



# KINGFISHER



Summer 2006

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 55 No. 4A

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## June Program

### DRAGONFLIES

John Arthur, the new President of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, will present a program on dragonflies. He will discuss the difference between the dragonfly and damselfly. You will learn about the life of a dragonfly and see many pictures of the many species that live in Minnesota.

John has learned about dragonflies partly through his photography. The past three years he has produced a calendar with beautiful full color photographs of dragonflies and damselflies.

This program will be the first of our joint programs with the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The evening will start with a tour of the Chapter House and grounds.

**Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Izaak Walton League—Breckenridge Chapter**  
**Chapter House**  
**8816 West River Road**  
**Brooklyn Park**

### Summer Electronic Issue

This is the first Summer issue that has been produced of the Kingfisher in several years. The purpose of this issue is to stay in touch with our members and to tell them about the activities that Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has during the summer months. It also informs everyone about the coming fall events that will require volunteers to help us with, for example, the State Fair booth.

This issue is only published on our website. Everyone can access it by visiting [www.geocities.com/audubon.geo](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo) and clicking on "Try out our on-line newsletter."

We welcome your feedback on this format. If there is good acceptance of this format we may expand it in the future. Please send your comments to Jerry Bahls at [bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu).

## July Program

### NATURE AND YOUR HEALTH

Siah St. Claire has been the Director of the Springbrook Nature Center for over 30 years. Siah is an expert birder and naturalist.

In the course of providing many programs at Springbrook Nature Center, he has observed the importance of nature in individuals lives. The recent book by Richard Louv, "*Last Child in the Woods*", addresses the importance of nature to us all. Siah's talk will concentrate on its importance on our health.

Please join us. Come and tour the Breckenridge chapter house and grounds if you missed it in June.

**Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Izaak Walton League—Breckenridge Chapter**  
**Chapter House**  
**8816 West River Road**  
**Brooklyn Park**

