

The



Cardinal

APRIL MAY 2009 • WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.NET • SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL MEMBER MEETING

Four Decades of Raptor Banding on the North Shore

with Frank Taylor, Falconer

April 9, 2009

Frank Taylor's passion for falconry has taken him all over the world, including trips to Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. But every autumn finds him back in his blind located on the edge of a hay field just off the North Shore of Lake Superior. With the help of a lucky few volunteers, Taylor catches and bands hawks and falcons during their annual fall migration.

In the past 39 years he has banded more than 3,000 birds of prey and has been featured on several local and national television programs. An entertaining speaker, Taylor will share what he's learned from his shoreline banding program and is bound to slip in some details from his world travels.

Taylor, who was the first curator of education birds for The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, traces his interest in raptors to a drawing he made of an eagle when he was in the third grade.



MERLIN PHOTO FROM USFWS ONLINE IMAGE LIBRARY

MAY MEMBER MEETING

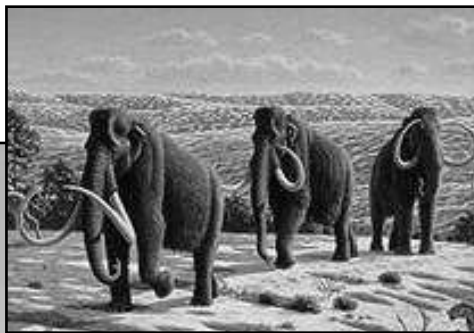
Ice Age Extinctions: Climate Change and Human Migration

with David L. Fox, Paleontologist
University of Minnesota

May 14, 2009

David L. Fox's presentation will describe the global patterns of mammal extinction over the last 50,000 years and the possible roles of climate change and humans' hunting culture. Extinctions during and at the end of the last Ice Age coincided with major climate changes and the global migration of modern Homo sapiens out of Eurasia.

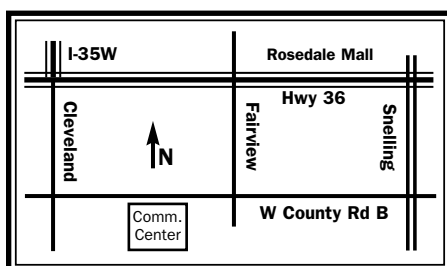
"It is critical to understand the record of environmental changes locally and globally and the possible role of humans in driving extinctions then, as we now are facing climate changes of a similar magnitude over a much shorter time period," says Fox, associate professor, department of geology and geophysics at the University of Minnesota.



Woolly Mammoth from online image library

The Siberian Woolly Mammoth will be featured in Fox's talk, with reference to his geochemical measurements of the creature's tusks. He has also worked with mammoth and mastodon tusks from North America.

For a "Whooping Big" Lot of Info about Ramsey County's way cool Spring Bird Party, (see p. 7!)



Our meetings begin at 6:45 with social time, 7:00 PM for the program, at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, in Roseville. Free and open to the public. Free parking available. *Bring a friend!*

LEADER ROSTER; PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Fund Drive Donors

Thank you all so much for your kind and continued support of Saint Paul Audubon. To get an idea of how your donations are spent, see the proposed Annual Budget on p. 3. The Chapter appreciates every donation.

Cardinal Level (\$100 and above): Craig Anderson, Steve Bachman & Joann Pfeiffer, Deb Bachrach, Charlotte Bronker, H. Mean Cavert, Diane Clayton, Val Cunningham & Rog Bergerson, Gordon Davis, Dean Doering, Frances Heinselmann, Kristine Legler Kaplan, Alan & Patsy Kuentz, Chuck & Hope Lea, Lee Lewis, Jim Lindner, Tom & Sue McCarthy, Dan & Nancy McGuinness, JoAnn Morse, JoAnn Nelson, Richard & Joan Newmark, Roger Peters, Robert Titzler, Bea Sieber, Fred & Dorothy Waltz, Jean C. Wirsig, Barb & Cal Wojahn.

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Riverine Flyways

It is 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 1st, 2009. I am looking at a hole in a white oak tree, 20 ft. above the ground. The hole is located where a branch once was. Now it is an opening, about the size of my fist. If this spring is like others, eventually a pair of Wood Ducks will one day appear in the branches nearby. They will ponder whether to use this old squirrel nest as a home. It has happened before.

