

*Growing Up in Saint Paul*

**My Harley Grandma Mary  
Eileen Kehoe and the St. Paul  
Motorcycle Escort Club**

ELETA PIERCE, PAGE 14



## **The Children's Preventorium of Ramsey County**

PAUL NELSON, PAGE 1



## By the Numbers . . .

According to a 2018 Motorcycle Industry Council report, nearly 20 percent of motorcycle owners are women. Here are a few facts about some pioneering women riders:

The number on St. Paulite Clara Wagner's Federation of American Motorcyclists (FAM) membership card. In 1910, she competed in an endurance run from Chicago to Indianapolis. FAM did not recognize her successful finish:

**#1083**

The year Effie Hotchkiss (with her mother in a sidecar) drove a Harley-Davidson from Brooklyn to San Francisco. They packed but never used a revolver—just in case:

**1915**

Bessie Stringfield, the first African American woman to ride across the US alone, often dropped this coin on a map to determine her next trip location. She called it her Money Method:

**A one-cent penny**

The year Linda "Jo" Giovanni and Cris Sommer (Simmons) launched *Harley Women*—the first national magazine devoted to female motorcycle enthusiasts:

**1985**

SOURCES: "Club to Give Girl Motorbiker Medal," *Indianapolis Star*, October 10, 1910, 8; Aaron Frank, *The Harley-Davidson Story: Tales from the Archives* (Minneapolis: Quartz Publishing Group USA, Inc., 2018); Tricia Szulewski, *Women Riders Now*, <https://womenridersnow.com/motorcycle-ownership-among-women-climbs-to-19-percent/>.

To learn about one local woman's love of motorcycles, see "My Harley Grandma Mary Eileen Kehoe and the St. Paul Motorcycle Escort Club" by Eleta Pierce on page 14.

## ON THE COVER



It was once believed sunlight helped keep at-risk children TB free. But Minnesota winters could make it difficult to get outside. Here, three boys soak up "artificial sunlight" under a sunlamp while passing the required heliotherapy time playing checkers. See Paul Nelson's "The Children's Preventorium of Ramsey County" on page 1.

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## Message from the Editorial Board

Many essential concerns from a century ago remain essential today. We share two examples in this issue of *Ramsey County History*.

In 1915, the Children's Preventorium of Ramsey County opened. Why? Tuberculosis was a capricious killer. The goal was to isolate healthy but TB-exposed children in hopes they would remain healthy. Historian Paul Nelson takes us through the brief history of "The Preve," including its intended and unintended outcomes. Present-day COVID outbreaks remind us of the scourge of tuberculosis and the need to take care of ourselves and others.

Dietrich Lange, a young teacher and outdoorsman in the late nineteenth century, understood nature was in peril if human activity did not change—another message from the past that remains relevant. Lange spread his love of birds and his prescient observations of the natural world to students at Central High. As author Dave Riehle points out, the Bird Observation of 1897 might not have been a blockbuster event, but Lange's efforts, and those of others who came after, remind us to take care of our world.

Finally—Harley Grandma. In the 1940s, a twenty-something Mary Eileen Kehoe discovered Harley-Davidson motorcycles and began riding, managing to keep her hobby a secret from her (mostly) unsuspecting parents—for a time, anyway. Eleta Pierce's profile of her grandmother and her Harley-riding ways is a delightful breath of fresh air and reminds us to go out and have a little fun!

Anne Field  
Chair, Editorial Board

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## The (Almost) Incredible 1897 Central High School Bird Observation

DAVE RIEHLE

Let the birds be welcome!  
They are welcome in our homes,  
Welcome they are in our schoolroom,  
They are welcome everywhere!<sup>1</sup>

From late February through early June, hundreds of species of migratory birds—many with declining populations—fly northward across the United States.<sup>2</sup> Returning to their breeding grounds, or, perhaps, just passing through, the birds of spring and summer will soon appear in Minnesota once again. Such was the case 126 years ago, as well.

This story goes back to a three-month bird observation or census no doubt inspired by naturalist and educator Dietrich Lange, a teacher at St. Paul Central High School and founder of the school's Ornithological Society. Student birders identified a variety of feathered friends from March through May 1897. Their results were duly registered in that year's issue of the *High School World*. Despite the fact that Lange started the club in 1892, the published account of '97 appears to be the only detailed record of any such activity conducted in those early years, along with a notebook in Lange's files at the Minnesota Historical Society.<sup>3</sup> (See back cover.)

This experience with his small group of students—along with his brief time as an elementary educator—may have prompted Lange to write two nature books. The first, published in 1898, was *Handbook of Nature Study, for Teachers and Pupils in Elementary Schools*. *Our Native Birds: How to Protect Them and Attract Them to Our Homes* followed a year later.<sup>4</sup>

Lange understood that nature was at peril if human activity did not change. He addressed these concerns in his books. He also suggested solutions to the problems—the most important of which, he believed was education—focusing



St. Paul educator Dietrich Lange spent his youth exploring nature in the Lüneburger Heide region of Northern Germany. He loved the outdoors and observing the plants, insects, animals, and birds that lived there. Upon immigrating to Minnesota, he spent the rest of his years exploring and working to preserve the state's nature areas and wildlife. Courtesy of John W. Mittelstadt and Ramsey County Historical Society.

particularly on young people as potential change agents.

This education must begin in our public schools. Every boy is a born bird student, but his natural methods are too destructive for the birds. In the nature study work children must learn the habits of our common birds and must learn of the benefits the birds render us. Give them glimpses of the work of birds, how they build their little homes, care for their young and defend them at the risk of their own lives . . .

Let teachers and schools do all they can to spread good bird literature. . . . bird study clubs can do much good, if they strictly refrain from collecting birds and eggs and if the teachers see to it that nests are not too frequently visited.<sup>5</sup>



## Dietrich Lange—A Local Henry David Thoreau, of Sorts

Lange came to the United States from Germany with his family in 1881. They settled in Nicollet County, Minnesota, near Mankato. Lange learned English quickly and attended Mankato Normal School for three years. In 1887, he moved to St. Paul and began teaching at an elementary school. Two years later, in 1889, he joined staff at Central High School. While there, he “established himself as a nationally known author and lecturer on nature studies.”<sup>6</sup>

Lange was happiest when in nature. Some might say he was a local version of Massachusetts’ famed naturalist Henry David Thoreau. We know the young academic followed Thoreau’s work, as Lange once wrote that Spring Lake, northwest of Hastings, Minnesota, reminded him of Thoreau’s beloved Walden Pond. This statement infers that Lange visited Walden at some point, although he does not mention such a trip in his papers. It is unclear if he was aware that Thoreau sojourned to Lange’s adopted home of Minnesota in 1861—long before the young German arrived. In fact, it was Thoreau’s final excursion. He’d traveled here seeking relief from the tuberculosis that claimed his life a year later.<sup>7</sup>

## Bird Is the Word

When Lange created the ornithological society for students, it made sense. He cut a wide swath in his avian pursuits, taking his place early on as a passionate naturalist, and he was ready to share his knowledge with young people.

