



KINGFISHER



MAY 2006

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 55 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

With some joy and sorrow, I write my last column. It has been an exciting time, with some accomplishments and some things yet to do.

With your help last fall we were able to give the chapter some financial breathing room to do some of the things we have wanted to do for some time. We have restructured our cash flow so that we feel we have optimized our income from it while it waits to be used. We have had excellent programs during the past two years. We have attended many community and education events promoting environmental issues, National Audubon and our chapter. We have nominated three areas within our chapter area as IBA's. We have been a presence at the Capitol, participating in Lobby Day as well as attending many legislative hearings. We also have arranged to have some programs over the summer, partnering with the Isaak Walton League – Breckenridge Chapter. This will accomplish a couple of my goals - to provide some activity during the summer and to have events in the northern part of our chapter area. See the article about these coming programs.

The things I wasn't able to do, I will try to accomplish as the Past-President in the next year. I am still interested in recording our programs for later viewing on cable TV and providing them to groups who can not attend the meetings such as assisted living homes. I would like to establish a vital active Conservation Committee, which I hope to chair initially. I hope to continue our Buckthorn Wars theme. I would also like to see an active Education Committee that will provide in-class programs for schools and/or a partnering with MOU to do their birding program in schools. I would like to see at least 15 schools in our chapter area being provided *Audubon Adventures*.

My hope for the future is to activate a volunteer base that becomes interested in doing many jobs like being the State Fair Chair, Education Chair, Membership Chair and Program Chair. These are vital jobs that make the chapter function. Remember my mantra – **Ask to Help!**

This past year the Bluebird Recovery Program has undergone a leadership transition. I would like to thank Dorene Scriven for her many years of chairing it. Under her leadership the BBRP has grown tremendously and probably more importantly have helped fledge thousands of young bluebirds for us all to enjoy.

Continued on page 4

May Program

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Twenty years ago a U S based organization, the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), was established in Minnesota to work with farm leaders and trade experts Their mission--to determine how international trade institutions would impact farmers and rural communities and to challenge global institutions to develop solutions to problems plaguing rural communities and food systems around the world.

Our speaker, Don Arnosti, is the Director of IATP's program, the Community Forestry Resource Center (CGRC). His work is promoting responsible forest management by encouraging the long-term health of small privately owned woodlots, their owners and their communities.

Don will bring us up to date on the state of Minnesota's private forests, bird-friendly forestry, the expansion of the biomass energy market, woodland invasive species and more. We will learn how our forests can earn certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Don served for 10 years as Director of the Audubon MN State Office. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of both Audubon MN and the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Don and his family live in St. Paul.

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

Summer Joint Programs

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Isaak Walton League – Breckenridge Chapter will hold joint meetings over the summer.

June 27 John Arthur *Dragonflies*
July 25 Siah St.Claire, *Nature and Your Health*
Aug 22 Roland Sigurdson, *River Fish in Metro Area*

**7:00 p.m. at Breckenridge Chapter House
8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park**

Please circle these dates on your calendar. This will be the only written notice you'll receive.

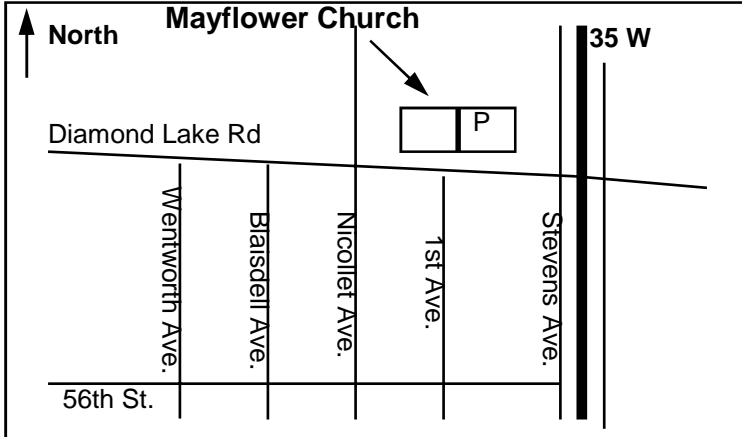
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, May 2, 2006