I imagine myself as a Wood Duck coming up the Mississippi River flyway. Just south of here, its flight brings it to the confluence with the St. Croix River. Which fork in the migratory flyway will it choose? If it chooses the Mississippi, in another 33 river miles it comes to the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota

Rivers. Which corridor will it choose?!

While Minnesota is a land of lakes, the Twin Cities, to me, is a land of rivers. We have 3 big ones; each has a very special federal designation. The *Mississippi National River and Recreation Area* is 72 miles of river valley and 54,000 acres of non-federal, but designated lands. The *St. Croix National Scenic Riverway* is 252 miles of river and 97,573 acres of designated lands; as well as much of the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. The *Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge* is 45 miles of river valley and 14,000 acres of designated lands.

While the Wood Ducks coming up the Mississippi River flyway may not know that they are approaching more

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www.mn.audubon.org

ABOUT OUR CHAPTER

Founded in 1945 as the 'St. Paul Bird Club' with around 12 members, Saint Paul Audubon Society now serves the entire East Metro region of the Twin Cities area, and has around 2,000 members. We hold 9 Member Meetings a year. Feel free to contact anyone listed for more information, or write to Saint Paul Audubon Society at PO Box 7275, Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55107-7275 or visit our website at

www.saintpaulaudubon.net

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

The Cardinal is published 6 times. Copy is due on the **5th** of **January, March, May, July, Sept,** and **Nov.** Send copy to hpbirdscouter@msn.com All submissions are subject to editing.

If you are an Audubon member and don't live in the Saint Paul area, but would like to receive *The Cardinal*, send \$15 for a year's subscription to **John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119**

Please call **1-800-274-4201** to change your address for National Audubon Society mailings, including *Audubon Magazine* and *The Cardinal*, or to sign up for Audubon's **paper-free renewal program.**

National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

MAY ANNUAL MEETING — TOPICS FOR ELECTION

than 165,000 acres of federally-protected habitat along these three rivers on their way to my white oak tree, *we* are most thankful that local, state and federal leaders have, over the years, persistently gone about the business of recognizing the multiple values of our region's rivers. These three river corridors — each are different, but all are important habitat — for us and for the more than 300 bird species that make their summer homes here.

Please take a moment out of your day to contact the staff at each of these three great places and thank them for their hard work — and urge your federal elected officials to keep appropriating the annual funds that these three birding havens need to continue to do their work.

Dan McGuiness, President

Nominating Committee Slate for 2009-2010

OFFICERS

President, Open.

Vice President, John O'Connell: SPAS member since 1985. Past SPAS Treasurer, board. Computer system designer. Birder, nature volunteer.

Secretary, Tess Rizzard: Member of SPAS for five years, board since 2006. Tess is a 2ND grade teacher in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Treasurer, Richard Newmark: Current Treasurer. Retired chemist, active in energy conservation and sustainability issues.

BOARD

Craig Andresen: Past President, SPAS member since 1991, monitors 400 bluebird nest boxes at the arsenal in Arden Hills. Owns Natural Resources Restoration, Inc., does prescribed burns, on public lands. Employs state Sentence to Service Crews.

Dean Doering: Member of SPAS 10 - 20 years. Strong interest in creating new habitat in personal landscapes with an emphasis on native plants.

2009-2010 Proposed Budget Highlights

The *Projected Income* for 2009-2010 is projected to be about \$1,000 lower than this fiscal year due to projected decreases in investment interest and a small decline in contributions.

The *Expenses* for 2009-2010 are essentially the same as last year, except that \$3,600 has been included in the Website expense to cover anticipated expenses to complete the project, which began in March 2009.

Since the budget shows a \$6,605 deficit, the Board elected not to continue the Grants program next year. The grants program was to be funded from a bequest received in 2006; instead the bequest will be used to fund the development of the new Website. Any other losses will be funded from reserves.

Richard Newmark, SPAS Treasurer

Tania Homayoun: Dr. Candidate in Conservation Biology at U of MN; Former Quality analyst. Interests: Greening cities and suburbs, animal behavior, gardening, and music.

