



KINGFISHER



March 2010

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 59 No. 2

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

At times I have heard the criticism that there are too many environmental organizations, resulting in inefficiencies. The more I learn of their individual missions, the more convinced I become that this criticism is ill-founded. Each organization has adapted to needs and identified its niche, much as the organisms it has determined to preserve have done. Some agencies have evolved to focus on land acquisition, such as the Nature Conservancy. Some have focused on policy changes, from local to international, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council or Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. The Defenders of Wildlife and The World Wildlife Fund concentrate on wildlife habitat throughout the world. Some groups have zeroed in on the legal machinery, taking on everything from companies to the U.S. government.

There is, of course, some necessary overlap, and where this occurs the groups usually try to speak with one voice and clarity of purpose. When I hear individuals speak of "environmentalists" as though they disagree with them categorically, does that mean that they don't care about the environment? Organizations run the gamut from grassroots foundation-building to the high-profile, confrontational approach more common in the '70's. But whatever the individual concern, there is an organization that fits. My suggestion: educate yourself about the issues, get on board, and give it one's time and monetary support.

The intriguing thing to me is that despite the downturn in the economy, most environmental agencies have been able to count on their support base and have maintained most of their programs. Committed Americans speak with their wallets, which I believe gives credence to environmental education programs of all types. The National Audubon Society, along with other groups, has emphasized education and has produced some excellent materials. *Audubon* magazine is highly informative, and includes research and perspectives from top writers. *Audubon Adventures* is a set of materials about birds and other wildlife for grades 4-6 classrooms. In recent years, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has provided free materials and field trips to some 30+ area schools.

Another example of the importance of education is the success of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership. Agencies from the U.S. and Europe have joined to conserve 126 million acres in the Congo Basin, more than 1/3 of their forests. 11-1/2 million acres are now sustainably harvested, and 5,000 local men and women have received conservation training.

Continued on page three...

March Program

A Birder's Guide to Minnesota

Kim Eckert

Kim Eckert, with over 45 years of birding experience throughout the U.S. and Canada, has been guiding birders or teaching bird identification classes for more than 30 of those years. Since the 1980s, he has led tours to places like Newfoundland, Churchill, California, Arizona, Florida, locations in the Great Lakes and Great Plains, and to Texas – a favorite and frequent winter destination. He has authored four editions of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*, and he has written numerous articles, notes, and seasonal reports for the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union journal *The Loon* and other publications, such as *Birding* and *North American Birds*. He also operates the Minnesota Birding Weekends program of birding tours (now in its 25th year), has been a member for three decades of Minnesota's Records Committee, and for 20 years he served as Naturalist at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve in Duluth. A Minnesota resident since attending St. John's University in the 1960s, he has resided in Duluth since 1977.

Kim will provide a general overview of the best birding sites in the state, along with the sought-after species that Minnesota is renowned for.

**Tuesday, March 2nd
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**



Upcoming programs:

April 6, 2010
"Captivating Bluebirds"
 Stan Tekeila
 Author of "Birds of Minnesota", "Captivating Bluebirds", and many more

May 4, 2010
"Saving our Wetlands and Bird Habitats"
 Tom Cooper, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Come to Our Next Program!

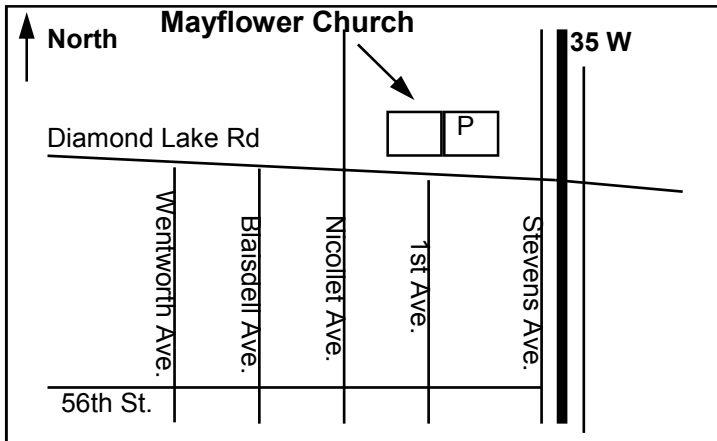
DATE: Tuesday, March 2nd

“A Birder’s Guide to Minnesota”
with Kim Eckert

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis

35W & Diamond Lake Road (map below)



Training for Field Trip Leaders

This year, we would like to offer more field trip—chances to get outdoors with your birding buddies, meet some like-minded people, and see some of those feathered friends of ours.



There will be a session to train potential field trip leaders in April on a couple of different dates (dates not yet determined). If you are interested, please contact Susan Tertell, 612-729-1566, stertell@gmail.com.