It is unclear where or when club members met. Nor do we have any syllabis or goals for the first four years, although it’s likely bird identification was key. Binoculars and bird guides weren’t commonly used by amateur birders until the early twentieth century.<sup>8</sup> So, how did students know what they were looking at once they spotted a bird? Sure, that’s a robin, that’s a grackle. But what about less well-known birds? Certainly, the pupils received guidance from their instructor.

We learn the most about this endeavor in 1897. That’s when seven students—five boys and two girls—signed up for the club *and* published their work in the yearbook. It’s also the year that an early book on birds was written by Frank M. Chapman—*Bird-Life: A Guide to the Study of Our Common Birds*.<sup>9</sup>

In the guide, Chapman instructs his readers, “Having found your bird, there is one thing absolutely necessary to its identification: *you must see it definitely*.”<sup>10</sup> It is possible Lange shared Chapman’s book with the club members. And we know Lange made sure the young birders really saw the abundant specimens—red-winged blackbird; purple finch; creeping warbler, and more. We also know Lange frequently led his students on nature-imbibing hikes—sometimes very long hikes—to help them identify species by sight, sound, and preferred nesting locations.

Prof. Lange’s ‘Central High School Hikers’ Club will walk to Shakopee Friday. . . . The boys will take the 8:30 Fort Snelling (street) car from Seventh and Wabasha to the fort and will then go down into the Minnesota river valley and walk to Shakopee, taking the train home in the evening.<sup>11</sup>

## Getting There is Half the Fun

Besides setting out on walks in the countryside or through nature reserves, how did the birders get to their birdwatching locations? One likely option was by bicycle, as 1897 was the peak of the bicycling craze.

About 1890 the modern “safety” bicycle was introduced, pneumatic tires were added and the streets improved. . . . On July 5th, 1896, the Plymouth Congregational Church at Summit and Wabasha started a bicycle check room for parishioners who rode to church. . . . The (bicycle) clubs organized a drive for funds by public subscription to build a network of cycle paths all around the city.<sup>12</sup>

In fact, that year, the city laid over nineteen miles of new bike paths, following eighteen miles of construction the year before. Two especially popular paths—one connecting riders from Como Lake to White Bear Lake and another from West Seventh Street to the Fort Snelling bridge, made it easier for folks to enjoy nature.<sup>13</sup>

The students could have been afforded transportation by an adult via horse and buggy but probably not by the gasoline-powered motor vehicle, which was at its earliest, most primitive stage. While advertisements in the daily

newspapers offered them for sale, these vehicles, at the time, were literally the familiar carriage body with a propelling motor instead of a horse. Very few people owned one. Lange never owned a car.<sup>14</sup>

Finally, the Twin Cities' streetcar lines were pretty well developed in 1897 although still far from finished. The West Seventh streetcar only ran as far as the east bank of the Mississippi; it did not extend across to Fort Snelling until 1904. But there was a bridge there, so getting to the fort was no obstacle for bicyclists, pedestrians, horse and buggy, or the incipient horseless carriage. This mattered because to reach the ever-changing Minnesota Bottoms, a favorite nature area of Lange and his students along the Minnesota River floodplain, it was necessary to descend from the fort.<sup>15</sup>

### I Spy with My Eye<sup>16</sup>

One favored birdwatching site in 1897 was Merriam Park in today's Midway neighborhood. Several birds, including the cedar waxwing, meadowlark (eastern meadowlark), and fox sparrow were observed in late March. Also, the Bohemian waxwing and bluebird (eastern bluebird) made appearances at the Minnesota River Bottoms.<sup>17</sup>

White Bear Lake, the second largest body of water in the metro area, and nearby Bald Eagle Lake were at the time of the bird observation, favored summer vacation locations and well-appreciated nature spots. Pickerel Lake, on the Mississippi River floodplain, even today, is a remarkably unspoiled nature setting west of downtown St. Paul that is still frequented by birdwatchers.

The students noted sixty-nine different birds over the course of their exercise. The majority were songbirds, although, it appears two students managed to sneak in a couple of aquatic birds. Because no duplicate birds were noted, it is likely that documenting "first observed species" was the goal of the exercise. Only the first-observed bird matters. Its name was added to a list with the date, observer, and location. Such a list is still produced today.<sup>18</sup>

Rather than simply admiring birds for their beauty and their ability to fly far above us and travel thousands of miles twice a year, birds have sometimes been sorted into "good," "bad," "obnoxious," and other traits only possessed by humans by pseudo-academics, hunters,



politicians, farmers, and others who may have been interested in preserving or eliminating certain species. Their songs and chirps have been judged according to musical criteria, and moral verdicts have been pronounced on their family relations and nest building. This rampant anthropomorphism, of course, does not divert the avian kingdom from fulfilling all the behaviors and customs assigned them by nature. Lange likely tried to objectively share what he'd learned with his young pupils.

These 1897 birders were identified in the yearbook only by surname, but research has disclosed probable full names and some interesting background:

#### Joseph H. Barrett (1879-1940, Class of 1897)

boarded at 148 Nina Street, a building that stands today. His early history is unclear. We do know the young man was a talented musician who often performed at Wildwood Amusement Park on the shores of White Bear Lake. There, he managed the dancing pavilion for six years, after which he went to Wonderland Amusement Park in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis. In 1906, he married Stella Straka (1880-1829). Later, Joseph was elected president of the St. Paul Musicians Union Local 30, a post he held for fifteen years. In the 1920s, Barrett, was appointed a Ramsey County Deputy Sheriff.<sup>19</sup>

Back to birding, between March 30 and May 13, Joseph visited seven locations—West St. Paul, Minneapolis, Groveland Park, Irvine Street five times, South Park, the Fish Hatchery, and Mendota.<sup>20</sup> He observed and recorded fourteen

The Minnesota River Bottoms area was and still is a choice birding location near the Twin Cities. *Courtesy of Ramsey County Historical Society.*



Seven students from Central High School's Ornithological Society published observations in the 1897 *High School World*. While we don't have evidence as to how they collected this information that particular year, a 1905 ledger in Dietrich Lange's papers gives us an idea of how they may have recorded their data. (See back cover.) In *High School World*, 1897, 15.

