



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 48 No. 7

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater
Minneapolis and Hennepin County

October 1999

Letter from the President

Hi Everyone,

The month of August was spent by many chapter members at some very important functions. The Audubon Ark came to town on August 21, landing at Hidden Falls Park. There were many Auduboners from each Metro chapter and the Minnesota Audubon Council on hand to greet the Ark travelers. The Audubon Ark was on a 750-mile voyage up and down the Mississippi River promoting National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River campaign. Our chapter is currently aiding this campaign by locating birding sites that will be incorporated into a Mississippi Birding Trail. Our first foray took place last May. We hope to continue this process censusing sites along the river in each season. Please call me if you would like to help out with this project.

Audubon was also well represented at the State Fair. Thanks to Mary Ellen Vetter for coordinating our chapter's volunteers who staffed the Audubon booth during the fair. The theme of this year's booth was the Audubon WatchList which highlights bird species of special concern in Minnesota. The lists were separated into each ecoregion in the state and highlighted on a very eye-catching map. I saw many visitors take time to read over the information and ask about how they can help. The lists are, sad to say, far too long! Besides promoting Audubon and conservation ethics, the Audubon booth allowed kids and kids at heart to match their wingspan with that of a variety of raptors. Visitors were also given a chance to send a request for Governor Ventura to support the Red River Initiative which is a cooperative effort of farmers and conservationists to improve the environment and rural communities. It is hoped that the Governor will request funding in the year 2000 bonding bill to support this initiative. The process is now at a point where funding is crucial to furthering this important cause. I encourage you to contact the Minnesota Audubon Council to find out how you can get involved.

- Tom Mahan



October 5 Meeting: Through the Eyes of the Raven

Was that big black bird a raven or a crow? From a distance, how can you tell the difference? The slide program presented by Kristin Stuchis answers those questions and provides a chance to learn the biology and mythology of the raven in a playful and entertaining way. Featured are several photographs by Minnesota's own *National Geographic* photographer, Jim Brandenburg. The program should widen our appreciation for nature through the eyes of the raven.

Kristin is a graduate of the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center program and is continuing her studies at the University of Minnesota-Duluth for a Master's Degree in education. She completed her undergraduate work in biology at Grinnell College. She is a fellow Auduboner holding membership in the Tallgrass Prairie Chapter in Iowa.

The meeting is on Tuesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. at Mayflower Church at 35W and Diamond Lake Road. If you come by bus, get off at Diamond Lake Road and Nicollet and walk one block east to the church; enter from parking lot. If coming on 35W from the north, exit at Diamond Lake Road, turn right, continue a few yards, turn right at parking lot entrance/church. If coming 35W from the south, exit Diamond Lake Road, turn left, cross over 35W, continue a few yards, turn right at parking lot entrance/church.

- Fran Duritsa

Just a Reminder...

We've Moved!

Program Meetings are now being
held at the
Mayflower
Church

See page 2 for map and directions

Audubon Booth at State Fair Challenges Minnesotans

Our "Name that Bird" board game draws in folks like a magnet. Young and old try their skills at matching picture and name, and are delighted to get "the green light." Minnesotans seem to know our birds.

The legislative issue featured this year asked for funds for the Red River Valley Project which will put marginal farm land into conservation easements and then restore that land to enhanced wildlife habitat. Booth visitors were asked to sign a postcard addressed to Governor Ventura to express their support.

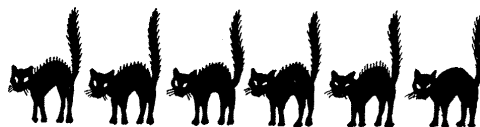
A new challenge for everyone was to guess which raptor has a wing span to match yours. Stand in front of the life-sized painted pictures of raptors in flight, spread out your arms and find the bird with the same wing measurement. There were lots of Red-tailed Hawks on my shift. Although the big people always got to be the Bald Eagle, it was fun.