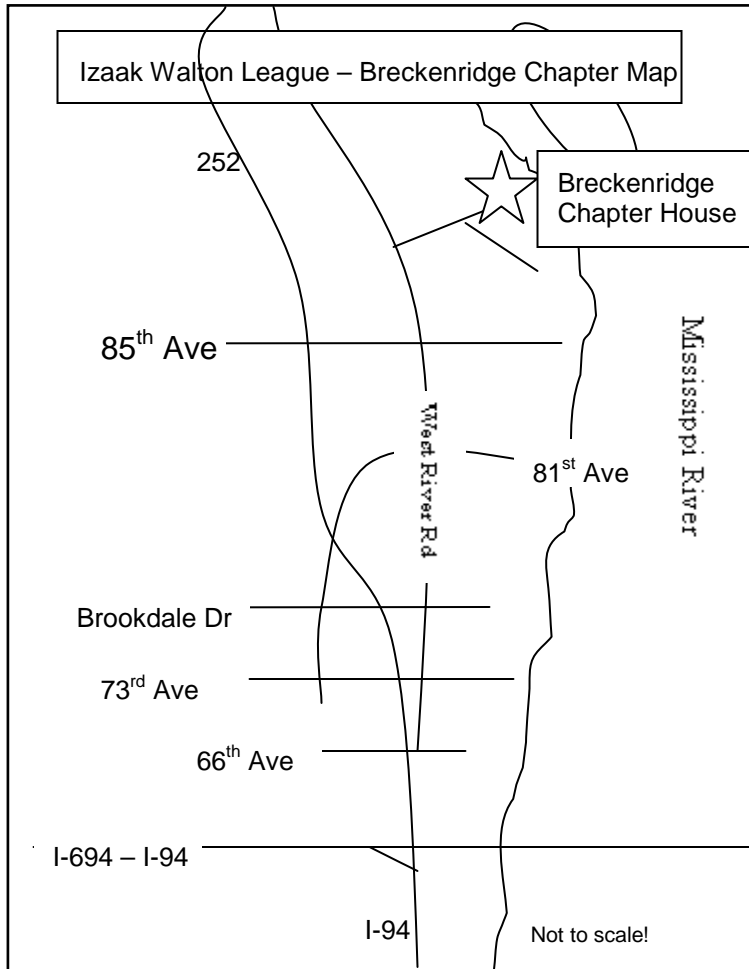
## August Program

### RIVER FISH IN METRO AREA

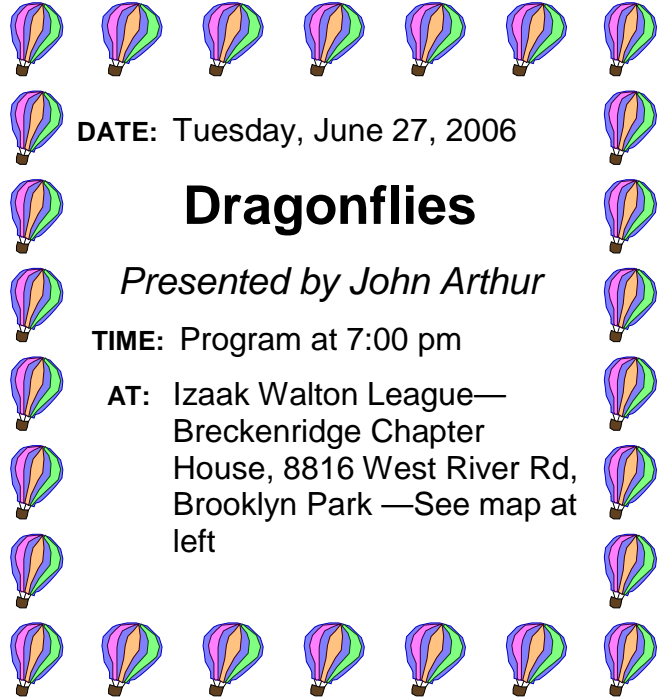
Roland Sigurdson joined the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the Section of Fisheries—MinnAqua program in December 1997 and is stationed in the Metro area. He enjoys teaching the youth of Minnesota about fishing.

Roland will tell us about all the fish in the Mississippi River that flows behind the Breckenridge Chapter House. He will address some of the concerns about these fish and help us try to do something about the potential problems.

**Tuesday, August 22 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Izaak Walton League—Breckenridge Chapter**  
**Chapter House**  
**8816 West River Road**  
**Brooklyn Park**



## Come to Our Next Program!



**DATE:** Tuesday, June 27, 2006

## Dragonflies

*Presented by John Arthur*

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 pm

**AT:** Izaak Walton League—  
Breckenridge Chapter  
House, 8816 West River Rd,  
Brooklyn Park —See map at  
left

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

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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 summer's featured book is:

*A Bluebird's First  
Summer  
by Helena Craven*

## Audubon's 2006 Minnesota Legislative Priorities Summary

It was as fast and furious session with some losses and some victories. Legislators were eager to end the session and get their campaigns kicked-off for the fall elections. Make sure you contact me if you're going to be meeting or see your legislator this summer or attend a debate forum in the fall. I can supply you with voting records and information on our issues to share with each candidate.

### *Bonding*

As many of you know, the State issues state general obligation bonds to leverage funds for capital improvements every two years. Audubon supported bonding for the following programs, all of which help to protect and restore critical and sensitive bird and other wildlife habitat. The Governor proposed an \$845 million bonding bill to the legislature. The House's final bonding bill added an extra \$100 million (\$949 million) while the Senate's bill was at \$989 million. The bonding conference committee agreed to a final package of \$948 million – with many of the Senate's grants to localities being tossed-out. Nevertheless, a billion dollar bonding bill is nearly record-high and the environment fared pretty well.

For other legislative results, contact Susan Solterman at [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org).

## 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

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

July 29	9:00—noon
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## State Fair Volunteers

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking volunteers to work the Audubon booth at the State Fair. We are responsible for providing the volunteers for Aug. 27, 29, 30 and Sep. 1. The shifts are for 3 hours and admission to the Fair is compliments of Audubon.

## Field Trip Chair Needed

This past May, Mary Ellen Vetter stepped down as our Field Trip Chair. She served very well in this capacity for the last 3 years.

The chapter needs someone to help set up the trips that helped launch it over 70 years ago. This is a opportunity to go to the birding spots you want to go. Please let John Arthur know that you would like to become our new Field Trip Chair.