Bonnie Sample: Past President. 10-year SPAS member. Conservation Biologist. Currently Coordinator of the 5-yr *Breeding Bird Survey* for Audubon Minnesota.

Paul Spreitzer: Board member since 2006. Serves on Audit Committee. Also leads SPAS field trips. Teaches 4TH grade in Hopkins.

Cheri Steinmueller: SPAS member. Avid birder. Participates in CBC, Field Trips, Summer Birding Class for Kids, Urban Bird Fest in Ramsey Co.

Laurel Stiebler: Member of SPAS for 5 years. Lifelong outdoor enthusiast and long-time Girl Scouts leader. Retired from state gov't service.

Jenny Vitale: Current Board Member. Office/Finance Manager at Audubon Minnesota. Free time is spent outdoors with her family.

2009-2010 Proposed Budget

Approved by Board on March 2, 2009

INCOME

Christmas Bird Count	.....\$480
Education Committee	.....\$375
Field Trips & Events	.....\$8,460
Total Committee Income	.....\$9,315
Endowment Fund Contribution	.....\$800
Operating Fund Contribution	.....\$6,000
Total Donations Income	.....\$6,800
Dues from National Audubon	.....\$6,000
Local Dues	.....\$600
Total Dues Income	.....\$6,600
Grants/Div's. from Endwmnt Fund	.....\$1,800
Interest & Dividend Income	.....\$1,900
Total Grants/Dividends Income	\$3,700
TOTAL 2007-2008 Income	...\$26,415

EXPENSES

Conferences	.....\$100
Annual Fund Drive	.....\$500
Membership Recruitment	.....\$300
Miscellaneous & Contingency	.....\$200
Operating Expenses	.....\$400
Telephone Line	.....\$500
Website	.....\$3,600
Total Admin. & Ops. Expenses	\$5,600
Birdathon & Butterfly Count	.....\$300
Christmas Bird Count	.....\$325
Conservation Committee	.....\$500
Education Committee	.....\$500
Field Trips & Warbler Weekend	.....\$9,000
Programs	.....\$2,500
State Fair	.....\$200
Total Progs & Field Trip Exp.	\$13,325
Newsletter Design, Supplies	.....\$1,250
Labels & Postage	.....\$1,870
Printing	.....\$9,000
Total Newsletter Expenses	...\$12,120
Audubon Minnesota	.....\$1,000
Other Orgs.: MEP, MOU	.....\$175
Total Support to Orgs. Exp.	...\$1,175
Transfer to Endowment	.....\$800
TOTAL 2007-2008 Expenses	\$33,020

Leaving the leadership are **Dan McGuiness**, President, **Liz Harper**, Board, **Ken Harris**, Board, and **Ron Winch**, Board. *We thank them very much for their time and expertise while leading our Chapter.*

FIELD TRIPS

EXPLORERS!

Outdoor Family Walks

Bring a youngster of 10 years or older to explore the out-of-doors during two-hour field-walks with Chase Davies! **There is always something going on outside!** The goal is to see, hear, smell, touch, and talk about those happenings. Please contact Chase to register youths over 10 and their accompanying adults. No fee, just need to know numbers attending. Remember to dress in layers of clothing and wear sturdy footwear.

Sunday, April 19, 8:00 AM

Reservoir Woods, Roseville

Parking lot is on north side of Larpenteur Avenue between Rice and Dale, with sign that says "Woodview County Open Space." Bring binoculars or borrow some from Chase.

In May there won't be a Family Walk. Instead, you are encouraged to help youngsters participate in the **YOUTH BIRDING FESTIVAL, MAY 2, AT LOWRY NATURE CENTER**, and some of the many offerings of the **RAMSEY CO. URBAN BIRD FEST, MAY 13-18.** (see article on p. 7 of this Cardinal).

Saturday, June 20, 8:00 AM

Snail Lake Regional Park, Shoreview

From 694, go north on Victoria to the stop sign at Snail Lake Blvd (an extension of County Road F). Turn east onto Snail Lake Blvd and follow it around until you can see the lake. Meet in the parking lot at lake level, at beach near boat ramp.