Sustainable Forestry

TIME: Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake Road—map below



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE

Candidates for Board of Directors
Three-Year Terms

Martha Allen
Amy Carlson
Ron Kroese

Jim Egge, Chairman

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu



May Bird of the Month Bald Eagle

Presented by

Dorothy Kuether

Let's honor our national symbol
at the May 2nd meeting.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2005-2006 Contacts

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Board Member	Programs	Fran Duritsa	612-822-4822	
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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
Audubon Minnesota 611-739-9332
National Audubon Society
MOU Rare Bird Alert 763-780-8890

www.geocities.com/audubon_geo
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html
www.audubon.org

BOOKS FOR SALE

Did you know, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis sells books and other merchandise at its program meetings?

We offer many of the most popular Field Guides for sale!

We have Bluebird Recovery items for sale!

We offer Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis patches and pins as well as National Audubon Society pins.

All items are at *discount* prices.
This month's featured book is:

A Bluebird's First Summer
by Helena Craven

MAY FIELD TRIPS

EVERY TUESDAY IN MAY

9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Join the Minneapolis Audubon Society at Roberts Sanctuary, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis. Meet: East Gate, north side of the lake. Afternoon birding location will be announced. Bring a lunch.

CHAPTER TRIPS IN MAY

(Please register directly with the trip leader)

May 6

Stearns County/Clearwater West, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To form car pools, meet at the Park & Ride on Brooklyn Blvd. and 65th Ave. N. Bring a lunch. Leader: Sylvia Winkelman, 763.533.8381 sparrowssister1@att.net

May 6

Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds, Bloomington, 7:30 to 10 a.m. Exit I-494 east at 24th Ave. S, go south 1 mile to 86th St., left on 86th St. to dead end. Expect spring migrants. Leader: Tom Mahan 763.588.5440 mahan-mail@att.net

May 7

Butler Wildflower Gardens, Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Hwy 55 to Wirth Parkway, south ½ mile, cross Glenwood, entrance on left. Leader: Tom Mahan 763.588.5440 mahan-mail@att.net

May 13

Butler Wildflower Gardens.

May 17

Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds, Bloomington
Leader for both trips: Don Wanschura. 612 866-3276
djwl@tcinternet.net

Third Annual Wood Duck Jump

.Some time in May, between 7:00 and 11:00 a.m, Jerry Bahls newly hatched baby Wood Ducks will jump from their nestbox and immediately follow their mother down to the Mississippi River. Since there is a video camera in the box, Jerry can give a one-day notice to those who wish to watch. To get on his jump-call list, please call 763.572.2333 or email bahls001@tc.umn.edu and leave your phone number. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies before the jump and then review the video (instant replay) after. Refreshments .

Wood Lake Bird Festival

Circle your calendar for the first Wood Lake Bird Festival to be held on May 13th at the Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield. Festivities will begin with an early morning bird walk, followed by family activities, bird information, nature film and more.

BIRD BANDING TRIPS

Bird banding is a great way of seeing a bird up close and learn more about them. Bird banding dates are as follows:

SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER

100 85TH Ave. NE, Fridley, MN

May 7	6:30—11:00 a.m.
May 21	6:30—11:00 a.m.
June 11	6:30—11:00 a.m.
July 9	6:30—11:00 a.m.
July 30	6:30—11:00 a.m.
August 20	6:30—11:00 a.m.

EASTMAN NATURE CENTER

1351 Elm Creek Road, Dayton, MN

May 20	9:00—noon
July 29	9:00—noon

Conservation Committee Meeting

The Conservation Committee will resume meeting on the first Wednesday of the month on May 3rd. We will again meet at the Panera Bread Store on Hennepin just off Lake Street at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to reorganize and chose some projects for the summer and fall.

THE SUMMER ADVENTURES ARE BACK !!

Audubon Center of the North Woods's unique outdoor experiences for young people offers a chance to meet new friends, have fun and experience new challenges.