The Field Trip Chair is responsible for setting up the trips and contacting leaders to guide them. The Chair also arranges the publicity for the trip by writing brief descriptions of the trips for the Kingfisher and any other publication that is appropriate. Finally the Chair reviews the trips with the leader after they are held.

## 7TH ANNUAL GREAT MN RIVER BIRDING DAY

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Great MN River Birding Day will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2006. Birders will be encouraged to explore birding sites in the MN River Valley from Ft. Snelling in the east to Big Stone Lake in the west and from Walnut Lake in Faribault County to Inspiration Point in Otter Tail County. This year birders will be allowed to bird areas of the watershed that are west of Hwy 15 which runs from St. Cloud through Hutchinson, New Ulm and Fairmont to the Iowa border on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> as well as on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be 3 rallies that birders can attend. The first will be Friday evening from 4:30-6:30 at the Lac Qui Parle WMA Headquarters just NW of Watson off of US 59/Hwy 7 in Chippewa County. There will be a light dinner served at around 5PM. On Saturday there will be a rally in Mankato at Rasmussen Nature Center from 2-4PM and a rally at the MN River Valley NWR Headquarters in Bloomington from 1-3PM. There will be refreshments at both rallies. Last year we had over 100 participants who identified 181 species. This will be difficult to beat, but if enough of us get out there and the weather cooperates, we have a chance. For more information, visit us at [www.birdingtrail.org](http://www.birdingtrail.org) or contact Bob Williams at 612-728-2232.

For more information on this opportunity for free admission to the State Fair, contact John Arthur or any member of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board or call Jenny Vitale at Audubon Minnesota at 651 739-9332 or e-mail at [jvitale@audubon.org](mailto:jvitale@audubon.org). Thanks for helping!



## **Wetlands Summit Report – 2006**

Last March 31st, over 300 people interested in the preservation and restoration of wetlands met and reviewed the problems and brainstormed future action. Below is the executive summary of that Summit.

### **Executive Summary**

The first Minnesota Wetlands Summit was developed to recognize the values of the state's vast network of historical wetlands, to review current losses and gains, and to identify corrective measures needed. The opening session examined the history and status of wetland policies, programs, regulations and current problems. Three concurrent sessions addressed: (1) The conservation features of the Federal Farm Program and related problems. (2) The role of private landowners in improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitat and related recreational activities. (3) Performance of the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act. During the closing plenary session principle issues were identified and recommendations for action were determined by consensus. In the authors' opinion, the six most significant recommendations are:

- Conduct a strong grassroots effort to retain wetland and grassland conservation practices in the 2007 Farm Bill, and seek a better balance between payments for conservation practices and commodity practices.
  - Enforce current wetlands protection laws and strengthen where needed.
  - Develop a more effective education program to inform the public about the importance of private lands and the Farm Bill in maintaining wetlands, grasslands, other fish and wildlife habitats, related recreational activities, and improving water quality.
  - Reassess the performance of the Wetlands Conservation Act and take corrective action to establish firm criteria for granting exemptions, retaining wetlands functions and values when considering wetland replacement, providing greater protection for temporary and seasonal wetlands, and strengthening enforcement capabilities.
  - Improve monitoring and evaluation techniques to measure more accurately annual wetland losses and gains.
  - Support legislation for long-term dedicated funding for natural resource programs and for LCMR reform.
- Additional issues, related recommendations and conclusions are included in the Position Paper section of the Report. More detailed individual session summaries of discussion and other comments by attendees are included in the Appendices to this Report.

**Bill Henke, Izaak Walton League of America**  
**Harvey K. Nelson, Minnesota Waterfowl Association and**  
**Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Alliance**

### **Conservation Committee**

The Conservation Committee will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of the month on September 13th. We will meet at the Lunds Store on Lake Street just off Hennepin at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to reorganize and chose some projects for the fall. We will also need to choose some legislative issues to nominate for the 2007 legislative session.

If you are interested in helping plan the next battle in the Buckthorn Wars or set another course in helping save the birds we all love, please join me on September 13th.