Level Easy
Leader Chase Davies
651-633-1663
ccdavies@aol.com

Waterfowl Migration on East Metro Lakes

Saturday, April 4

Join us as we explore several lakes to look for migrating loons, grebes, mergansers and ducks. We'll carpool from St. Paul Sears and drive from site to site. The final itinerary will depend on what lakes are open, perhaps all in Ramsey Co., perhaps the Mississippi River or Dakota Co. as well. Directions will be provided at Sears. Bring food and drink if you like. We will end by midafternoon at the latest. Bring your scope if you have one. No Fee, no res. req'd.

Level Easy
Carpool 8:00 AM, St. Paul Sears
Leader Clay Christensen
651-631-0949, C: 612-619-2580
clay.christensen@comcast.net

Early Migrants, Dakota Co.

Saturday, April 18

Join us for an early-season visit to a couple of well-known birding locales in southern Dakota County: Miesville Ravine with its woodland habitat, and Lake Byllesby, where we should find waterfowl, shorebirds, and other open-country birds.

Level Easy
Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears
Leader Julian Sellers
JulianSellers@msn.com (pref)
651-698-5737

Birds & Blooms at Nerstrand "Big Woods" State Park

Saturday, April 25

There is nothing as sublime as a fine spring day at Nerstrand. Kinglets, Red-headed Woodpeckers and other migrants; Bloodroot, Ginger; all will be made much of. **DIRECTIONS:** Park is SE of Northfield, about 1-1/2 hours from St. Paul. Take I-35 to Ex. #69, take MN 19 into Northfield. At junct. with Hwy 3, go So. 1/2 mi. to Hwy 246, then drive another ~ 10 mi., following signs to the Park. Meet in main **P** lot at 8:30 AM. *Fee Area: Annual or Daily State Park sticker.* No Res. Req'd. Bring your hiking staff to help on the bluff trail. You *don't* want to miss these spring ephemerals!! Practice using the macro button on your digital camera!! Bring lunch; we usually watch blue-birds and Red-headed Woodpeckers while we eat! Last year it snowed, but we still enjoyed ourselves!!

Level Moderate: Bluff Descent
Leaders Chase Davies, 651-636-1663 ccdavies@aol.com; and Holly Peirson, 651-464-6743, hpbirdscouter@msn.com

Woodcock Courtship Flights

Arden Hills Army Training Site

Tuesday, May 5, 8:00-10:00 PM

The American Woodcock's courting display involves death-defying dives from heights beyond imagination straight down to the ground. He does it only at dusk and dawn, so it's very hard to see. And, even though his wings make a trilling vibration, it's hard to tell where he is. Sound like a snipe hunt?! We have permission to be on the Arden Hills Army Training Site, a secure facility, so we'll carpool from Shoreview City Hall. Roads can be dusty or muddy. Bring a flashlight and binoculars. We may be sitting in one spot for a while, so dress warmly. Kids are very welcome provided they can be relatively still and quiet.

Level Easy
Meet Arden Hills City Hall, W. of Lexington & Hwy 96, **8:00 pm**
Leaders Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737
Clay Christensen, 651-631-0949

• SUN • MOON • RAIN • STARS •

Birds • Kids • Summer

• Como Streetcar Station •

June 22-26 • Field Trips

• Bluebird Nests • plumage •

• Habitat • Migration •

9-12:00 AM • Species Fun

• bird houses • art projects •

• STARS • SUN • MOON • RAIN •

Please Volunteer!! Call Education Chair Steve Johnson at 651-776-0104 or end email to csrockclimb@yahoo.com

FIELD TRIPS & CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Saint Paul Audubon's Annual Spring Warbler Weekend

May 8-10, 2009

Birders are aware that some of the world's best birding is available right here in Minnesota! A great location is along the Mississippi River's flyway near Frontenac State Park and Lake Pepin. In addition to informal birding, there are also bird walks specifically designed for beginners. Enjoy watching Chimney Swifts as they gather, then enter the Villa's chimney at dusk. There are owl walks both evenings. Registration is limited to SPAS members until April 10TH, then open to all on a first-come first-serve basis. (For full article, download the Feb-Mar Cardinal from SPAS Website.) To sign up, fill out & send form. For more info, contact Deb

