



KINGFISHER



December 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No.8

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

In a couple of weeks, I will begin watching my bird feeders and record the bird species that are feeding there. As a retired chemist, I greatly enjoy the “taking of data” followed by an analysis to determine if there have been any changes from the previous years. This is part of the scientific method – the observation part. Because I am only a portion of the observation, I rely on the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to interpret the data. This is what has become known as Citizen Science.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has many Citizen Science programs, some are joint projects with National Audubon Society. They charge a fee to participate in some of the projects (a sometimes controversial factor). I participate in three of them – Backyard Feeder Watch, Great Backyard Bird Count (no fee) and The Birdhouse Network. Our Chapter encourages members to join in the Great Backyard Bird Count (National Audubon is a joint sponsor) held each year in February. Because each individual can't make enough observations to make them scientifically significant, the observations of a large number of individuals are pooled. Standardizing the reporting of our observations helps reduce the number of observations needed to insure a 99 percent accuracy rate in the estimates of bird populations.

A new Citizen Science Project that just began last summer is the Urban Bird Studies (no fee). I plan on participating in it and hope to get others involved also. Minneapolis has a very diverse bird population, and it would be great to be able to document it more thoroughly. The study involves a series of observations at specific places and times over a couple of weeks. If you are interested in participating in the future in this or other projects, check out the Cornell Lab of

Ornithology website (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/LabPrograms/CitSci/index.html>) or call me.

These Citizen Science projects are very important to maintaining a healthy bird population.

Jerry Bahls, President



December Program

Adventures in Argentina, Patagonia and Chile

We invite you to meet the Arnosti family: Don, Meg, son Nick, and twins Libby and Nathan and to share their adventures south of the border. But first, some background. Don is a Wisconsin native, whose preference was to be outdoors fishing, hiking, canoeing and camping. Armed with a BA in biology and some studies in paper chemistry, Don traveled West, finding work in environmental fields that allowed satisfactory time to enjoy his outdoor pursuits.

While in Colorado, he met Meg, a native who worked in textbook publishing. After the wedding, they set off on a two-year around the world backpacking honeymoon. Next came a three-month search for a community to settle in and raise a family. We are fortunate that the Twin Cities was their choice. They judged us by our commitment to nature, good neighborhoods, community spirit, and having the BWCA just up the highway. A number of Minnesota conservation groups were delighted to employ Don, especially the National Audubon Society, who engaged him as Director of the Audubon Minnesota State Office. Meanwhile, Meg pursued a master's degree in landscape architecture.

In his tenth years with Audubon, and as the three children were advancing into middle school years, Don and Meg decided it was “now or never”—the right time for a dreamed-of family adventure. After special planning with the children's schools, they set off for a year in Argentina, where they had relatives. Their many adventures with cultural immersion, meeting relatives, visiting neighboring countries, also included working with local conservation groups and Audubon's Latin American programs.



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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

Audubon Minnesota
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

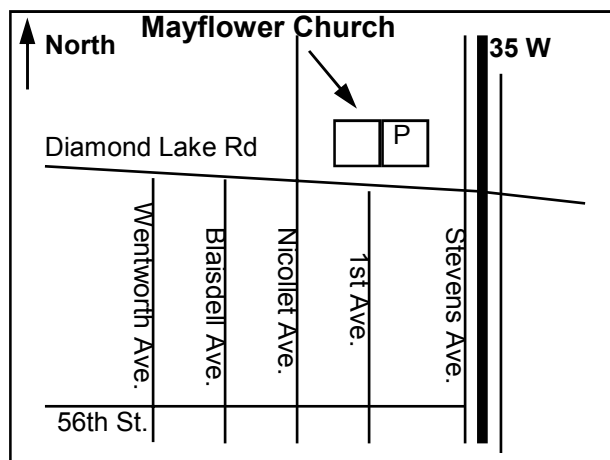
National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, December 7
Adventures in Argentina, Patagonia and Chile presented by Don and Meg Arnosti. Come to celebrate our 65th anniversary

TIME: Program at 7:00 (note new time)

AT: Mayflower Church, map below



Kingfisher and Armchair Activists E-Mail Recipients

Due to a computer malfunction, some of you may not have received your e-notifications. If you expect these and haven't gotten them, please send Jerry Bahls an e-mail at bahls001@tc.umn.edu to be reinstated on the lists.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu



**Please join the Audubon
Chapter of Minneapolis in
celebrating its 65th
Anniversary!
Cake will be served at the
December 7th meeting.**