## HIGH SCHOOL WORLD.

15

### ARRIVAL OF THE BIRDS.

#### AS OBSERVED BY THE ST. PAUL HIGH SCHOOL ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Common Name.	Scientific Name.	Date.	Observed by	Observed at
American Robin.....	<i>Turdus migratorius</i> .....	March 18	Mathews.....	Dayton Ave.
Cedar Waxwing.....	<i>Ampelis cedrorum</i> .....	" 27	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Blue-bird.....	<i>Sialia sialis</i> .....	" 28	Mathews.....	Ft. Snelling
Meadow Lark.....	<i>Sturnella magna</i> .....	" 28	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Purple Grackle.....	<i>Quiscalus purpureus</i> .....	" 28	".....	"
Killdeer Plover.....	".....	" 28	".....	"
Bohemian Waxwing.....	<i>Ampelis garrulus</i> .....	" 28	Mathews.....	Ft. Snelling
Chipping Sparrow.....	<i>Spizella domestica</i> .....	" 28	Case.....	Waterville
Red-winged Black-bird.....	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> .....	" 30	Mathews.....	Ft. Snelling
Kingfisher.....	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i> .....	" 30	".....	"
Flicker.....	<i>Colaptes auratus</i> .....	" 30	".....	"
Downy Woodpecker.....	<i>Picus pubescens</i> .....	" 30	Barrett.....	West St. Paul
Hairy Woodpecker.....	<i>Picus villosus</i> .....	" 30	Greenleaf.....	Pickrel Lake
Song Sparrow.....	<i>Melospiza fasciata</i> .....	" 30	".....	"
Fox Sparrow.....	<i>Lanius borealis</i> .....	" 31	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Northern Shrike.....	<i>Lanius borealis</i> .....	" 31	Barrett.....	Minneapolis
Hermit Thrush.....	<i>Turdus unalascae</i> .....	April 1	".....	Groveland Park
Phoebe.....	<i>Sialia fusca</i> .....	" 3	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Field Sparrow.....	<i>Spizella agrestis</i> .....	" 3	".....	"
Swamp Sparrow.....	<i>Melospiza palustris</i> .....	" 3	".....	"
White-rumped Shrike.....	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> .....	" 3	".....	"
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	<i>Regulus satrapa</i> .....	" 6	".....	"
Mourning Dove.....	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i> .....	" 7	Greenleaf.....	Ft. Snelling
Rusty Blackbird.....	<i>Scelopophagus ferrugineus</i> .....	" 10	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Purple Finch.....	<i>Carpodacus cassini</i> .....	" 10	Barrett.....	Irvine St.
Water Thrush.....	<i>Sialia arctica</i> .....	" 11	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> .....	" 14	".....	"
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	<i>Regulus calendula</i> .....	" 17	".....	"
Chimney Swift.....	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i> .....	" 17	".....	Capitol
White-crowned Sparrow.....	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> .....	" 21	".....	Merriam Park
American Goldfinch.....	<i>Astragalinus tristis</i> .....	" 23	Greenleaf.....	Groveland Park
Bank Swallow.....	<i>Cotile riparia</i> .....	" 25	Schrader.....	Ft. Snelling
White-thr'd sparrow.....	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> .....	" 28	Barrett.....	Irvine St.
Wood Thrush.....	<i>Turdus mustelinus</i> .....	" 30	Schrader.....	Marshall Ave.
Golden-crowned Thrush.....	<i>Sialia auricapillus</i> .....	" 30	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Myrtle Warbler.....	<i>Dendroica coronata</i> .....	" 30	Barrett.....	Irvine St.
Creeping Warbler.....	<i>Minioilta varia</i> .....	May 1	".....	South Park
Red-eyed Vireo.....	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i> .....	" 1	".....	"
American Coot.....	<i>Fulica americana</i> .....	" 1	Mathews.....	Minnesota Bottoms
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	<i>Xanthocephalus icterocephalus</i> .....	" 1	".....	"
Bittern.....	<i>Botaurus mugilatus</i> .....	" 1	".....	"
Cow Blackbird.....	<i>Molothrus ater</i> .....	" 2	Greenleaf.....	White Bear
Indigo Bunting.....	<i>Passerina cyanea</i> .....	" 2	".....	"
Brown Thrush.....	<i>Harporhynchus rufus</i> .....	" 2	Barrett.....	Fish Hatchery
Towhee.....	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> .....	" 2	".....	"
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> .....	" 3	Mathews.....	Nelson Ave.
Wilson's Snipe.....	<i>Gallinago wilsoni</i> .....	" 4	".....	St. Anthony Park
Least Flycatcher.....	<i>Empidonax minimus</i> .....	" 4	".....	"
Baltimore Oriole.....	<i>Icterus galbula</i> .....	" 6	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	<i>Zamelodia ludoviciana</i> .....	" 6	".....	"
Black-throat Blue War'r.....	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i> .....	" 6	".....	"
" " Green ".....	<i>Dendroica virens</i> .....	" 6	".....	"
White-eyed Vireo.....	<i>Vireo noveboracensis</i> .....	" 7	".....	"
Wood Pewee.....	<i>Contopus virens</i> .....	" 7	".....	"
Yellow-throated Vireo.....	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i> .....	" 7	".....	"
Maryland Yellow throat.....	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i> .....	" 8	Mathews.....	Minnesota Bottoms
Catbird.....	<i>Mimus carolinensis</i> .....	" 8	Barrett.....	Irvine St.
Warbling Vireo.....	<i>Vireo gilvus</i> .....	" 8	".....	"
Yellow Warbler.....	<i>Dendroica aestiva</i> .....	" 8	".....	"
White-breasted Swallow.....	<i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i> .....	" 8	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Kingbird.....	<i>Tyrannus carolinensis</i> .....	" 8	".....	"
Scarlet Tanager.....	<i>Pyranga rubra</i> .....	" 9	Mathews.....	Bald Eagle Lake
Black-billed Cuckoo.....	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> .....	" 9	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Blackburnian Warbler.....	<i>Dendroica blackburniae</i> .....	" 9	".....	"
House Wren.....	<i>Troglodytes domesticus</i> .....	" 11	".....	"
Orchard Oriole.....	<i>Icterus spurius</i> .....	" 11	".....	"
Redstart.....	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i> .....	" 12	Barrett.....	Irvine St.
Wilson's Thrush.....	<i>Turdus fuscescens</i> .....	" 12	Peck.....	Merriam Park
Bobolink.....	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> .....	" 13	Barrett.....	Mendota
Least Bittern.....	<i>Ardeetta exilis</i> .....	" 16	Schrader.....	White Bear

Be sure and get your subscription to the *Senior Annual* in at once as only a limited number will be printed.

distinct birds, including the purple finch at Irvine Park on April 10. (See back cover.)

