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Front cover: illustration by Sam Zimmerman/Zhaawanoogiizhik, from How the Birds Got Their Songs (see page 1).
HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR SONGS

STORY BY TRAVIS ZIMMERMAN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM ZIMMERMAN / ZHAAWANOOGIIZHIK

Retold in Ojibwemowin by Marcus Ammesmaki / Aanikanootaagewin

When the Great Spirit presents a challenge to the birds, one of the birds tricks the others and earns the prettiest song. Find out which bird—and where you can hear it today.

The Great Spirit held a contest so that each bird could earn the song that was just right for its species. Each would fly as high in the sky as it could, and when it returned to Mother Earth it would receive its song.

Eagle was certain his strong wings would help him fly highest. But he did not know that the tiny hermit thrush had snuggled into eagle’s feathers to take a nap.

As the birds flew, each descended to receive its own special song from the Great Spirit. But which bird flew the highest? Which one received the prettiest song?

This story, handed down through Travis Zimmerman’s family, features traditional knowledge from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Grand Portage descendent Sam Zimmerman’s vibrant illustrations showcase his appreciation for feathered creatures. Marcus Ammesmaki’s Ojibwemowin text brings the story full circle, encouraging language learners to explore our natural world—and inviting all readers to cherish the gift of birdsong.

Travis Zimmerman is site manager at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post. Sam Zimmerman / Zhaawanoogiizhik displays his creativity at Crane Superior Studio in Duluth. Marcus Ammesmaki / Aanikanootaagewin teaches at Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute in Hayward, Wisconsin.
When Mother Earth was very young and the Great Spirit had created all the beings—the two-legged, the four-legged, those that swim, those that fly, and those that crawl—he noticed how quiet everything was. As he walked about the earth, listening to the sounds of the animals and the wind and the waters, some birds flying by caught his eye. He knew immediately what he needed to do.

Following My Spirit Home: A Collection of Paintings and Stories
Sam Zimmerman / Zhaawanoogiizhik
PAPERBACK, $29.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-277-1

Bowwow Powwow
Brenda J. Child
Translation by Gordon Jourdain
Illustrations by Jonathan Thunder
HARDCOVER, $17.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-077-7
OSKAR’S VOYAGE

STORY BY LAURA PURDIE SALAS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAYLA HARREN

Near a bustling harbor, a plucky chipmunk’s love of tomatoes earns him a heart-pounding ride “up up up” onto a huge ship. After iron ore pellets thunder into the cargo holds, the boat sets sail across Lake Superior—with Oskar still aboard! Lost and desperate to return to land, Oskar explores the enormous boat for a way out.

As he searches the ship, Oskar discovers excitement—and danger—instead. He’s never before seen a dizzying drop to icy water; an avalanche of mail; a roaring, rumbling engine room; or a steel boom swinging through the sky to deliver a ship’s cargo. Though he encounters amazing wonders on board, he can’t find the one thing he needs most. Will Oskar ever make it home?

In 2019 author Laura Purdie Salas took a voyage on the Paul R. Tregurtha, the largest freighter on the Great Lakes. That trip inspired her lyrical narrative highlighting the features of a working ship through a chipmunk’s eyes. Artist Kayla Harren’s vibrant illustrations offer glimpses into life aboard a laker, while a diagram of a freighter offers perspective and a map displays Oskar’s route. A glossary and further reading list round out this tale of an unlikely adventure.

Minnesota author Laura Purdie Salas has written more than 135 books for kids, including Zap! Clap! Boom! and Puddle Song. Minneapolis artist Kayla Harren is the illustrator behind Calvin, A Boy Like You, and The Boy Who Grew a Forest.
A tiny chipmunk named Oskar accidentally stows away on an enormous Great Lakes freighter. Can he survive an epic trip—and find his way back home?

Storm’s Coming!
Margi Preus
Illustrations by David Geister
HARDCOVER, $16.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-018-0

Secrets of the Loon
Laura Purdie Salas and Chuck Dayton
HARDCOVER, $16.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-158-3
IT TOOK COURAGE
Eliza Winston’s Quest for Freedom

CHRISTOPHER P. LEHMAN

In 1860, Eliza Winston escaped her enslavers while traveling with them in Minnesota, a free state, and secured her freedom through legal appeal.

On August 22, 1860, an enslaved woman from Mississippi named Eliza Winston petitioned for her freedom before a judge in Minnesota—and won. For more than 150 years, historians’ accounts have focused on the implications of the events for Minnesota politics rather than on Winston’s own story. With It Took Courage, Christopher P. Lehman sets the record straight.