Bachrach, at 651-690-4130 or deb.bachrach@yahoo.com



Six Frogs A-Callin'

Snail Lake Regional Park, Grass Lake Area, Shoreview

Saturday, May 9, 8:30 PM

Frogs & Toads are biological indicator species. Their skin is so thin and porous that even the smallest amounts of chemicals can change their physiology. Knowing which species are calling is a *great skill* to have, so let's all get out and learn to identify our local frogs and toads by their calls!! Meet at 8:30 PM at the Grass Lake parking lot on the So. side of the corner of Gramsie Rd and MaKubin St. Bring a flashlight. Wear bug repellent and water resistant footwear. The guided walk takes about 1 hour.

Leader **Karen Eckman, 651-483-8460**
k.eckman@comcast.net

Bass Ponds & Old Cedar Ave

Saturday, May 16

One of the very best birding locales in the state, and very close to St. Paul! We will take the path from the Bass Ponds west to the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, after having shuttled a few of the cars.

Meet at Sears by 7:30 AM, or at the Bass Ponds upper parking lot at 8:00 AM. (Carpooling from Sears is *recommended* due to the small size of the Bass Ponds lot.) To get to Bass Ponds, take 24TH Ave. exit from I-494, and go south (along east side of MOA). Turn left at 86TH Street, then veer left at the fork (sign).

Level Easy
Carpool Please try to meet at Sears!
Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309
paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

Warbler Weekend Registration Form

Quantity	Options	Amount
___	Full Wknd Adultsgl \$170 .shr \$140	\$ _____
___	1 night+3 Sat. meals . .sgl \$110 .shr \$95	\$ _____
___	Sat eve+4 mealssgl \$115 .shr \$105	\$ _____
___	Child -12 (w/meals) . .ea ngt \$55 wkd \$105	\$ _____
___	Saturday Breakfast8:00 AM \$8	\$ _____
___	Saturday LunchNOON \$10	\$ _____
___	Saturday Dinner6:00 PM \$12	\$ _____
___	Sunday Brunch10:00 AM \$10	\$ _____
___	Camp (no elec.) \$20 -ea nt + \$35/4 meals	\$

(Prices include registration fee. No refunds for missed meals.)

Total (check payable to Saint Paul Audubon) \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day phone _____ Evening phone _____

Names of People attending _____

Send check to Saint Paul Audubon Society,
c/o Deb Bachrach, 1163 Edgcombe Rd., St. Paul, MN 55105.
Checks will be held until April 25. No refunds after May 1.
For more information please call Deb Bachrach at 651-690-4130
or send email to **deb.bachrach@yahoo.com**

Tuesday Mornings in May for Early Birds!

Our popular "early bird" walks are held during spring migration and the start of nesting season. Meet at site. Walks are from 7:00 to 9:00 AM. Call leader for questions. Please join us!



May 5 Thompson County Park, West St. Paul, Dakota Co. 360 Butler Ave E. Go west from Hwy 52 on Butler; meet at SE corner of parking lot. Chase Davies, 651-633-1663

May 12 Rice Creek North, Arden Hills. Parking lot on north side of County Road I, east of I-35W. Chase Davies, 651-633-1663; and Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737

May 19 Crosby Park, Saint Paul. Access from Shepherd Rd., St. Paul. Meet at farthest parking lot. Chase Davies, 651-633-1663; Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737

May 26 Reservoir Woods, Roseville. Parking is on No. side of Larpenteur between Rice and Dale, sign says "Woodview County Open Space." Val Cunningham, 651-645-5230; Clay Christensen, 651-631-0409

June 2 Restored Benson Prairie, White Bear Lake, Ramsey Co. Park in boat launch parking west of Hwy 61, So. of Cty J on Frontage Rd. Val Cunningham, 651-645-5230; Clay Christensen, 651-631-0409

June 9 Battle Creek East, Maplewood. Parking is on No. side of Lower Afton Rd, E. of McKnight Rd. Julian Sellers, 651-698-5737

FIELD TRIPS THE EDUCATION OF A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Woodland Birds

Saturday, May 30

Lebanon Hills Regional Park (near the MN Zoo), is a terrific place to look for migrant songbirds! Join us for a morning of birding at this beautiful 100-acre park in Eagan. We'll hike the woodland, meadow, and lakeside trails. Recent sightings in this area are Canada and Mourning Warblers, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush. We will carpool from Sears in St. Paul, and meet at the Holland Lake entrance, at the intersection of Lexington and Cliff Road.