The naturalist Roger Tory Peterson once described the male purple finch as a “sparrow dipped in raspberry juice.” Joseph may have learned from one source or another that this bird commonly arrives in flocks in the north in early April. Older males are about 6.2 inches in length, with dull-red plumage. They feed on pinecones in coniferous trees and construct nests of roots, grass, and small twigs. The male’s “song is a sweet, flowing warble; music as natural as the rippling of a mountain brook.”<sup>21</sup>

It appears young Joseph may have made a mistake with his observation. He attaches the scientific name *Carpodacus cassinii* to the purple finch. This name belonged to Cassin’s finch. The purple finch is *Haemorhous purpureus*. Perhaps, Joseph could be excused for his mistake, as the birds look similar. The purple finch, however, has a stronger facial pattern, and the red coloring extends from the head partway down the hindneck.<sup>22</sup>

**Mason Nutting Case (1880-1948, Class of 1898)** was affectionately known as “Nutty.” He appears to have been the most successful of his peers in this sinful world, a certifiable “Big Man On Campus.” He was born in Waterville, Minnesota, to Dr. E. P. Case and Emily Nutting Case. In high school, he boarded at the home of his uncle, a dentist, William A. Powers, 1704 Dayton Avenue.<sup>23</sup>

He was treasurer of his senior class, and the 1898 Senior Annual noted that “Mason Case never made a bad pun in his life.” He acted in numerous school plays. Mason attended the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1902. He enrolled at Stanford University, where he was awarded a degree in psychology. Mason became a prominent businessman in Los Angeles and president of the Los Angeles Realty Board. He was twice married.<sup>24</sup>

It seems, however, Mason, the high school actor, may not have been that into birding. In late March 1897, he identified ONE first sighting, the presumably native chipping sparrow, in his hometown of Waterville—a favorite vacation spot located between Lakes Tetonka and Sakatah. Known for its “chippy, chippy, chippy” call, this bird, with its chestnut cap outlined in white



For Joseph Barrett, music, rather than birding, was clearly a big part of his life: he composed numerous songs, including, “My Minnesota Girl,” written in 1902. In addition, he cofounded the apparently popular Wolff and Barrett Orchestra. In St. Paul Globe, July 14, 1901, 24.

with a black beak, is common in woods, fields, and towns. The eggs are bright blue, “spotted chiefly at the larger end with cinnamon-brown or blackish markings.” Case identified the bird as *Spizella domestica*. Today, it is known as *Spizella passerina*.<sup>25</sup>

**Roy Greenleaf (1877-1952, Class of 1897)** left a scant high school record. He followed his older brother, Ray, to the St. Paul School of Fine Arts, and then, again to New York. In 1902, Roy worked in the office of Minnesota architect Cass Gilbert in New York City. He and Ray pursued highly successful careers as commercial artists. Ray died in 1950; Roy passed in 1952 in Freeport, Long Island.<sup>26</sup>

As a member of the 1897 Ornithological Society, Roy trekked around Pickerel Lake, Fort Snelling, Groveland Park, and White Bear Lake and observed six species that spring, including the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), which he listed as a cow blackbird, the species’ English name at the time.<sup>27</sup>

It’s believed these birds may have followed bison herds, searching for insects and seeds. Today, they are commonly spotted around cattle, and, unfortunately, are known to invite themselves into the nests of other species to lay their eggs. They often remove host eggs, lay their own, and then host birds end up raising the imposter hatchlings. Such behavior has put some species





It is unclear if Mary Manship graduated from Central. In her diary, she mentions returning to St. Paul in June '98 to attend a high school play and watch graduation ceremonies, however, she does not note her own schooling or graduation. *Courtesy of Margaret Manship and Ramsey County Historical Society.*

in peril. This has led to the development of programs to control (cull) their populations. Author Chapman had nothing nice to say about the cowbird either: "A thoroughly contemptible creature, lacking in every moral and maternal instinct," (a good example of anthropomorphism mentioned above).<sup>28</sup>

### **Mary E. Manship (1881-1961)**

lived at 304 Nelson Avenue in a multiple-unit residence her father, Charles, had built in 1884. Mary left a diary from 1898-1899 that details her love for piano playing and sailing at their summer cottage on Bald Eagle Lake. She married Charles Edward Gottrel Brown in 1904 in Oregon and spent the rest of her

life living on the West Coast, including in Seattle and, later, near Los Angeles. Mary's younger brother, Paul, became a renowned sculptor. One of his celebrated works, *Indian Hunter and His Dog* (1926) is presently in Cochran Park in St. Paul.<sup>29</sup>

Mary conducted her birdwatching mostly at Fort Snelling, as well as near her house on Nelson Street, around St. Anthony Park, and at the Manship lake cottage. In fact, it was there, on May 9, that she spotted a scarlet tanager, which she identified as *Pyrranga rubra*. Today, its scientific name is *Piranga olivacea*. According to Chapman, this bird winters in Central and South America and makes its way north to Minnesota between May 1 and 12, remaining until fall. The male's bright red coloring with black wings stands out, especially before trees leaf out in the spring. When not mating, however, the coloring changes to a drab olive green, similar to the female coloring.<sup>30</sup>

**Frederick Matthews (1878-unknown)** resided at 501 Holly (extant). He took an interest in newspapers and advertising in high school and, by 1901, had established his own advertising company. That same year, he married Louise T. Jerrems, also of St. Paul. The couple moved to Detroit in 1906, where Frederick continued his work in advertising, focusing on food and nutrition. He was a member the Detroit Chamber of Commerce.<sup>31</sup>

Frederick identified the American robin on Dayton Avenue and four birds, on two separate trips to the Minnesota River Bottoms, including two waterbirds—an American bittern and an American coot (*Fulica americana*). The coot, also known as a mudhen, is more closely related to a sandhill crane than a duck. It does not have webbed feet but uses lobed toes to swim through water. The small head features red eyes and a distinctive white beak that extends to the top of the face.<sup>32</sup>

**Ella Peck (1879-1955, Class of 1899)** was born in Owatonna. She lived at 1097 Edmund Avenue with her parents and two siblings. Her father operated a dairy business. It appears she was a well-rounded student, running hurdles in track, presenting essays at class assemblies, and graduating from CHS in January 1899 in the inaugural winter class with eleven others. Ella recited George Eliot's poem "Stradivarius" at the ceremony. At some point, she married Hubbard K. Bishop, a railroad draftsman from Kentucky. He died in 1933. She married accountant Guy G. Hastings in 1934.<sup>33</sup>

When it came to birding, Ella outshined her classmates, identifying thirty birds (many early in the season) and almost all of them near Merriam Park. Near the end of the assignment, Ella spotted an orchard oriole or *Icterus spurius* (today, *Icterus spurius*). Chapman noted this bird's appearance is not as brilliant as its stunning male cousin, the Baltimore oriole. Still, he believed the orchard oriole, which could often be found—you guessed it—in orchards, has a song that is "far richer in tone and more finished in character."<sup>34</sup>

**Herman Shrader (1880-1945, Class of 1898)** was born in Germany. His family came to the US in the 1880s, and, by at least 1891, they were living in St. Paul. His father, Ernest, was a lawyer and a partner in the firm Brown and Shrader. After graduation, Herman attended the University of Minnesota. While there, he published the results of a study conducted at the Minnesota Seaside Station on Vancouver Island titled, "Observations of *Alaria Nana*, sp. nov." He worked briefly as an optician at the Emporium in St. Paul in 1904, possibly to help pay for medical school. He is listed as a physician still living at





Chipping Sparrow—Cephas, Wikimedia Commons.



