig will reach out to them for details.

Craig created a table of applicants summarizing the requests. The Board reviewed each item on the table, aiming to distribute up to \$15,000. Neil moved to approve the grants, Craig seconded. Unanimously approved.

5) Winter Bird Count (aka Christmas Bird Count) - Kiki Sonnen

Kiki reports the Winter Bird Count is set for the 20th of December. The plan is to announce we are looking for a volunteer coordinator at the December program.

6) Hamline Undergrad Student Congress (HUSC) - Neil Carlson

Tuesday, November 18: Kiki and Neil met with the Hamline Undergraduate Student Council (HUSC) at the Giddens Learning Center, Room 100E, 1556 Hewitt Avenue, St Paul 55104. 5 minutes to talk about SPBA and our work on getting bird safe glass / buildings into zoning and building codes. Spent most of the time listening to what students are thinking / feeling/ doing about bird strikes.

7) Report on City Council Public Hearing regarding bird safe glass - Kiki Sonnen

Wednesday November 19: St Paul City Council public hearing at 3:30 pm. SPBA, Friends of the Mississippi River, neighborhood district council reps, and bird lovers spoke about the need for bird safe glass and lighting in zoning & building codes.

8) Conservation Committee Updates - Debbie Brown & Monica Bryand

Working on 2026 plans, connected with Landscape Revival.

9) Calendar of events - Kiki Sonnen

Kiki sent the board a list of 2026 events (81 so far). Working with Sweeney's for monthly dates.

10) Motion to Adjourn

Neil moved to adjourn at 6:22 pm. Debbie seconded the motion. oThe motion was unanimously approved.

Draft 2026 Bird Alliance Events

January 1 - Welcome the New Year - see Eagles at Kaposia Landing, South St Paul, 11 am -2 pm

January 5 - National Bird Day - Watch the Feeders at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from inside the Visitor Center and/or go for a short walk along the trail. 11 am -2 pm

January 8 - Bird Alliance Zoom program with author Sue Leaf speaking about T.S. Roberts, pioneer birder 7 pm

January 21 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

February 12 - Zoom Bird Alliance Program, 7 pm

February Friday the 13 - Great Backyard Bird Count, location TBD, 11 am - 2 pm

February 23 - Owl Prowl #1, Arden Hills Army Training Site, (move up 2 weeks? To 2/9)

February 24 - Winter Birding, Silverwood Park, New Brighton, 2 - 4 pm

February 24 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

February 24 - Owl Prowl #2, Arden Hills Army Training Site, (move up 2 weeks? To 2/10)

March 3 - World Wildlife Day, Pig's Eye Park, St Paul, 9:30 - 11:30 am

March 12 - Zoom Bird Alliance Program - Hope Flanagan, 7 pm

March 17 - Early Spring Birding, Silverwood Park, New Brighton, 2 - 4 pm

March 18 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

March 21 - Spring Equinox Birding, Pig's Eye, St Paul 9:30 - 11:30 am

April 9 - Zoom - Bird Alliance Program, 7 pm

April 9,10, 11 - Wood Cock displays, Rush City, Chisago County 7:30 - 9 pm

April 14 - Spring Birds, Silverwood Park, New Brighton, 2 -4 pm

April 15 - Woodcock displays #1, AHATS, Arden Hills, 8-10 pm

April 22 - Earth Day Woodcock displays #2, AHATS, Arden Hills, 8-10 pm

April 25 - Migrant birds at Fish Creek, Maplewood, 9 - 11:30 am

April 28 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

May 2 - Woods Birds, Katherine Abbott Park, Mahtomedi, 8:30 - 10:30 am

May 3 - Warblers & Waterfowl, Old Cedar Bridge, Bloomington, 7:30 - 11 am

May 3 - Birdability - Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington 11 am - 12:30 pm
(co-sponsored Bird Ability)

May 5 - Migration - Snail Lake, Shoreview, 8 - 10 am

May 8,9,10 - Warbler Weekend, Lake City

May 12 - Migration - Crosby Park, St Paul, 7 -9 am (co-sponsor St Paul Libraries - hold PR til 5/1 or later)

May 12 - Warblers - Silverwood Park, New Brighton, 2 - 4 pm

May 14 - In-Person Bird Alliance Program, Roseville 7 pm

May 13, 14, 15 - Open for Birding, Arden Hills Army Training Site, 7:30 - 11:30 am