Lehman uncovers the story of Winston’s first forty-two years and her long struggle to obtain her freedom. She was sold away from her birth family; her husband, a free man, died before he could purchase her freedom. She was enslaved in Tennessee, Louisiana, Kentucky, and Mississippi. A sitting US president—Andrew Jackson—bought her, and that purchase kept her enslaved by his relatives for over a quarter of a century.

In It Took Courage the remarkable story of Eliza Winston’s battle for freedom is given full expression. Lehman’s skillful description shows Winston as a capable, mature woman who understood her life and her values. Eliza Winston made the bold decision to leave behind everything she had known for an uncertain but free future. An appreciation of her story is essential for understanding the legacy of slavery in America.

Christopher P. Lehman is a professor of ethnic studies at St. Cloud State University and the author of six other books, including Slavery’s Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State, which won a Minnesota Book Award for Minnesota Nonfiction.
Eliza Winston, confined in the Winslow House hotel by her enslavers, Thomas and Mary Christmas, took her first opportunity to free herself when she was sent out to have a dress mended and met Emily Goodrich Grey, a free African American seamstress.

This was a rare opportunity to meet with a local free African American without her enslavers, and she could not afford to assume that she would have another chance. She introduced herself to Grey as Eliza Winston. That introduction also resulted from her temporary separation from the Christmases. Most people identifying her during her enslavement associated her with whoever enslaved her, as when residents of Memphis referred to her as “Eliza Gholson.” In contrast, Winston was the surname she chose for herself, and she divulged it to someone who understood the value of last names among African Americans.

The enslaved woman then revealed another significant secret to the seamstress, confessing “that she wanted to be free and was held against her will.” With those words she accused her enslaver of conducting criminal behavior, because the Christmases broke Minnesota law by enslaving her within its borders.

The seamstress understood, based on Eliza’s remarks, that her new acquaintance considered herself legally enslaved in the Northwest. At the very least, Grey knew that setting foot in a free state constituted freedom, because she had always been free in both Pennsylvania and Minnesota. Grey announced, “You are free now, if I could persuade you to think so.” With that declaration the seamstress simultaneously informed Eliza Winston of her legal status and tried to convince her to act upon it by at least acknowledging it.
NEW TITLES

LAST ENTRY POINT
Stories of Danger and Death in the Boundary Waters

JOE FRIEDRICH

Hypothermia, lightning strikes, high winds, medical emergencies—knowledge is power when it comes to avoiding worst-case scenarios in canoe country.

Paddlers and hikers planning an excursion into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and Quetico Provincial Park along the Minnesota–Ontario border usually envision sunny days, pleasant breezes, and starry nights. Though every guidebook advises being prepared, most adventurers escaping to these remote areas assume that all will be well.

But even those who are thoroughly prepared may still encounter the unexpected. In those cases, being ready for anything can mean the difference between life and death. In Last Entry Point, experienced paddler and regional journalist Joe Friedrichs gathers tales that involve tragedy or near-misses, interviewing people who confronted danger and walked away, as well as those whose loved ones died in the midst of wilderness adventure. He considers what it means to step into the wilderness, to calmly troubleshoot problems as they present themselves, or to be left behind when an adventurer in your life does not return home.

These narratives may seem calculated to warn BWCA enthusiasts off their excursions, but in fact they are meant to encourage all to think through what could happen, and to be prepared so that, ideally, they return with their own tales that are memorable for only the best of reasons.

Joe Friedrichs founded the award-winning Boundary Waters Podcast and is the author of Her Island: The Story of Quetico’s Longest Serving Interior Ranger. He lives near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
After backpacking for two days along the Border Route trail, Bob Klaver followed a rough section of trail to a campsite at Partridge Lake. There Klaver’s canister of bear spray was accidentally deployed when it caught on a tree branch. The spray covered Klaver’s torso and got in his eyes, temporarily blinding him for several hours.

Klaver opted to remain on the shores of Partridge Lake and wait for a search and rescue team to find him rather than risk becoming lost in the dense forest surrounding the lake. He was not badly injured, as the bear spray only temporarily affected his vision. Other than that, he was essentially unscathed. However, he’d lost the trail, and he didn’t want to become completely bewildered in the surrounding dense forest. Rather than risk making a bad situation worse, he more or less stopped moving. On the first night he spent on the shores of Partridge, Klaver slept under a tarp. On the second day, he pitched his tent, taking comfort inside the shelter. “I was glad I did,” Klaver said. “It rained most of that day and night.”

After friends in Iowa notified local law enforcement that Klaver was missing, a floatplane found him on the afternoon of September 5.