Brown-headed Cowbird—Bear Golden Retriever, Wikimedia Commons.



Scarlet Tanager—Andrew Weitzel, Wikimedia Commons.



American Coot—sussexbirder, Wikimedia Commons.



Orchard Oriole—Dan Pancamo, Wikimedia Commons.



Least Bittern—ZankaM, Wikimedia Commons.

the family home at 694 Marshall between 1909 and 1914. In 1915, the directory indicates Herman moved to Hobson, Montana. He continued to practice medicine and married Garnet Goodle in 1916. He died in 1945.<sup>35</sup>

As a student, the future physician identified a wood thrush on Marshall Avenue and a white-throated sparrow at Fort Snelling. Like his club-mate, Frederick, Herman added a waterbird to the list of mostly songbirds. He identified this specimen at White Bear Lake—a least bittern or *Ardetta exilis* (today, *Ixobrychus exilis*). The lake had and still has an abundance of dense marshes and reeds—perfect habitat for these birds. Least, but not last, this bittern is one of the smallest herons in the world.<sup>36</sup>

### Dietrich Lange's Legacy

Lange taught at Central High School until 1906, when he was hired as principal of Humboldt High for the following eight years. He served as superintendent of St. Paul Public Schools between 1914 and 1916 and then returned to a principal's role at Mechanic Arts High School, where he led students for more than twenty years. Lange subsequently published at least fifteen additional books, mostly adventure stories for boys, including *On the Trail of the Sioux*,

*Lost in the Fur Country*, and *Lure of the Black Hills*. He also gladly took on the responsibility of the city public schools nature study supervisor. Lange died in 1940 at seventy-seven.<sup>37</sup>

In a tribute, a student described Lange's last appearance at the school:

He walked up the steps [to the stage] last year, a straight, white-haired man. A hush of surprise filled the great assembly hall—and then a huge, suddenly excited roar burst from a thousand throats—a roar that rolled on and on re-echoing the welcome through the hall. He raised his hand. Like magic the crowd was silenced. He stood there, tall and stately, his strong voice disdaining the microphone and in direct, simple terms, told them of his happiness to be back.<sup>38</sup>

What would Lange's students from 1897 have remembered of their long-ago club sponsor? He was just twenty-four when he instructed them. Now, in 1940, these former pupils were, themselves, sixty years old. Although there is scattered information on the lives of the seven CHS birders, there is no evidence that any were exceptionally influenced by their time spent as



Lange in his later years, in the wilderness, where he was most happy. Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.

members of Lange's Ornithological Society to continue to pursue birding or the study of birds. Herman Shrader, however, did study botany and became a doctor.

So, was the club just something to keep the students occupied and out of trouble? Did it serve a purpose? It did. Together, these young people identified nearly seventy birds—well before the creation of focused birding clubs or organizations.<sup>39</sup> What's more, they created a specific, informed, firsthand record of what they saw, almost like a time capsule. Their kind teacher took them under his wing, so to speak, and taught them to be good stewards of the land and the birds that lived there. Hopefully, they, in turn, shared what they learned with family, friends, and their own children through the years. And then, perhaps the cycle continued. *That* is something that deserves to be remembered and celebrated.

### Afterword: "The birds, God's poor, who cannot wait"<sup>40</sup>

When I came across the *Central High School World* bird observation, I was astounded. So many birds! If I were lucky, I might have named a dozen. My second thought—I wonder how many of these birds are around today? I don't see cedar waxwings, scarlet tanagers, or rose-breasted grosbeaks as often as I did when a child.

One spring, I did see hundreds of bluebirds resting on trees and shrubs around Como Lake. After a few days, they were gone, presumably continuing their northern migration. I can report that while working on the railroad, we encountered multitudes of red-winged blackbirds as we passed through swamps and wetlands. Red-tailed hawks also were abundant. They flew just ahead of the engine, stopping to perch on each successive pole looking for small animals disturbed by the train's vibration.

Today, 313 bird species are seen somewhere in the state each year. The total number of common species is 268; then there are another forty-five that are "rare regulars." And while the despicable fashion trend of hats decorated with exotic bird feathers caused great consternation for Lange (and many other naturalists and conservationists) at the turn of the twentieth century, thankfully, such a fad has gone mostly by the wayside, as has rampant egg collecting, and rascally boys shooting songbirds with slingshots.<sup>41</sup>

Still, there are threats: migrating birds unwittingly sucked into plane engines or crashing into the mirrored windows of high-rise buildings. And, there's always the threat of bird flu or other diseases. The biggest challenge is loss of habitat due to development, climate change, and other factors. According to the Audubon Society Great Lakes, "Two-thirds of America's birds are threatened with extinction from climate change."<sup>42</sup> In Ramsey County, some birds are uncommon or rare because their habitat no longer exists here. Of the sixty-nine birds listed in the 1897 observation, only the Louisiana waterthrush is labeled of "special concern" in Minnesota, and the loggerhead shrike is listed as "endangered."

Today, more and more schools and organizations are paying attention to climate change and teaching the importance of conservation.



Glancing at Central High School history, ornithological societies or simple bird clubs have come, gone, and come again based on changing student interests, as have other environmental-based or science-based groups. Beginning in 2012, students, staff, and community members joined with the Capitol Region Watershed District to begin a yearslong project, “Transforming Central.” This effort was meant to “reshape the urban landscape of St. Paul Central High School in order to improve the students’ daily experience, address the environmental impacts of campus, and connect with the vibrant community that embraces the school.” In 2023, one of the current thirty-six clubs at the school is a local chapter of conservationist Jane Goodall’s philanthropic program Roots & Shoots.<sup>43</sup> This is good news, indeed.

And now a call to action to you, our readers. Many of you enjoy nature or are already avid birders. You take advantage of the scores of city, county, and regional parks and nature centers and take great pleasure in watching the beautiful birds and animals. If you aren’t one of those people yet but are interested, there are many ways to begin, including joining the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union, a statewide organization devoted exclusively to birds and their conservation. Other groups include St. Paul Audubon Society, the Minnesota Audubon Society, and other environmental organizations.