Conservation Committee Report

The Conservation Committee met on October 6th approved a project to help make the city of Osseo Buckthorn Free. Osseo was chosen because it has a small area and is currently relatively free of buckthorn. The committee is also exploring the possibility of getting a space at the Living Green Expo promoting the use of buckthorn as a media for crafts and arts projects. We would like to create a market for its wood Our final project is to prepare nominations for the Important Birding Areas in our chapter area. We currently have nominations being prepared for Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden/Wirth Park, Wood Lake area, Westwood Hills and possibly the Mississippi River area in Minneapolis north to the Coon Rapids dam. Anyone interested in helping with this and other projects, please come to our meeting. Our next meeting will be held on December 1st at 7:00 pm. Call Jerry Bahls for location and other project information.

BUCKTHORN PRIZE

Just a reminder Audubon Chapter of Minnesota is offering a prize to be selected from our available sales (books not included) offerings for the most buckthorn trees destroyed. To win the prize just bring your bundle of boughs cut (about 6 inches long) from a buckthorn tree that you have removed from the environment. Remember to be eligible you must cut at least one for each day between October 1st and November 30th (60 in all, you have one day off). Prizes will be awarded (winner has 1st choice of available prizes) based on quantity you cut (1st criteria) and number of female trees cut (2nd criteria). Be prepared to stay a couple of minutes after the meeting to attend the ritual burning of the boughs in the church parking lot.



Artists and Craftsman Wanted

The Conservation Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is looking for artists and craftsman to use buckthorn wood in their projects to potentially exhibit their creations at the 2005 Living Green Expo on April 30 & May 1. Please contact Jerry Bahls (see 2nd page for info) and let us know that you are interested. We will make an effort to supply the buckthorn wood you need.



**Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Checkout the
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis' website at [http://
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/) and click on
"Volunteer Opportunities".**



CHAPTER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 18

In 1900 a small group of conservationists posed an alternative to the traditional Christmas Day teams competing to see who could shoot the most birds. It was Audubon's Frank Chapman who proposed that they instead identify, count and record the number of birds seen. The CBC is now considered to be one of the most significant citizen-based conservation efforts ever. Our Chapter has participated for 50+ years with Coon Rapids Dam as the center of our 15-mile radius count area.

A \$5.00 fee is assessed by National Audubon to offset the costs of the collection and recording of the data for research for the 2000 counts scheduled throughout North America and in other countries.

**MEET AT SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER,
100 85TH AVE. N, FRIDLEY
(Between East River Road and University Avenue)**

7:30 a.m. FORM TEAMS –COUNT AREAS ASSIGNED

11-12 noon **POTLUCK LUNCH** *PLEASE BRING A FOOD ITEM TO SHARE*

3:30 p.m. TEAMS REPORTS COUNTS FOR TALLY

NEWCOMERS OF ALL AGES AND SKILLS ARE WELCOME

INFORMATION: Terry Brashear 612 929-1976
Mary Ellen Vetter 763 561-1761



No More Boring New Year's Parties!

December 29 – January 2

At the Northwoods Audubon Center you and your family will spend 5 days of glorious fun, meet new friends and eat great food. There will be shared activities and opportunities as well as time to break out and do some separate activities. There will be ample opportunities for personal family time. Depending upon the weather we may snowshoe and try out cross-country skis, sample dog sledding or a winter sleigh ride ... and of course there will be opportunities to experience the climbing wall or high ropes course, to learn about our resident birds of prey and to try your hand at animal tracking. The really adventurous will learn to build a snow shelter and have a chance to sleep in it (snow permitting). We will also ring in the New Year in a fun family way! Our chef will provide you with healthy, diverse meals. Vegetarian options are always available.

Holiday Camp rates: \$205.00 for adults, \$165.00 for children 5 – 18, and there is no charge for children 4 and under. This includes all your meals, lodging, and activities. You won't find a better deal anywhere in the state!

Deadline for registration is December 1st. Don't delay. There are only a limited number of rooms available. There is a non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 to reserve your room. To make your family's reservation, please call us at 320 245-2648 or 888 404-7743, or drop us an e-mail at audubon1@audubon-center.org.