WILD CAREERS

June 18-23, 2006 Ages 14-16 \$495

Work with wildlife at the Great Lakes Zoo, go behind the scenes of The Raptor Center. Sleep outdoors with wolves at the Wildlife Science Center. Learn skills needed to rehabilitate sick and injured animals. An amazing week of wildlife adventures!

ABSOLUTELY AWESOME ADVENTURES

June 25-30, 2006 Ages 10-13 \$430

Challenge yourself on our high ropes course and climbing wall. Canoe beautiful Grindstone Lake. Build outdoor survival and wilderness navigations skills. Pitch a tent for an overnight sleep-out. Develop new abilities, push your limits, make new friends while exploring the beauty of the North Woods.

For information: 1 888-404-7743 (toll free) or
www.audubon-center.org

Turkeys Killed at Coon Rapids School

About a half dozen wild turkeys were killed by sharpshooters at the L. O. Jacobs School in Coon Rapids this winter. The turkeys had taken up residence in the area, probably attracted by the many large oak trees in the area. Unfortunately some area residents began feeding them. They probably made the connection between people and food. Because they are large, many students were afraid of them. The turkeys became somewhat aggressive and chased some students, probably looking for food. It was even reported that a group of students had to be rescued by an adult near the school. After consulting with the Minnesota DNR and the National Wild Turkey Federation, it was decided to destroy them. Six were shot. Two survive.

Comment on Turkeys at School

The above story is at first glance somewhat amusing, unless you're the turkey. However, if we look at it more in depth we can see a problem that we as environmentalists need to address. We very much value the flora and fauna around us and lament when they are destroyed and disappear from our environment. It is my position that they have a rightful spot in our environment and we must make allowances for them. We must remember they are wild (and free) creatures and we must respect them. Trying to bring them into our sphere and expect them to adhere to our notion of behavior is wrong. And when they do not, we destroy them. This is not the message we should be giving. The general public and especially our children need to understand nature and how to deal with the problems associated with our interaction with it. Large animals, like turkeys, can be intimidating. But do we have to kill them the first time there is a problem? Is this sending the right message to our children? Can't we try other remedies first? Are we using this incident as a learning tool? Will we have to repeat this next winter? These are questions that need to be addressed. The incident at L. O. Jacobs School was resolved in what was probably the correct manner, but the above questions need to be answered and appropriate action taken to insure the problem isn't repeated there again or at a school in White Bear Lake!

Continued from page 1

I would also like to thank Fran Duritsa for her tenure as the Program Chair. Because of her hard work and dedication we have had the privilege to attend many excellent programs.

A final thanks to the Board for their outstanding support and advice.

I'll see you on the birding trails!

—Jerry Bahls

ALSO OF INTEREST

Birds of a Feather

Saturday, May 6th

10 a.m.-2 p.m., ongoing,
West Coon Rapids Dam in Brooklyn Park, MN

Observe live raptors and nesting osprey up close! Band songbirds, go on a bird-watching walk, create a craft for the birds and your own banded songbird. Touchable artifacts for kids and fun for all! *Co-sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited.* \$5; group rate available. For more information call: (763) 694-7793
Internet: www.threeriversparkdistrict.org
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.

Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 13

6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In celebration of its 35th anniversary, the City of Richfield's Wood Lake Nature Center is having a bird festival to coincide with International Migratory Bird Day.

From bird watching to guest speakers, from new films to birdfeeder rafts, there will be something for experienced and novice birdwatchers as well as children to enjoy.

Call Wood Lake Nature Center at 612-861-9365
For a full detailed schedule click on the goose symbol on www.woodlakenaturecenter.org

Summer Electronic Kingfisher

Because the gap is so long between Kingfisher publications, it has been decided to publish a July/August Kingfisher. However it will only be published electronically (cost consideration). It will be put on our website for members to read and download. If you would like to be notified when it is available, please send Jerry Bahls (bahls001@tc.umn.edu) an e-mail asking to be put on the summer Kingfisher notification list.