Level Easy to Medium (the hills!)
 Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears or 7:30 AM at the Park
 Leader Paul Spreitzer, 651-646-6309 paul.spreitzer@gmail.com

Birding By Ear, Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve

Saturday, June 6, 7:00 AM to NOON

The hardwood forest at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve near Savage is one of the very finest of birding sites in the Metro area. We'll focus on the songs and calls of birds on their nesting territories. Residents include Hooded, Cerulean, Mourning, and Blue-winged Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager. This outing can be rigorous, with muddy trails, hills, and biting insects. We'll be in the field for up to five hours (you may leave earlier), so bring water and snacks. Return to Saint Paul around 12:30 PM. **DIRECTIONS:** South from St. Paul on I-35E to Hwy 42. West on 42 about 2 miles. At the bottom of the hill, go left onto Burnsville Parkway. Continue for about 2 miles, turn left on Hwy 75, then immediately left into the parking lot.

Level Medium
 Carpool 7:00 AM, SW corner of Sears or 7:30 AM at the Park
 Leader JulianSellers@msn.com (pref) 651-698-5737 (Call if need info)

PROJECT ACT

(Audubon Conservation Teams)

Recently the Conservation Committee began PROJECT ACT, an initiative designed for SPAS members interested in "on-the-ground" involvement to help our native birds. PROJECT ACT may include bird surveys, habitat documentation, planting native plants, removing invasive species and making our backyards more bird friendly. Here are more opportunities.

It's Time to Count Cranes!

Saturday, April 18, 5:30 - 7:30 AM

The Sandhill Cranes are back in Minnesota and beginning breeding rituals. Each year, International Crane Foundation (ICF) asks crane counters to spend 2 hours in April to scout for breeding cranes. Devoted counters

in Ramsey County have found likely locations, and are always looking for new recruits. This is a great way to work with experienced volunteers if you are not familiar with Cranes.

Skills: novice to expert. Review crane calls, then look and listen. Cost: Free!

For more info go to: <http://www.savingcranes.org/counterinformation.html>

For Ramsey Co., contact Bonnie Sample, basample@visi.com to join the team. Coordinators are available to answer your questions in Chisago and Hennepin counties, also. If you are interested in other counties, contact the ICF and consider becoming a County Coordinator.

⚡ Predatory Windows' are lethal to birds

Birds and windows simply don't mix: pit a flying bird against a sheet of glass and the glass will win every time. Window strikes occur because trees and sky get reflected in glass, or they can see through to the scenery beyond. Some window strikes occur as the result of hawks driving frightened birds toward windows.

Window strikes kill hundreds of millions of bird each year, causing head injuries and broken bones. Windows pose a major problem, but we can help stop the carnage. There are things we can do to lessen window problems at home.

Bird-Proofing Your Windows

1. The "rule of 3 or 30." Place feeders and birdbaths *more* than 30 feet away from or to *within* 3 feet of windows. Distance adds to their avoidance time; proximity prevents birds from building killing momentum.
2. Make windows look less like the outdoors by breaking up the expanse. Raptor silhouette decals work, if you attach enough of them to break the glass into small sections. Or, put up spider-web appliques, which your kids will love. Paint the glass with a large plaid pattern of fluorescent & Glow-in-the-dark water-based craft paint. You will be able to see through it if your stripes are narrow.
3. A sure-fire protection is hanging mesh netting across the outside of frequently hit windows. If birds hit the netting, they just bounce off. Hang an old storm window screen or screen door in front of a particularly lethal window.
4. Try other ways to break up a window's reflectivity, such as hanging a tree branch in front of it; spray fake snow in the corners; rub on some leftover suds from washing the car; hang Mylar strips, shiny pie plates, or CDs that move in the breeze.