The chapter hopes to have 15 to 20 field trips, most with two people acting as co-leaders. No experience necessary, just a desire to help others see the birds and assist in identification.

Fall Appeal Thanks!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to thank all the donors to our annual Fall Appeal. We had a very successful appeal, receiving \$2,333. The Board of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to recognize those that contributed. Thanks to the following contributors, listed to the right:

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Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

Minneapolis Audubon Society

Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)
Friday, March 12, 1:00 p.m.

Ted Galambos will take us on a "trip" to view Florida wild-life. Please join us for the program and refreshments. All are welcome. For more information call 952-920-0176.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2010 HMANA CONFERENCE

The 2010 Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) conference will be hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory held in Duluth, Minnesota **April 15-18, 2010**. Positioned at the southwestern tip of magnificent Lake Superior, Duluth offers a mix of great birding, picturesque scenery and a terrific spring raptor migration. April birding in Northern Minnesota offers a wide variety of boreal species, winter specialties, northern owls and spring migrants as the convergence of three different biomes maximizes the number of different species to be seen.

The 2010 conference will feature scientific presentations, informative posters, entertaining keynote speakers, a silent auction, fantastic northern-specialty field trips as well as free shuttle service from the conference site to Hawk Ridge's Spring Hawk Count site!

There is an open **call for papers** and posters on our conference website. If you're interested in presenting your work at this conference, please visit www.hmana.org or www.hawkridge.org for submission details.

You may register online, by mail or by phone. Field trips and banquets are optional, so you can customize your conference weekend to suit your greatest interests.

L. David Mech, Senior Research Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, will recap his career of 50 years of wolf research at our Saturday evening banquet!

Detailed conference schedule, open call for papers, registration forms, lodging/travel information and other conference information are available at our website, accessible through either www.hmana.org or www.hawkridge.org (click on the conference logo).

For more information, contact Conference Coordinator Julie O'Connor at HMANA2010@aol.com or 218-348-2291.

President's article continued from page one...

When we focus on the successes of international cooperation, we see that instead of a random collage, the environmental groups fit together like pieces of a large puzzle. Even so, the needs seem daunting when we think of our meager funds compared to the massive profits involved with resource development. But we have come a long way in my lifetime; we won't win every battle, but the fight to pass a healthy environment on to our kids is worth an even greater effort.

We need the continuing support of every one of our members. We need your time as volunteers and committee members. And we need your ideas on how to serve the Greater Minneapolis area better.

—Jim Egge

**The Minnesota Zoo and Beth El Synagogue
are Proud to Co-sponsor a Once-in-a-Lifetime
Opportunity**

Dr. Jane Goodall

Founder, the Jane Goodall Institute
& UN Messenger of Peace

"A Reason for Hope"

Monday April 19, 2010
Beth El Synagogue
5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park, MN 55416

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Goodall's world-changing research into chimpanzee behavior. Her discoveries have transformed how we look at animals, humans and the environment. She has been called one of the 10 most influential women in history. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity you will not want to miss and will always remember.

Open to the public—all are welcome. For more information:

http://www.mnzoo.com/events/Events_jane_goodall.asp

To order tickets:

<http://www.bethelsynagogue.org/pages/jane-goodall.php>

Learning to Lead Birders Workshop

This **Field Trip Leader Training Workshop** is one way for twin cities birding organizations to help leaders; birding expertise is not a requirement. The goal is to increase the number of birders willing to explore becoming club leaders.

DATE: Saturday April 17, 2010 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If this date is impossible for you, please let Chase know so an additional workshop can be considered.

PLACE: The Bass Ponds, a great birding spot tucked on the Minnesota River below and behind the MOA. The diversity of landscape edges offer a great training place for most of the challenges encountered on group field trips.

DIRECTIONS: take Cedar Avenue/Hwy 77 to Old Shakopee Road just south of I-494, exit and follow Old Shakopee northeast and around the curve where it turns into 24th Avenue. Continue on 24th to the traffic light at 86th Street, turn east (right) toward the river bluff and bear left into the Bass Ponds parking area.

HANDOUTS are an important part of this workshop so it would help, but is not required, if you RSVP'd. Bring binoculars, your favorite pocket bird guide, and a notepad and pencil if that is your style. Consider bringing a friend. Dress for the weather and consider a snack or drink in your pocket.

Questions? Contact Chase Davies at 651-633-1663 or ccdavies@aol.com.

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PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

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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
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250



LOCAL CHAPTER
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Incentive Code:
C9ZM020Z

Calendar of Events

MARCH

2 Chapter Program at 7:00pm

APRIL

6 Chapter Program 7:00 pm
15-17 HMANA Conference
17 Birders' Workshop
19 Jane Goodall Lecture

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin Ave. (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net