Many thanks to our Chapter members who took a turn to represent Audubon, answered questions, and handed out information:

Mary Abbey, Jane Anfinson, Jerry Bahls, Ginny Black, Don & Shirley Bolduc, Terry Brashear, Bill Caverley, Terry DeLambert, Lois Dick, Elaine Evers, Virginia Flygare, Jeanne King, Phyllis & Tom Mahan, Clareyse Nelson, Conrad Nelson, Jean Scheu, Dorene Scriven, Jim Sharpsteen, Bill Sipe, Tom Stinson, Mary Ellen Vetter, Jan & Greg Weigenant, Mike Welch, David Wick, Sylvia Winkelman.

- Mary Ellen Vetter

HALLOWEEN



Come to our next program!

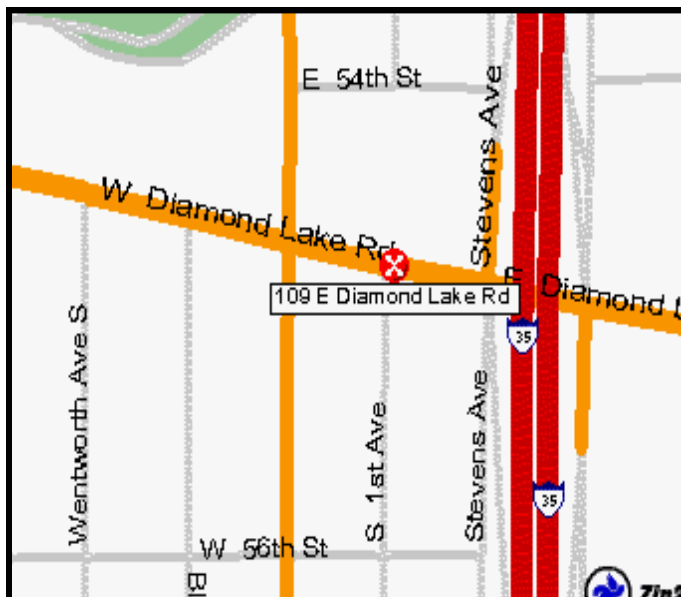
DATE: Tuesday, October 5, 1999
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Kristin Stuchis presents:
"Through the Eyes of the Raven"

AT: Mayflower Church
 109 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis

PARK: In church lot

ROOM: Big room downstairs

Mayflower Church is located just west of the Highway 35W exit. Enter on the main floor and go downstairs to the big room. Parking is provided at the church.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) 1999-2000 Contacts

President.....	Tom Mahan.....	588-5440
Vice President.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
Treasurer.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Secretary.....	<open>.....	
Board/Bluebird Recovery...	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Board/Conservation Chair..	<open>.....	
Board/Mailing Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Board/Program Chair.....	Lis Jones.....	827-1482
Board/Sales Chair.....	Tom Stinson.....	767-8736
Board.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Board.....	Jeane Kelly.....	862-1421
Board/Sales Chair.....	Jim Sharpsteen.....	722-9109
Board.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Birdathon/Big Day Coord..	<open>.....	
Camperships/Hunt Hill....	Marion Borell.....	866-1266
Camperships/North Woods.	Bob Nelson.....	933-7340
Education Chair.....	Mary Ellen Vetter...	561-1761
Field Trips Chair.....	Terry Brashear.....	821-1191
Kingfisher Editor.....	Elizabeth Peterson..	822-6051
Kingfisher Editor.....	Pam Rhoads.....	822-6051
Lending Library.....	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Membership Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Park Feeders.....	David Stamps.....	374-3609
Park Feeders.....	Don Bolduc.....	927-0617
Publicity Committee.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Social Committee.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
MN Audubon Office.....	225-1830
MOU Rare Bird Alert.....	780-8890

ACM's Internet Address: www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835
 Board of Directors meet at Anwatin School, Minneapolis.
 All are welcome! Call the president for details.



North Woods Camperships

The Minneapolis Audubon Society sponsored three young boys in the North Woods Wilderness school this summer at the Audubon Center of the North Woods.