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Special Membership Meeting December 7

Approval of Proposed Bylaw Changes

President Jerry Bahls is calling for a Special Membership Meeting of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis on December 7, 2004 to vote on the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board's recommendation to make the following changes to the Bylaws. Bylaw 7, Committees, Sec. 3, Conservation Committee, line 5 – Reverse the words "Minnesota Audubon" to read "Audubon Minnesota". This correction conforms to the official National Audubon Society name of the state office for Minnesota. Also add the following sentence at the end – 'The Committee shall do projects that are in agreement with these policies and activities'. This adds projects to the advocacy duty of the Conservation Committee. This reflects the current duties as performed by the Conservation Committee. This constitutes the official notice of the Special Meeting.

OHV Damage Restoration Funds Available

As part of the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) legislation passed in 2003 with Audubon's help, a fund was set up to pay for damage caused by illegal OHV use.

Members are reminded that funds are available through the State of Minnesota to restore state, county, township, or private lands damaged by off-highway vehicles like ATVs, dirt-bike motorcycles, and 4x4 trucks. Such damage must have occurred in non-permitted areas after August 1, 2003. These funds are provided under Minnesota law.

To be eligible for such funds, individuals must determine "whether the damage to property was caused by the unpermitted use of off-highway vehicles" and that the individuals make "reasonable efforts to identify the violator and obtain payment from the individual, and make reasonable efforts to prevent reoccurrence." If you have any questions concerning these conditions please call William Johnson (see below) as soon as possible so that you can satisfy these criteria.

In these times of short government and private resources, any additional revenue is welcome. Therefore if you see any recent damage to state, county, township, or private lands anywhere in the state damaged by off-highway vehicles, inform them of these funds and insist that they apply for the restoration money. Restoration funds for damage must be applied for before June 30, 2005. To apply, call: (651) 296-9229 or e-mail: William.Johnson@dnr.state.mn.us.

ACM Receives Grant

The Science Museum of Minnesota with funding from the National Science Foundation has awarded a \$600 grant to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis to develop classes in beginning and intermediate birding. The grant will be used for developing the lesson plans, classroom materials and equipment needed to present the classes. Jerry Bahls and Jim Egge are attending workshops at the SMM that will assist in developing these classes.

The chapter would like volunteers with classroom experience to assist in this project. We envision lesson plans and materials developed for beginning and intermediate classes that will allow knowledgeable members without classroom experience to present the material with a minimal amount of preparation. We would like the experienced volunteers to help write, review and critique the lesson plans and classroom materials and recommend suitable equipment.

We would also like to develop a list of volunteers willing to present these classes. These classes probably would be given at least once a year in the spring. The lesson plans for beginning birding would be used in schools as well as in the community. The intermediate classes and materials could be available for schools that have an appropriate curriculum. Finally the classes will be given at least once at the Science Museum of Minnesota as part of the grant agreement.

Springbrook Referendum Approved

The levy referendum to provide \$275,000 to fund the programs at the Springbrook Nature Center was approved on November 2nd. This was very good news for Siah St. Clair and his staff at Springbrook and for all the volunteers who worked so hard to keep this outstanding nature center in the Fridley community. The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has used Springbrook as our meeting place for the Christmas Bird Count for several years. And now it looks as though we can continue for several more years. See accompanying article on how you can participate in this year's count.

Springbrook Named IBA

The Springbrook Nature Center was announced as an Important Birding Area at a news conference on November 12th by President John Flicker of the National Audubon Society. This is an important designation for the much-heralded nature center. It will join other areas on a list of bird watching areas that spans the country and the world. This designation will help preserve these areas as vital habitat for birds as well as other wildlife. The designation has no force of law but does inform officials that this is a special place and should be preserved. See last month's Kingfisher for information on how you can help nominate other areas in the chapter area as Important Bird Areas!

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
October 2004



National Audubon Society Chapter Membership Application

- Yes, I'd like to join!* Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the special introductory rate of \$20! Please send AUDUBON magazine and my membership card to the address below.

- Yes, I'd like to join!* As a senior citizen or student, I am able to join for only \$15!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send this application and make check payable to:

National Audubon Society
Chapter Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



LOCAL CHAPTER

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Chapter Code: **M02**
7XCHA

Calendar of Events

December

4 MOUs Annual Paper Session – 50th year.
Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church
St. SE, MN. 9 AM, registration 8 AM.

5 “Why Do We Band Birds?” Raptor Center

7 Chapter's 65th Anniversary, refreshments
Chapter Program: Adventures in Argentina,
Patagonia, and Chile, 7:00 p.m.

18 Christmas Bird Count, Springbrook Nature
Center, Fridley, assemble at 7:30 am

January - No program!

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this issue or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761).

See you on the birding trails—
guests are *always* welcome!

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call President Jerry Bahls for details on Board meetings and field trips.