As spring approaches, now is a great time to grab your binoculars and a trusty bird identification book, research bird calls online, and enjoy learning from these magnificent creatures. If that doesn’t inspire you, here’s one last thought from Dietrich Lange:

TWICE every year a wave of living birds, almost inconceivably grand in the number of birds involved, surges over North America. . . . And almost as ceaseless as the ever-rising, ever-falling swell of the ocean tides is this miraculous tide of beating wings and pulsating little hearts. . . . The number of birds that make up this mighty wave almost passes comprehension. . . .

Science will soon lift the veil from many of the mysteries of the great bird-tides, but as one mystery disappears, another and a greater one will appear; and as our knowledge grows, our wonder will grow still more.<sup>44</sup>

**Acknowledgments:** Our gratitude to the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union and Saint Paul Audubon Society.

*Dave Riehle is a retired locomotive engineer. Over the years, he has contributed articles to Ramsey County History, the Union Advocate, Labor Standard magazine, and others.*

To see a comparison of 1897 bird observations to those today, and for more information on birding organizations and birdwatching sites, go to <https://rchs.com/publishing/catalog/ramsey-county-history-winter-2023-arrival-of-the-birds/>.

## NOTES

1. D. Lange, *Our Native Birds: How to Protect Them and Attract Them to Our Homes* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899), 107-108. In Section VI, the author presents a play—*The Birds Before Uncle Sam*—which helps elementary students learn about bird conservation. Lange suggests costume design and includes dialogue for the children, who take on the roles of mockingbird, snowy heron, and rose-breasted grosbeak, among others.

2. Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union, correspondence with editor, January 13, 2023. In Minnesota, horned larks return in mid-February. The last of the shorebirds arrive in June.

3. Jene T. Sigvertsen, “From the Past to the Present: An Inventory of Saint Paul Public School Facilities,” report, accessed December 21, 2022, <http://www.spps.org/sites/dd77441e-b117-423c-90a1-6fcbdcc68b6f/uploads/SPPSF.pdf>. Saint Paul High School was founded in 1866 in two rooms at the Franklin School at Tenth and Broadway. Then, the school moved to the Lindeke Building at

Seventh and Jackson. By 1883, a stand-alone high school was built at Tenth and Minnesota Streets and, five years later, renamed Central High School. It is at this school that this history takes place; “Biographical Notes,” Dietrich Lange papers, Minnesota Historical Society (hereafter, MNHS); “Arrival of the Birds as Observed by the Saint Paul High School Ornithological Society,” *High School World* (St. Paul: Central High School, 1897), 15.

4. Interestingly, both books are still in print.

5. Lange, 96-97.

6. Dietrich Lange, “Mankato Normal School, 1883-1886,” Dietrich Lange papers, MNHS, 1; John W. Larson, “He Was Mechanic Arts: Mechanic Arts High School—The Dietrich Lange Years (1916-1939),” *Ramsey County History* 41, no. 2 (Summer 2006): 4; “New Principal for West Side,” *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, August 11, 1906.

7. Larson, 12; “Thoreau’s Journey along the Minnesota River,” *Notes from Scott County History* (blog), Scott County History at the Stans Museum, May 22,

2019. While in Minnesota, Thoreau, botanist Horace Mann Jr., and geologist Charles Anderson observed “catbird, goldfinch, oriole, tanager, horned lark, flicker and killdeer.” Thoreau wrote of his disdain of St. Paul but admired the nature around Lake Harriet.

8. Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union; Tim Birkhead, “How Bird Collecting Evolved into Bird Watching,” *Smithsonian Magazine*, August 8, 2022.

9. Frank M. Chapman, *Bird-Life, A Guide to the Study of Our Common Birds—Teacher’s Edition* (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1899).

10. Chapman, 71.

11. “Hikers’ Club Will Walk to Shakopee: Boys Expected to Make the Trip in Eight to Nine Hours,” *St. Paul Globe*, February 11, 1904, 2. Lange also formed a hiking club. It could be assumed that nature studies, including birding, were conducted along the way.

12. Max G. Winkel, “A history of St. Paul, its streets, buildings, parks, etc.,” prepared for the Junior Pioneer Association, St. Paul, in MNHS Collection, F613.S3 W77.

13. “Bicycle Path Repairs,” *St. Paul Globe*, March 13, 1898, 9; “The Bicycle Ordinance Is in Force Today,” *St. Paul Dispatch*, May 12, 1897, 1.

14. Larson, 12; Roger Bergerson, “A Sketch Pad Brought Them Together,” *St. Anthony Park Bugle*, June 22, 2015, 3; Pamela E. Mack, “The Automobile before 1915,” Clemson University, accessed December 22, 2022, <http://pammack.sites.clemson.edu/lec122/auto.htm>.

15. Larson, 12.

16. Uncle Oldman, “Gossip with the Children,” *Manchester Weekly Times and Examiner*, January 5, 1889, 6.

17. “Arrival of the Birds,” 15; Robin Pfeiffer, “Explore the Minnesota River Bottoms,” The Outbound Collective, accessed December 22, 2022, <https://www.theoutbound.com/minnesota/hiking/explore-the-minnesota-river-bottoms>.

18. Various birding organizations; “Arrival of the Birds,” 15.

19. Central High School Senior Annual (St. Paul: Central High School, 1897) in St. Paul Public Library’s St. Paul Collection; “Joseph Barrett,” *St. Paul City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1897), 281. *Thirteenth Census of the United States—1910*, Minnesota, Ramsey, St. Paul, enumeration district 56, sheet 8B; “Programmes for the Graduating Exercises of St. Paul Schools—Central High School,” *St. Paul Globe*, June 31, 1897, 17; “Music at Como and Wildwood by Minnesota State Band and Wolff and Barrett’s Orchestra,” *St. Paul Globe*, July 14, 1901, 24; James Taylor Dunn, “A Century of Song: Popular Music in Minnesota,” *Minnesota History* 44, no. 4 (Winter, 1974): 133-134; “Marriage Licenses,” *The Inter Ocean*, April 26, 1906, 10; “Barrett,” *Minneapolis Star*, June 17, 1940, 9.

20. Steve Trimble, “Something Fishy Below Dayton’s Bluff,” *Saint Paul Historical*, accessed December 26, 2022, <https://saintpaulhistorical.com/items/show/5>; “State Fish Hatchery—Willow Brook Hatchery,” *St. Paul City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1897), 79. The

fish hatchery Joseph Barrett visited could have been Willow Run Hatchery near Dayton’s Bluff.