Camper scholarships were awarded to:

- Ross Fettig of Maple Lake, MN. He attended the Level 1 Wilderness Camp.
- Charles Willcutt of Bloomington, MN. He attended the Level 1 Adventurers Camp.
- Curtis Willcutt, also of Bloomington, and brother of Charles. He attended the Level 2 Boundary Waters Canoe Camp.

- Bob Nelson

← Hunt Hill Campership →

This year a campership was awarded to Kelly Linmhan by our chapter. She was at Hunt Hill between July 25 and July 31 for the Youth Ecology Adventure. The following is a letter of thanks she sent to the chapter's Hunt Hill coordinator, Marion Borell:

Dear Mrs. Borell and the Audubon Society,

Thank you so much for the scholarship to Hunt Hill. It was the most wonderful experience! From the moment I arrived there until I left, the smiling faces of the counselors brought a large smile on mine. Some of the activities we did included exploring the insects in the prairie.

Another activity we did was exploring the woods. There we found tracks, mushrooms, plants, and insects! It was so neat. We did other activities, too, such as exploring the bog, swimming, fishing, snorkeling, and more!

I made a lot of friends and enjoyed everyone. The week went too fast and I will always remember this special week. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to go to such a special place!

Love, Kelly

- Marion Borell

Kingfisher Submission Deadline

The e-mail address for article submissions is: KingfisherMN@aol.com. Please attach the articles to e-mail in the MS Word format if possible. To reduce confusion and incorrect information, please send fully written articles.

Contributors are still welcome to submit articles and information to the *Kingfisher* by regular mail. Send material to either editor at 3161 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

The deadline for submission of all articles and information is the first day of the month prior to publication. The November issue's deadline is October 1.

Electronic Kingfisher

The October *Kingfisher* will be the second *Kingfisher* published electronically. It can be viewed on the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis website (<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835>). Anyone can go to the site and view it. Please do! See if you would like to have this be your only way of receiving the *Kingfisher*. It will save us about \$1.35 per year in postage for each member that wants to receive it electronically. I currently have 27 members signed up. That's about \$35 saved for the year. If you're interested, please send me an e-mail at bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

- Jerry Bahls



Joint Chapters Meeting on October 28

The Saint Paul Audubon Society, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis are joining together for a special joint meeting to be held at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Auditorium on Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is sponsored by the Saint Paul Audubon Society.

Author, magazine writer, radio producer, and winner of the Raptor Center's Conservation Award and the Francis F. Roberts Award from the Cooper Ornithological Society, Laura Erickson will be the guest speaker. Her program is entitled "Hoo Gives a Hoot?" It will be on North American owls, their plumage, vocalizations, adaptations for hunting in the dark, and how they have come to arouse such strong human emotions and hold a place in mythology and folklore in virtually every culture in the world.

Please join us for this exciting and informative meeting. If you have any questions, contact Fred Waltz, President, St. Paul Audubon Society at 651-454-8994.



Autumn Open House at the Audubon Center of the North Woods

Join Audubon Center staff and Fall Block College students for a day of discovery and pleasure, Saturday, October 9, 1999.

See all the new facilities; experience the climbing wall and ropes course; try your hand at Native American crafts; meet our international interns from Nepal, China, and Slovakia; enjoy our maple forest at the peak of its fall colors; wander the trails that meander through the woods, fields, and wetlands; and canoe on the lake.

Hope to see you there!



September, 1999 Audubon Meeting Review

The new season of Audubon meetings kicked off at the Mayflower Congregational Church. Attendees participated in a potluck supper that left no one hungry. The big hit this year was a frozen raspberry dessert whipped up by Wina Mortenson (see recipe below). Thanks from all those lucky enough to get there early. After introducing the various board members in attendance, Terry Brashear, Field Trip Chair, announced the upcoming excursions in search of everything from hawks to warblers.