Jerry Bahls  
Conservation Chair



## Digital Dragonflies in an Analog World

**June 24, 2006 1 p.m.**  
**Springbrook Nature Center**  
**100 85<sup>th</sup> 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

## Veracruz River of Raptors

**September 24 - October 2, 2006**  
with tour leaders **Amber Burnette and Sharon Stiteler**

Central Veracruz is the main flyway in the world for raptor migration. Every year an average of five million raptors are registered by Pronatura Veracruz, one of six groups whose mission is the conservation of flora, fauna, and priority ecosystems in Mexico.

Geography probably accounts for the funneling of 3.3 million raptors through Veracruz each year. Most of the raptors are soaring birds; so they depend on thermals to obtain altitude. Since the open sea does not have thermals, the birds are restricted to the Mexican peninsula as they fly between North America and points south. However, good thermals are not to be found in the mountains, which occupy much of Mexico west of Veracruz; so they must stay near the coast. As a result virtually the entire population of some raptors is flying through a strip of land just 25 miles wide.

This tour will have two base locations - Cardel and Xalapa. **TRIP COSTS: \$2495/person double occupancy.**

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

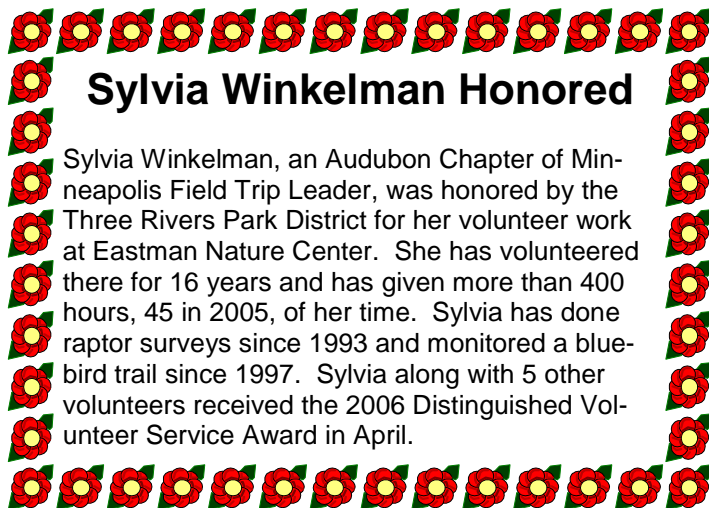
*Lowland dry thorn-forest sites*  
*Costal lagoons and/or beaches*  
*River boat trip*  
*Butterflies and Dragonflies*  
*Cloud forests*  
*Shade-coffee plantations*  
*Tropical savannah*  
*Archaeological sites—Museum of Anthropology in Xalapa*

### Tour leader—Amber Burnette

Amber is currently studying at the University of Minnesota for her B.S. in Wildlife Tourism and Education with an Emphasis on Avian Studies. She has been a tour leader for local and out-of-state birding tours for the past 6 years and has created curriculum and programming for the last 8 years for the U. of Minnesota's Raptor Center and St. Paul's Como Zoo. Amber has written articles for several Minneapolis publications, appeared on Minneapolis' NBC and ABC television affiliates, and has had several photos featured on *Birders World* online. In the fall you can find her assisting a bird bander at a blind in Duluth.

### Tour leader—Sharon Stiteler

Sharon has worked in the birding industry for the last 8 years. She has appeared locally and nationally on television and radio. Sharon appears on the KARE-11 *Today Show* talking about watching, housing, and feeding the birds. She is also on a Minnesota Radio station talking about the month's birding highlights. To learn more about Sharon and her adventures visit [www.birdchick.com](http://www.birdchick.com).



## Sylvia Winkelman Honored

Sylvia Winkelman, an Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Field Trip Leader, was honored by the Three Rivers Park District for her volunteer work at Eastman Nature Center. She has volunteered there for 16 years and has given more than 400 hours, 45 in 2005, of her time. Sylvia has done raptor surveys since 1993 and monitored a bluebird trail since 1997. Sylvia along with 5 other volunteers received the 2006 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award in April.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
SUMMER 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**

JUNE

- 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*

AUGUST

- 8 Board Meeting**
- 22 Chapter Joint Program**—Roland Sigurdson,  
*River Fish in Metro Area*
- 24—Sep. 4 Minnesota State fair**

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this newsletter.

Board meetings are held every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 John Arthur for details!