21. Chapman, 47, 79, 148. “Cassin’s Finch, House Finch, and Purple Finch,” The Cornell Lab, accessed December 22, 2022, <https://feederwatch.org/learn/tricky-bird-ids/purple-finch-house-finch-and-cassins-finch/#:~:text=Overall%2C%20Cassin’s%20Finches%20lack%20the,fade%20into%20a%20pinkish%20rump>.

22. “Purple Finch,” The Cornell Lab, accessed December 22, 2022, [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Purple\\_Finch/overview#:~:text=The%20Purple%20Finch%20is%20the,America%20and%20the%20West%20Coast](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Purple_Finch/overview#:~:text=The%20Purple%20Finch%20is%20the,America%20and%20the%20West%20Coast). Today, the scientific name for Cassin’s finch is *Haemorhous cassinii*.

23. William A. Powers, “and “Mason Case,” *Twelfth Census of the United States—1900*, Minnesota, Ramsey, St. Paul, enumeration district 131, sheet A5; Rev. Edward D. Neill, “EP Case,” *History of the Minnesota Valley: Explorers and Pioneers of Minnesota* (Minneapolis: North Star Publishing, 1882), 515; “Emma Nutting,” and “Dr. Elias Case,” Rice County, Minnesota Marriages, 1860-1895, ancestry.com; “Mason N. Case,” *St. Paul City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1901), 393.

24. “High School Actors,” *St. Paul Globe*, October 9, 1897, 2; “Cast of the Lady of Lyons,” *St. Paul Globe*, March 11, 1898, 8; Central High School Senior Annual (St. Paul: Central High School, 1898) in St. Paul Public Library’s St. Paul Collection; “Noted at the University,” *St. Paul Globe*, December 23, 1900, 6; “Lengthy List of Those Who Have Finished University Courses,” *San Francisco Call*, May 27, 1902; “Marriage License,” *The Marysville Appeal*, August 5, 1913, 5; “California Bidding for 1932 Realtors Convention,” *San Pedro Daily News*, May 12, 1926; “Mason Case Funeral Today,” *San Francisco Examiner*, July 15, 1948, 11.

25. “Arrival of the Birds,” 15; Chapman, 142-143. “Chipping Sparrow,” The Cornell Lab, accessed December 22, 2022, [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Chipping\\_Sparrow/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Chipping_Sparrow/overview).

26. “Central High School Graduates,” *St. Paul Globe*, June 3, 1897, 2; “Carlton, Roy C., and Ray Greenleaf,” *St. Paul City Directory* (St. Paul: R. L. Polk & Co., 1899), 617. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 16, 1950; “Death Notices,” *Newsday* (Suffolk Edition), February 1952.

27. “Arrival of the Birds,” 15.

28. “Brown-headed Cowbird,” Audubon Guide to North American Birds, accessed December 22, 2022, <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/brown-headed-cowbird>; “Brown-headed Cowbird,” The Cornell Lab, accessed December 22, 2022, [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brown-headed\\_Cowbird/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brown-headed_Cowbird/overview); Chapman, 137.

29. “Mary Etta Manship,” numerous documents associated with McGehee/Manship Family Tree, accessed December 26, 2022, [https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/47191547/person/6992495271/facts?\\_phsrc=gkC721&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/47191547/person/6992495271/facts?_phsrc=gkC721&_phstart=successSource); *Sixteenth Census of the United States—1940*, California, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, enumeration district



19-300, sheet 17B. The 1940 census says Mary Manship Brown completed her fourth year of high school. The family lived on Nelson Avenue, today, considered a ghost street. Nelson ran between Marshall and Dayton Avenues up to Western Avenue. There, it ended and was renamed Marshall in the 1930s—304 Nelson Ave still exists as 304 Marshall, but there is now no street between Marshall and Dayton west of Western. These irregularities occurred because the city was sometimes platted by private owners, and they didn't always take care to see that the street in their plat lined up with the streets in the next one. Margaret Manship, "Growing Up in St. Paul: Porches and Parties Around the Piano—A Year in the Life of Mary Etta Manship," *Ramsey County History* 33, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 24-27; "Paul Manship," St. Paul Minnesota—Public Art, accessed December 26, 2022, <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/public-art/indian>; John W. Larson, "The Best School in the City—1896-1916: Mechanic Arts High School—Its First Twenty Years," *Ramsey County History* 37, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 6.

30. *Paranga rubra* is the scientific classification for summer tanager. Once identified as part of the tanager family, today, it is classified with the cardinal family. The scientific name for scarlet tanager is *Paranga olivacea*; "Scarlet Tanager," Audubon Guide to North American Birds, accessed December 26, 2022, <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/scarlet-tanager>; Chapman, 37, 51, 126.

31. RCHS did not confirm a graduation date. The 1897 *City Directory* lists Frederick Mathews as a student, presumably at Central. The 1900 US Census lists him at the family home as a twenty-one-year old; "Frederick C. Matthews," The City of Detroit Michigan 1916. No other information is available. This appears to come from a city directory or who's who list.

32. "Arrival of the Birds," 15. "American Coot," The Cornell Lab, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/americancoot>.

33. "Ella Peck," Occidental Ancestors Family Tree, accessed December 27, 2022, [https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/117089133/person/112335903872/facts?\\_phsrc=gkC733&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/117089133/person/112335903872/facts?_phsrc=gkC733&_phstart=successSource); "These Are Enrolled," *St. Paul Globe*, September 11, 1898, 18; "Medals and Poetry," *St. Paul Globe*, June 2, 1898, 5; "Graduate in Midwinter," *St. Paul Globe*, January 22, 1899, 8.

34. "Arrival of the Birds," 15; Chapman, 132.

35. "Central's Class of '98," *St. Paul Globe*, May 25, 1898, 4; "Herman Shrader," Central High School Senior Annual (St. Paul: Central High School, 1889), 107; "Herman F. Schrader," University of Minnesota Yearbook (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 1902), 35; Herman F. Schrader, "Observations on *Alaria Nana* sp. nov.," *Minnesota Botanical Studies* (Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, 1901, reprinted July 3, 1903); Eric Moore, "Minnesota Seaside Station," accessed January 10, 2023, <https://www.continuum>

[umn.edu/2016/02/minnesota-seaside-station/](http://umn.edu/2016/02/minnesota-seaside-station/). This station served as a research and collecting library from 1901-1907. "Herman Friedrich Schrader," multiple documents via Durbin/Shrader Family Tree, ancestry.com.

36. "Arrival of the Birds," 15; Grrlscientist, "Mystery bird: least bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis*," *The Guardian*, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/science/grrlscientist/2012/apr/20/9>; "Least Bittern," Audubon Guide to North American Birds, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/least-bittern>.