Mary Ziegenhagen, author, editorial writer, and prairie preservation advocate presented the evening's program. Her focus was on the prairie and parkland of the Red River Valley. The prairie that exists today was formed over 10,000 years ago as the bed of glacial Lake Agassiz. Formed by the melting glacial waters, the lake covered a huge area in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Canada. As the glaciers melted, the Red River eventually drained the lake as it flowed northward to Hudson Bay. This new land of rolling, sandy hills was quickly covered with many species of grass, woody shrubs, and wildflowers that supported a complex food web.

The prairie has a number of interesting geological features including deltas that were formed by the lake's wave action. We see them today as slowly rising hills spread out across the prairie. Glacial erratics are also present on the landscape. These are large boulders that were carried along with the glaciers. As the wall of ice melted, the rocks were left in place and today are visible across the prairie. When buffalo roamed these lands, they used the rocks to rub off their thick winter coats in springtime. For this reason, many call them buffalo rocks.

The 1750s marked a time when humans other than Native Americans first inhabited these lands. By the late 1800s, investors from the eastern United States began to establish large ranches. This enabled them to take advantage of the open land for grazing their stock. In 1850, 66 percent of the original prairie remained. By 1997, it had been reduced to 2 percent of its original range. The resulting habitat loss has reduced the species diversity in these grasslands.

Many ranchers could not understand why their stock was degrading the quality of the grasslands so quickly while buffalo had foraged the same land successfully for centuries. The answer lies in the way cattle graze. As they eat the grasses, they are more likely to pull at the plant, thus dislodging the root system. The underlying soil is quickly degraded. Buffalo cut the plant off and leave the root system undisturbed, thus ensuring future growth. Today, ranchers practice rotational grazing. A pasture is used for a limited time and the cattle are then moved before all the grasses are consumed. This allows the area to regenerate so it can be used again, often later in the same season.

Fires play an essential role in the prairie ecosystem. Native Americans used fire to round up game in an area. The burn had a positive effect on the prairie by eliminating thatch and recycling minerals. The burn also opened up the soil for seed germination. As Americans pushed their way westward, trains not only provided transportation, but also started many fires that aided in the revitalization of the prairie.

Today, half of the prairie that remains is privately owned. The other half is in the hands of federal, state, and conservation-oriented groups. Ziegenhagen and others like her will continue to work to preserve what is left of the prairie so we all can have the opportunity to see the land as the Native Americans saw it.

- Frank De Steno

The "Winning" Potluck Recipe

As usual, the potluck dinner was a big hit with the attendees. One dish, however, stood out from all the rest. The frozen raspberry dessert whipped up by Wina Mortenson was far and away the most acclaimed combination of cream, condiments, crust, and fruit at the chapter's latest soiree. It is something worth trying for those of you so inclined. Please note that, except for the eggs, no animals are injured in this production. (That is unless there is an unfortunate mixer mishap.)

Ingredients:

10 oz. frozen or fresh raspberries
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
2 egg whites
Half pint of whipping cream

1 cup of sugar
1 teaspoon of vanilla
Some type of crust

Put all the ingredients except the whipping cream into a large deep bowl and mix on "high" for 20 minutes or until stiff. (The mixture, not the chef.) Draping a towel over the mixer will help prevent splatters. Whip the cream separately and fold into the raspberry mixture.

Have a prepared crust in a 9 x 13 pan. (A graham cracker crust, for example.) Spread the raspberry "fluff" over the crust and freeze.

Put another feather in Wina's cap!

-Frank De Steno





Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area (WMA) -- Originally owned by the Crex Carpet Company, manufacturers of carpets made from the wiregrass grown there, Carlos Avery WMA was purchased by the Minnesota Conservation Commission in 1933, becoming the largest public land tract in the seven-county metro area.

This WMA lies on the Anoka Sand Plain, a landscape of poorly drained sandy soil, unfit for most agriculture. Luckily for us, sand plains, and thus sand hills, are exactly the sort of location one would find the magnificent Sandhill Crane which is not often spotted in the metro area. Also look for Bald Eagles nesting in the trees or floating in the air above the many ponds.