SPAS Conservation Committee Members
 Bonnie Sample and Val Cunningham

Youth Birding Festival

Saturday, May 2nd, 3:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Lowry Nature Center

Experts will lead several sessions throughout the day. Join in bird hikes through forest, grassland, and wetland habitats. Learn about and participate in banding live songbirds. Explore digital nature photography, techno-birding and birding on bikes. This event is co-sponsored by Audubon Minnesota and the MOU, and is for beginner and intermediate birders. See www.moumn.org for more information, or call 763-694-7650

Reservations req'd. Program for ages 10-19. Price: \$5

Urban Bird Fest Promises Free Fun for Everyone!

Mark your calendars for a fun and free celebration of springtime birds, the Urban Bird Fest of Ramsey County

May 13-18, 2009

Everyone is invited to attend as much of this six-day event as they can, especially kids and their families! Billed as "Where Birds and People Meet," the festival welcomes everyone from brand new to experienced birders to view the many interesting birds found in St. Paul and the surrounding area.



The Saint Paul Audubon Society-sponsored festival kicks off on May 13 with a free tour of a local golf course that's also a nature sanctuary. The annual Bird Fest Dinner, on May 16, one of the few events with a fee, features "The Birdman of Lauderdale" offering tips for attracting birds to your yard. And Sunday, May 17, there are bird walks and birding-by-canoe at a local lake. The bird walks are led by experienced birders, many of whom are Saint Paul Audubon members. • Check the schedule below and plan to attend as many sessions as you can!!

This is the Urban Bird Fest's fourth year and it's BIGGER and BETTER than ever!

Schedule

Wednesday, May 13

7:30 -9:00 AM Keller Golf Course Bird Walk
Terrain = 1.5 miles, flat, partly paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

Thursday, May 14

8:00-9:30 AM Rice Creek Trail Bird Walk
Terrain = 2 miles, flat, paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

7:30-9:00 AM Tamarack Woodcock Bird Walk
Terrain = 1 mile, flat, partly paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

Friday, May 15

8:00-9:30 AM Como Park Bird Walk
Terrain = 1mile, rolling, partly paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

11:30 - 1:00 PM Osprey Nest Obs. at Josephine
Eagle Nest Obs. at Keller
Terrain = stationary, adjacent to parking; Birding skills = beginner

Saturday, May 16

8:00-9:30 AM Reservoir Woods Bird Walk
Terrain = 1 mile, flat, paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

8:00-9:30 AM Crosby Park Bird Walk
Terrain = 1 mile, flat, turf
Birding skills = begin-intermed-expert

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Birding Central!**
Harriet Alexander Nature Center

Displays – By Groups such as St. Paul Audubon, Audubon Minnesota, MOU, the DNR's Non-game Program, & Bell Museum

Books –

Demos – Binoculars: Wild Bird Store
Bird Banding

10:00 AM

Wetland Walk

11:00 AM

Kids & Family Walk

Noon

Spring Migrants Walk

1:00 PM

Kids & Family Walk

Terrain = up to 1 mile, flat, partly paved, boardwalk; Birding skills = begin-intermd

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Ramsey County Bird Fest Dinner (fee)* Roseville Lutheran Church

Featuring well-known birder and writer Clay Christensen, "The Birdman of Lauderdale," speaking on 'Yard Birds: Attracting and Identifying Them'

Sunday, May 17

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Battle Creek Bird Walk

Terrain = 2 miles, flat, paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

8:00 - 9:30 AM

St. Paul Campus & St. Anthony Park Bird Walk

Terrain = 1.5 miles, flat, partly paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

8:00 - 10:00 AM

Otter Lake Canoeing Bird Trip

(fee for canoe rental)

Terrain = on the water
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

Noon - 4:00 PM

AHATS Tour & Open Birding

with Guided walks at:

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Terrain = 1.5 miles, flat, gravel
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

1:00 - 3:30 PM

Terrain = 3 miles, hilly, gravel, off trail
Birding skills = beginner-intermd-expert

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Terrain = 1.5 miles, flat, gravel
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

Monday, May 18

7:30 -9:00 AM

Midland Hills Golf Course Bird Walk

Terrain =1.5 miles, flat, partly paved
Birding skills = beginner-intermediate

Directions to bird walk locations can be found at <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/parks/NaturalResources/urbanbirdfestival.htm>

* Please pre-register for the Dinner by May 9, 2009. Send a check made out to St. Paul Audubon for \$8 per person or \$25 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 children under 12) to: **Urban Bird Fest Dinner**, 2410 Sunrise Drive, St. Paul, Minn, 55117. Include name, street address and email address for confirmation.

