



Cardinal: the Official Bird of Williams Bay

A drive is underway by the Williams Bay High School History Club to officially recognize the

American Cardinal the “official” Bird of Williams Bay. The bird’s presence in Williams Bay is directly tied to the efforts of Dr. Edwin B. Frost,(1866-1935), professor of astrophysics at the University of Chicago and Director of the University’s Yerkes Observatory at

Williams Bay, Wisconsin in the early 1900’s, according to student Brandon Wulf. “Cardinals at the time migrated through Williams Bay area on their way further south” Dr. Frost noticed alone male cardinal in his yard for several weeks, and hoping to keep the beautiful bird in the area, contacted an associate at the University of Chicago and asked that the associate bring a female cardinal from the aviary there on the train up to Williams Bay as further incentive for the male cardinal to make Williams Bay his home. The associate did as Dr. Frost requested and Dr. Frost released the female into his screened porch to see if any interest was exhibited on the part of with either of the two cardinals. It was love at first sight! Dr. Frost released the female cardinal, the pair successfully nested, and we have had cardinals in Williams Bay ever since.

April 2014: History Club Members Make History!

Thanks to Frost Park Chairs Brandon Wulf and Naomi Frederick, Juniors at Williams Bay High School, the new OFFICIAL Bird of Williams Bay is the Cardinal! Because of Dr. Edwin B. Frost's efforts, we have cardinals in the area. Naomi & Brandon put together a proposal that recognized Dr. Frost's efforts that was passed April 21, 2014 by the Williams Bay Village Board!