Digital Dragonflies in an Analog World

June 24, 2006 1 p.m.
Springbrook Nature Center
100 85th Avenue NW, Fridley, MN 55432

Digital dragonflies in an analog world? Join us for a different kind of field trip with a focus on dragonflies. We will be focusing on dragonflies both literally and figuratively. We will spend a couple of hours out in the wetland looking for dragonflies, taking their photos when we can get them to pose and netting those that do not want to pose. Then we'll download those photos into a laptop back in the nature center for viewing and identification. We will have a projector available so the image will be shown on a very large screen instead of a computer monitor.

Learn to identify and appreciate these fascinating insects in both the outdoors and in the "classroom."

Bring your digital camera and download cable if the storage media is not Compact Flash or Smart Media.

All ages and skill levels welcome.

Leaders: John Arthur and Pamela Deerwood
jarthur@visi.com

Have you seen anything good?

This is a frequently asked question that we hear when meeting other birders? Some ask that question with a negative answer expected. Oh, we only saw 3 Cardinals and a Black-capped Chickadee might be the reply. This could sound like disappointment, but can be taken for a conversation opener. We could mention that we also saw a few other species and what we saw in the past. Pretty soon, the topic expands to birding areas in far flung locations. Talk then turns to the beauty of the area. What started out as a negative is now a positive.

Other times it's pulling up behind a group standing by the road with binoculars and spotting scopes. something. The question is asked and they point to what stopped them. During the Owl Irruption of 2004-2005, that was how we found the next Great Grey.

Chapter meetings, we use that question as an "ice breaker." The audience will add what is around and being seen. Sometimes what is being seen turns into a nice segue into that night's topic or the "Bird of the Month" presentation.

All from a simple little question.

Mailing Team – **THANKS!!**

Each year members of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis receive the *Kingfisher* by mail. This happens because a group of dedicated volunteers give up the 3rd Monday of the month for eight months to insert, fold and label the *Kingfishers*, so they can be mailed.

I would like to thank the following for this valuable service – Bill Caverly, Donna Bahls, Lois Dick, Judy Dupre, Alan and Alice Fagley, Mavis and George Fisher, Jeanne King, Dave Martin, Darlene and Don Olson, Marianna Tiller and Mary Ellen Vetter. When you see them let them know you appreciate their work.

Thank you team!

Jerry Bahls

Audubon Center of the North Woods First Annual BIRDING FESTIVAL

June 9-11, 2006

Small groups of birders will be out exploring wetlands, forests and fields that make up the Center's 535 acres, as well as surrounding habitat in Pine County. The migrants have returned and are setting up territories and building nests.

Highlights include: Raptor Presentation, Bird banding, hikes in North Woods, Trips to near-by locations -- Sandstone Wildlife Refuge, Banning State Park, St. Croix State Park, the Nemadji Bogs and Blacklock's Nature Sanctuary.

Guest speaker: Laura Erickson. Trip Leader: Mark Alt.

Registration Fee: \$35

Food & Lodging packages at the Center: Commuter Deal, 2 lunches & 2 dinners - \$36

Lodging for 1 night and 4 meals - \$78; Lodging for 2 nights and 6 meals - \$113

All pricing is per person based on 4 people/room. Private rooms may be available on request for an additional fee.

Please contact the Audubon Center to register.

888-404-7743 or 320-245-2648; email: crowley@audubon-center.org or www.audubon-center.org

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
MAY 2006



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

MAY

- 2 Chapter Program**—Sustainable Forests
- 6 Field Trip**—Stearns County
- 6 Field Trip**—Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds,
- 7 Field Trip**—Butler Wildflower Gardens
- 13 Migratory Bird Day**—Wood Lake
- 13 Field Trip**—Butler Wildflower Gardens
- 17 Field Trip**—Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds

JUNE

- 9-11 Birding Festival**—Northwoods
- 24 Field Trip**—Dragonflies—John Arthur/
Pamela Deerwood
- 27 Chapter Joint Program**—John Arthur,
Dragonflies

JULY

- 25 Chapter Joint Program**—Siah St. Claire,
Nature and Your Health

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 Vetter 763 561-1761.

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin—except in July. All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call President Jerry Bahls for details!