After Klaver was hauled out of the BWCA, he was flown to a large dock at Hungry Jack Lake. He went inside for a cheeseburger. About an hour later, he drove back to Iowa. It was a story that made the local news, though perhaps some wondered why Klaver didn’t just walk out under his own power. As it goes with locating missing people or getting lost in the woods, there isn’t always a clear and defined solution to a problem. In this instance, Klaver said when he spoke with US Forest Service officials shortly after the incident, they told him he did everything right.
A MURDER ON THE HILL

The Secret Life and Mysterious Death of Ruth Munson

ROGER BARR

The mysterious murder of a woman in a historic neighborhood is shrouded in scandal in Depression-era Minnesota. Neither police nor media investigations succeed in bringing the criminals to light.

At 7:00 AM on December 9, 1937, St. Paul firefighters battling arson in the abandoned Aberdeen Hotel discovered the badly burned body of a white woman. The victim was soon identified as thirty-one-year-old Ruth Munson, a waitress at the Union Depot—a “small-town girl” who had moved to the big city in search of a new life.

Using original police records, Ruth’s own diary and letters, newspaper accounts, public documents, and other primary sources, author Roger Barr meticulously retraces the investigation into her death, as detectives examined Ruth’s background, work history, relationships, and social life in search of clues to her killer. Detectives uncovered hints of Ruth’s secret, double life, which included legal but (at the time) culturally taboo connections with Black men. Despite years of searching, police never caught the murderer. Barr provides a careful examination of the missed opportunities, secrets, and racism that hampered the investigation.

Rich in period detail, A Murder on the Hill constructs a procedural investigation worthy of a high-profile case. It also brings to light a historical record of the lives of dozens of individuals whose story might have otherwise been ignored, all—like Ruth—trying to scratch out a living in a poverty-stricken, segregated city.

Roger Barr is a writer and writing teacher living in St. Paul. He is the author of ten published books, more than thirty published short stories, an award-winning play, and newspaper and magazine articles.
FROM THE BOOK . . .

The only light inside the hotel came from the orange flames, which had already engulfed the second-floor hallway and were spreading through doorways into adjoining rooms. Ladder 1’s G. Morgan helped firemen from Engines 8 and 3 feed lines into the hallway to pour water on the intense flames as they consumed the flooring and licked at the wainscoting. The water gushing from the firehoses onto the intense flames added steam to the hot, smoky air. It was hard to see and hard to hear the firemen’s shouts.

Other lines were brought in to help beat down the flames, and the firemen soon began to gain the upper hand, tearing the smoldering wood apart with axes and pikes. Engine 9’s Captain William Davenport and firefighter Joseph Harris attempted to enter a large room off the hall to help extinguish the flames. In the dim light, amidst all the smoke and commotion, Harris made a startling discovery on the hallway’s wet, debris-strewn floor.

“There’s a body here!”

Harris’s shout no doubt sent a shiver through everyone who could hear it. The Aberdeen was no longer just the scene of a fire. It was now the scene of at least one fatality. Who was it? What happened? Were there more victims in the debris? Like the smoke and soot, the possibility that a crime had been committed permeated the air. This was beyond the fire department’s boundaries. The discovery of a body required an immediate police presence.
TO BANISH FOREVER

A Secret Society, the Ho-Chunk, and Ethnic Cleansing in Minnesota

CATHY COATS

The largely untold story of the Ho-Chunk exile from Minnesota, in which local white residents sought to expel all Indigenous people from the region and deny their claims to some of the richest farmland in the world.

In 1863, after the end of the US–Dakota War, a group of white men living in Mankato, Minnesota, formed a secret society. At the beginning of every meeting, members of the Knights of the Forest recited its ritual pledge, including these words: “I sincerely hope this meeting may be profitable to each one of us, and that we may go forth from this Lodge stronger and braver in the determination to banish forever from our beautiful State every Indian who now desecrates our soil.”

The Ho-Chunk people, who had not participated in the war, occupied a reservation about two miles south of Mankato on some of the state’s richest agricultural lands. The Knights—determined to claim these lands for their own profit—advocated for the removal of the Ho-Chunk, who had already been forced to move three times. Exploiting the fears of white people living in the area at the end of the brutal war, the Knights sent armed men to surround the Ho-Chunk reservation, threatening to shoot anyone who crossed the line.

This is the story of the Knights, the Ho-Chunk, and the ethnic cleansing of southern Minnesota.