About two-thirds of the area is wetland, a mixture of emergent marsh and open water. The area also contains a vast stretch of tamarack bog that borders the Sunrise River, providing an excellent opportunity to see aquatic birds; upland areas that are primarily old fields, grasslands, and oak woodlands, where a variety of passerines can be found; and crop-planted food plots for the wildlife. You might also see American Bitterns, Green-backed Herons, Belted Kingfishers, Wild Turkey, vireos, and many species of waterfowl, as well as mammals like deer, coyotes, river otters, and an occasional black bear.

Start your visit by obtaining a trail map at the WMA headquarters which is only open on weekdays. If you visit on a weekend, maps can be obtained from distribution boxes by the headquarter's signs. This area is managed for wildlife and has very little development except for approximately 57 miles of roads, 23 miles of trail, and 21 miles of dikes that provide access to this vast area by hiking or by car. A seven-mile self-guided auto tour begins at the headquarters and provides an excellent view of the area.

Although part of this area near the headquarters is posted as sanctuary—no trespassing, be aware that hunting is allowed in other parts of the WMA. Call ahead for hunting season dates.

Directions: Located about 30 minutes north of Minneapolis. Take 35W north to the first Forest Lake exit (Hwy 2). Go west about 8 miles to Zodiac Street. Take a right and follow it to the headquarters. No potable water or restrooms available on the weekend. No fee.

Minnesota Audubon Council's Birdseed Sale

October 23, 1999

Feed your neighborhood birds this winter and support Minnesota Audubon's conservation work throughout the state. Place your orders by using the form at right. Orders will be accepted until October 15, 1999. **Prepaid orders only please.**

You can pick up your seed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on October 23rd at one of SIX convenient locations.

Maps to the pick-up sites will be mailed one week before the sale.

Bloomington - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (3815 East 80th St.)

Highland/Macalester - 1722 Princeton Ave
*Friday pick-up available here.

New Brighton - Freedom Park (Near 14th Ave NW and Silver Lake Rd)

Lake Nokomis - Mother Earth Gardens (3738 42nd Ave South)

Plymouth - 11410 - 49th Place N (house)

White Bear Lake/Birchwood
- 176 Wildwood (house)

*Pick-up available Friday AND Saturday at **Highland location only (house).**

Audubon Birdseed Sale - Order **deadline** is October 15th, 1999.
Prepaid orders only please.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve Phone _____

____ I would like to volunteer to help out on the day of the sale.

Seed Type	Size	Cost	Quantity	Total
MN Audubon Mix	20 lbs	\$10.00		
Cardinal Mix	50 lbs	\$17.00		
Black Sunflower	50 lbs	\$12.00		
Wild Bird Mix	50 lbs	\$12.00		
Cracked Corn	50 lbs	\$ 9.00		
Finch Mix	50 lbs	\$25.00		
Shelled Sunflower	50 lbs	\$28.00		
Shelled Sunflower	25 lbs	\$14.00		
Thistle	25 lbs	\$30.00		
Thistle	8 lbs	\$10.00		
Finch Mix	8 lbs	\$ 7.00		
Safflower	5 lbs	\$ 3.00		
Suet Cake	12 oz	\$ 2.00		

I would like to join the National Audubon Society

Here is an extra contribution for Audubon in MN

(Make check to: Minnesota Audubon) **T O T A L**

I will pick up Bloomington Lake Nokomis

my order in Highland/Mac Plymouth

(check one): New Brighton White Bear Lake

Return order form to: **Minnesota Audubon,**

26 E. Exchange St., St. Paul, MN 55101



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403



KINGFISHER
October 1999



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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.

As a senior citizen or student, I am able to join for only \$15!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Send this application and check 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: CM02 9M99

Calendar of Events

October

- 5 Chapter Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
"Through the Eyes of a Raven"
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Joint Chapter Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at
the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife
Refuge Auditorium with Laura
Erickson

November

- 2 Chapter Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
"Birds of the North Coast of Alaska"
- 9 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Birders of all ages and skill levels are
welcome on all field trips.**