37. "Dietrich Lange," Minnesota author biographies, MNHS, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://mnhs.gitlab.io/archive/minnesota-author-biographies-collections/collections.mnhs.org/mnauthors/10001318.html>; Larson, 16-17.

38. Larson, 17.

39. "To Protect Song Birds," *St. Paul Globe*, June 3, 1897, 4. In 1897, a group of women, including, Mrs. C. P. Noyes, Mrs. J. J. Hill, and Mrs. Ordway, formed a local Audubon Society, "whose object is to protect our song birds, especially to discourage the use of plumage on hats." It is unclear how long this organization lasted or how successful its local mission. Dorothy W. Broecker, "History of the St. Paul Audubon Society," 1979. In 1945, a group of interested birders formed the St. Paul Bird Club, updating the name to St. Paul Audubon Society in 1948; "About Us," Audubon Minnesota, accessed December 28, 2022, <https://mn.audubon.org/about-us>. Audubon Minnesota formed in 1979.

40. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Sermon of St. Francis," A Maine Historical Society website, accessed December 27, 2022, [https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems\\_poem.php?pid=232](https://www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=232).

41. Minnesota Ornithologists' Union; Lange, *Our Native Birds*, 12, 81-89.

42. "New Audubon Science: Two-Thirds of North American Birds at Risk of Extinction Due to Climate Change," Audubon Great Lakes accessed December 28, 2022, <https://gl.audubon.org/news/new-audubon-science-two-thirds-north-american-birds-risk-extinction-due-climate-change>; "Minnesota's List of Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species," Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, effective August 19, 2013, accessed January 25, 2023, [https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural\\_resources/ets/endlist.pdf](https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/ets/endlist.pdf).

43. For more information, go to <https://freshwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Central-High-School-Water-Summit-2019.pdf>; "Roots & Shoots," Central Senior High School Clubs and Organizations 2022-2023, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://www.spps.org/domain/1731>; "For Youth," Roots & Shoots United States, accessed December 27, 2022, <https://rootsandshoots.org/for-youth/>.

44. D. Lange, "The Great Tidal Waves of Bird-Life," *The Atlantic*, August 1909.

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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future.**

The Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) strives to innovate, lead, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, deliver inspiring history programming, and incorporate local history in education.

The Society was established in 1949 to preserve the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family acquired in 1849. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the original programs told the story of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, RCHS also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, now telling the stories of the remarkable relationship between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people of Heyáta Othúnwe (Cloud Man's Village).

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, the organization moved to St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 and rededicated in 2016 as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers public programming for youth and adults. Visit [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com) for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps, courthouse and depot tours, and more. The Society serves more than 15,000 students annually on field trips or through school outreach. Programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

### **Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion**

RCHS is committed to ensuring it preserves and presents our county's history. As we continue our work to incorporate more culturally diverse histories, we have made a commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion that is based on this core idea: RCHS exists to serve ALL who call Ramsey County home. To learn more, please see [www.rchs.com/about](http://www.rchs.com/about).

### **Acknowledging This Sacred Dakota Land**

Mnisóta Makhóche, the land where the waters are so clear they reflect the clouds, extends beyond the modern borders of Minnesota and is the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Dakhóta (Dakota) people. It is also home to the Anishinaabe and other Indigenous peoples, all who make up a vibrant community in Mnisóta Makhóche. RCHS acknowledges that its sites are located on and benefit from these sacred Dakota lands.

RCHS is committed to preserving our past, informing our present, and inspiring our future. Part of doing so is acknowledging the painful history and current challenges facing the Dakota people just as we celebrate the contributions of Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.

Find our full Land Acknowledgment Statement on our website, [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com). This includes actionable ways in which RCHS pledges to honor the Dakota and other Indigenous peoples of Mnisóta Makhóche.



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## Gibbs Farm 2023 Summer Camps

Dates, descriptions, and additional information:

[www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)

Registration opens Monday, February 6

### PeeWee Mini-Camps

Ages 4-5

A variety of session topics offered.

### History Explorer Camps

Ages 6-9

Dakota Camp, Farm Kid Camp,  
Nature Detectives, and Life of a Gibbs Girl.

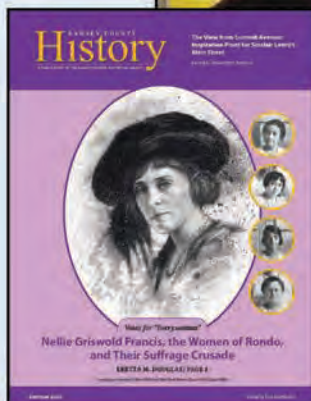
### History Scholar Camps

Ages 10-13

Farm Survivor, Minnesota Time Traveler Camp,  
and a single-day Victorian Ladies Camp.

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Vol. 55, No. 2 (Summer 2020)

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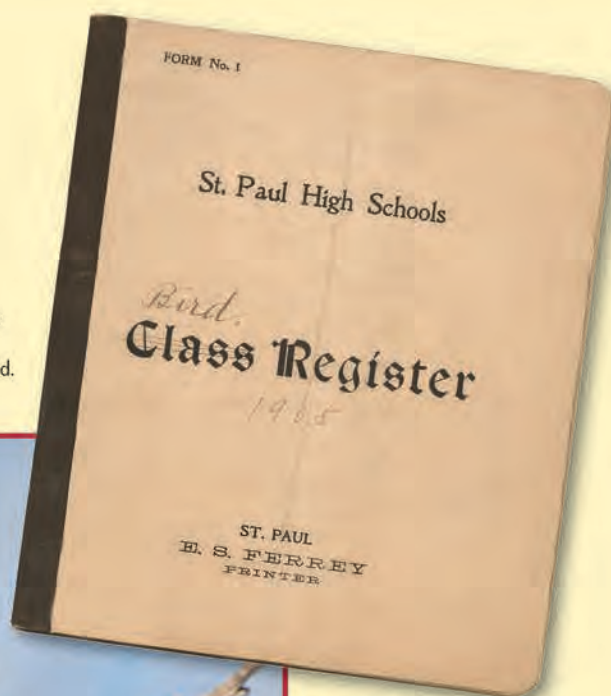
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## Arrival of the Birds

# The (Almost) Incredible 1897 Central High School Bird Observation

DAVE RIEHLE, PAGE 21

Members of the 1897 Central High School Ornithological Society may have converted class registers to document the birds they observed while in the field.  
*Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.*



Ornithological Society member Joseph Barrett identified a purple finch similar to this one on April 10, 1897, on Irvine Street in St. Paul. Over 126 years later, this bird is fairly uncommon in Minnesota, preferring to spend summers straddling and north of the US/Canada border.  
*Courtesy of Andrew Cannizarro, Wikimedia Commons.*