Cathy Coats is a metadata specialist at the University of Minnesota Libraries, Twin Cities.
The initiation ritual of the Knights of the Forest and the oath its members swore were dedicated to a general anti-Indian sentiment and political allegiance, but all firsthand descriptions of the existence and participation in the group center show that it focused exclusively on the nearby Ho-Chunk reservation. These Mankato men were not concerned with the removal of Dakota people from nearby Brown County, which was already assured. The Knights of the Forest organized after the Dakota hangings, after the government had already taken most of the Dakota people in Minnesota to a concentration camp at Fort Snelling. Even before the Ho-Chunk were moved to the reservation on the Blue Earth River in 1855, most white settlers in Blue Earth County had vigorously opposed the reservation and had advocated, agitated, and organized for Ho-Chunk removal from Minnesota. Furthermore, the group existed only until the federal government forced the Ho-Chunk to leave the state. The men in Mankato took advantage of the postwar racialized rhetoric and settlers’ hysteria to push the federal government into finally exiling the Ho-Chunk along with the Dakota.

Following the US–Dakota War in the fall of 1862 and winter of 1863, a statewide call for extermination of “all Indians” by white settlers and the threat of postwar mob violence in Mankato was a constant issue for federal and state authorities. Masses of men held “secret meetings” and traveled from New Ulm, St. Peter, and all over Brown County to Mankato, threatening to attack Dakota prisoners. The execution in December publicly enacted and seemed to satisfy the desire for revenge among New Ulm and Brown County settlers who had fought battles with Dakota men close to their homes. But the men of Blue Earth County, who had not experienced conflicts with the Ho-Chunk near their homes, still had the reservation in their midst. Therefore, in January 1863, they organized a campaign for the ethnic cleansing of southern Minnesota.
TOURNEY TIME
Stories from the Minnesota Boys’ State Hockey Tournament
Revised and Updated Edition

DAVID LA VAQUE
L. R. NELSON

Eighty years of big names and memorable games—chronicling the highs and lows, the memories, and the legends from the Minnesota boys’ state high school hockey tournament.

Every spring, the state of Minnesota—from urban metropolises to remote Canadian borderlands—is riveted by the spectacle of the boys’ high school hockey tournament. Going back to the inaugural competition in 1945, the state tournament has produced incredible drama on and off the ice, featured legendary players, invigorated communities—and showcased some of the best hockey hair the world has ever seen. The tournament draws thousands to St. Paul, and countless more tune in on television screens around the state.

In this updated edition of Tourney Time, longtime sports journalists David La Vaque and L. R. Nelson take readers year by year through the tournament, highlighting the key games, the backstories, and the players that made each one shine. Interviews with players, coaches, and fans bring firsthand perspectives and insights to the games and tournaments, while in-depth statistics and results reveal the numbers behind the memories. The authors also share their rankings of the most memorable moments, performances, characters, nicknames, upsets, and more from nearly eight decades of tournament play.

Combining archival research, personal recollections, and vivid imagery, Tourney Time offers a detailed and insightful history of the nation’s greatest high school sports event and one of Minnesota’s most cherished institutions.

David La Vaque is a reporter for the Star Tribune and the newspaper’s point person for high school hockey since 2010. L. R. Nelson is founder of LegacyHockey.net, Minnesota’s number-one resource for high school hockey’s past, present, and future.
Edina scoring twenty-two seconds into the first period on a Rick Fretland breakaway, Warroad rallying for a 2–1 lead by the end of the first, Edina storming ahead 3–2 with two early goals in the second—all of the game’s early highlights and wild momentum shifts were reduced to mere after-thoughts when Edina defenseman Jim Knutson and Warroad’s Henry Boucha collided against the boards in the most infamous body check in state hockey history.

Boucha, on a rush late in the second period, fired a shot that Edina goaltender Hastings steered toward the right corner. Boucha chased after the rebound, arriving at the puck a split second before Knutson.

Knutson delivered a high, hard hit. The side of Boucha’s head slammed off the Plexiglas, and the Warroad star slumped to the ice.

Boucha was still lying on the ice when Knutson, called for elbowing, headed to the penalty box. Boucha was helped up from the ice but was unable to regain his equilibrium—the ice was permanently tilted.

“I’m done,” he told coach Dick Roberts before he was taken to the Met Center’s training room for examination. The Warroad coach slammed his fist on top of the boards in disgust and was crying between the second and third periods when interviewed by reporters.

Was the hit dirty? A photo taken by an amateur photographer in the stands at the opposite end of the rink shows Knutson’s elbow at the level of Boucha’s ear, but the Warroad star was already sagging toward the ice. By all accounts, there was no calculated attempt to injure.

“His elbow was high, you can see it in the photo,” Boucha said. “But I don’t think he was trying to knock me out of the game.”

“You are always going to try your hardest against the other team’s number-one player,” Knutson said.
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