May 16 - Twin Cities Bird Festival, Mississippi River Gateway Park, Brooklyn Park, 9am - 2 pm
(numerous co-sponsors)

May 16 - Woodland Birds, Lebanon Hills, 8 - 10 am

May 17 - Birds of Swede Hollow, St Paul 9 - 11 am (multiple co-sponsors, Friends of Swede Hollow, Friends of St Paul & Ramsey County Parks)

May 18 - Spring Migration, AHATS, Arden Hills, 7 - 9 am

May 19 - Birds of the Wetlands, Maplewood Nature Center, 7 - 9 am

May 20 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 7 pm

May 21 - West Side Birding, Public Library, 6 - 7:30 pm (co-sponsor St Paul Libraries - hold PR til 5/15 or later)

May 23 - Female Bird Day - sketching birds, Frogtown Park, 9 - 11 am

May 24 - Bird Ability, Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge Wildlife Refuge, 11 - 12:30 pm (co-sponsor Birdability)

May 26 - Songbirds , William O'Brien State Park, 7 - 9 am

May 30 - Birds, Bogs, Bantams, Scandia, 7:30 - 10:30 am

June 1 - Board meeting, 5 pm

June 2 - June Birds , Afton State Park, 7 - 9 am

June 5 - Nesting Birds, AHATS, Arden Hills, 7 - 9 am

June 6 - tabling at Landscape Revival, Lake Elmo, 8 am - 2 pm

June 9 - Grassland Birds, Battle Creek, Maplewood , 7 - 9 am

June 14 - Let's Go Birding, Battle Creek Park, St Paul, 8 - 10 am (co-sponsor Sun Ray St Paul Libraries - hold PR til 6/1 or later)

June 16 - Nesting Birds, Silverwood Park, New Brighton , 7 -9 am

June 17 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

June 20 - Grassland Birds #2, Battle Creek, Maplewood, 7 - 9 am

June 21 - Summertime Solstice Birding , Crosby Park,

7 - 9 am (co-sponsor St Paul's Highland Park Library - hold PR til 6/15 or later)

June 22 - Bird Alliance Volunteer Appreciation Party, Como Park, 4:30 -7:30 pm

June 23 - Ravine Birding, Reservoir Woods, Roseville , 7 - 9 am

June 27 - Let's Go Lake Birding, Phalen & Round Lakes, Maplewood, 9 - 11 am

June 30 - Grassland Birds, Maplewood, 7 - 9 am

(HOLD for ok from John Zakej - needs DOC clearance) OR Kestrel Birding, Pig's Eye , St Paul 9:30 - 11:30 am

July 3 - celebrate US Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, location & time to be determined,

July 5 - Let's Go Birding, Phalen & Round Lakes, Maplewood, 8 - 10 am

July 7 - Grassland Birds 7-9 (HOLD until J. Zakelj gets clearance) and/ or Pig's Eye grassland birds 9:30 - 11:30

July 11 - Butterfly Count, AHATS, 10 - Noon

July 18 - Let's Go Birding, Crosby Park, St Paul, 8 -10 am

July 28 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

August 8 - Trail Birding, Bruce Vento Trail, Maplewood, 9 - 11 am

August 16 - Late Summer Birding at Phalen & Round Lakes, Maplewood, 8 - 10 am
(co-sponsored UBC, Arlington-Hills Library - hold PR until Aug 1)

August 19 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

September 5 - Fall Migrants, Battle Creek grasslands, Maplewood 9 - 11 am

September 10 - Birds Alliance Program, 7 pm

September 16 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5 :30 pm

September 19 - Fall Migrants, Swede Hollow, St. Paul 9 - 11 am (**multiple co-sponsors- Friends of Swede Hollow, Dayton's Bluff Library, Friends of St Paul & Ramsey County Parks & Trails**)

September 22 - Green Darner Migration - Pig's Eye, St Paul, 9:30 - 11:30 am

October 8 - Bird Alliance Program, 7 pm

October 13 - Waterfowl Watching- Point Douglas Park, Prescott, WI, 10 - Noon

October 20 - Sandhill Cranes - Crex Meadows, 4 -8 pm

October 27 - Birds & Beers - Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

November 12 - Bird Alliance Program, 7 pm

November 18 - Birds & Beers, Sweeney's, 5:30 pm

November 27 - Black Friday Big Lake Birding, 10 am - 2 pm

December 10 - Bird Alliance Program, 7 pm

December 19 - St Paul's Winter Bird Count, dawn to dusk. Party at 6 pm