SAINT PAUL AUDUBON SOCIETY

PO Box 7275, St Paul, MN 55107-7275
WWW.SAINTPAULAUDUBON.NET

April May 2009

June July 09 Deadline 5/5/2009

100% RECYCLED PAPER
with 30% POST-CONSUMER
RECYCLED CONTENT

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

The Crane Count is a wonderful way to begin the fun practice of contributing to Citizen Science (see p. 7)

CALENDAR

APRIL

- Field Trip: Waterfowl Migration 4
- Board Meeting 6
- Beginning Birding, April . . . 4, 14, 18, 28
- Member Mtg: N. Shore Raptor-bander . . 9
- ICF Annual Crane Count . . (5:30-7:30 AM) 18
- Field Trip: Early Migrants, Dakota Co. . . 18
- Explore Outdoors! Reservoir Woods . . 19
- Field Trip: Nerstrand Big Woods 25

MAY

- Youth Birding Fest! (Audubon/MOU) 2
- Board Meeting 4
- PM Field Trip: Woodcock Courtship 5
- Warbler Weekend 8-10
- PM Learning Our Frog Calls 9
- Urban Bird Fest, Ramsey Co. 13-18
- Member Mtg: Ice Age Extinctions 14
- Field Trip: Bass Ponds & OCB 16
- Birding by Ear at M-H June 6

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 3795
St. Paul, Minnesota

Time Dated Material

- TUESDAY AM'S IN MAY (see p. 5)
- May 5Thompson Park, W. St. Paul
 - May 12 Rice Creek North, Arden Hills
 - May 19 Crosby Park, St. Paul
 - May 26 Reservoir Woods, Roseville
 - June 2 Benson Prairie, Wh. Bear Lk
 - June 9 Battle Creek East, Maplewood

BOARD MEETINGS

Saint Paul Audubon's Board Meetings are held at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Office at 2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada. Exit from 35-E at Little Canada Road, go E. to Noel, just across from City Hall. For more information or regrets, please contact Dan McGuiness at 651-260-6260 or send email to dan@mcguiness.com Upcoming Meetings are: April 6, May 4.

St. Paul Audubon Society Local Sponsorship

Yes! I want to be a sponsor of my local chapter, Saint Paul Audubon, by donating \$15, for which I will receive *The Cardinal* newsletter and other online news. Please fill in the personal information, make a check for \$15 out to Saint Paul Audubon Society, and send it to the address below. *Thank You Very Much!*

- I'm a NEW member! Please send my Welcome Packet right away!
- I currently receive National's *Audubon Magazine*.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please sign gift card: _____

Mail to: Saint Paul Audubon, c/o John O'Connell, 2184 Larry Ho Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119

National Audubon Society Membership C9ZM030Z

Yes! I will become a *new* member or give a *new* gift membership in the National Audubon Society. I will receive *Audubon Magazine* and Saint Paul Audubon's *The Cardinal* newsletter. Please fill in the form, make a check for \$20 out to National Audubon Society, and send it to the address below. *Thank You Very Much!*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please sign gift card: _____

Mail to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250
(Write on envelope: "Attention: New Membership — please process immediately")

www.mnbba.org

The MNBBA website is now operational! It includes the *Breeding Bird Survey's* official *Handbook*, as well as all the forms and materials necessary to conduct the surveys. Volunteers may click to browse for "Priority Blocks." The "Request-a-Block" and *Data Entry* functions will be available quite soon. In the meantime, birders may record their observations using the "MNBBA Field Card" available on the Website. If you have any questions, you can contact your Regional Coordinator, or statewide BBS Coordinator Bonnie Sample at 651-739-9332, or bsample@audubon.org