



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 49 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis

Apr 1999

Letter from the President

Hi Everyone,

Reports are coming out that the birds are moving back north. I look forward to once again birding in the area in T-shirts and shorts instead of sweaters and long underwear. Phyllis and I were able to bird that way for a brief time this winter on a trip to Kaua'i, Hawaii. There were many new species for us, but the majority of them were exotic to the islands, having been transported by earlier settlers to the area. It was difficult to find any endemic forest species since their numbers are so reduced by habitat loss, exotic diseases, feral cats, and competition with exotic bird species. Birds everywhere face similar challenges to some degree. Lessons learned from the fate of Hawaii's native species should provide us with the knowledge needed to prevent a similar fate for birds everywhere.

Now, having said that, I encourage you to monitor the birds in your area and make note of any trends that may be occurring. You can bring any conservation issues, good or bad, to the attention of our Conservation Committee so that appropriate action may be taken. There is also a wealth of information available to the birder through books, videos, and presentations. If you are a first-time birder or you need a refresher course on bird identification, then make plans to attend the chapter's free Beginning Bird Identification class on April 21. Look for details about the class in this edition of the *Kingfisher*.

- Tom Mahan, President

April 6: Identifying Birds by Sound

Bruce A. Fall is Assistant to the Director of the General Biology Program at the University of Minnesota, where he teaches introductory biology (evolution and ecology) to undergraduates. For many years, he has taught noncredit ornithology field courses through University College at the University of Minnesota and has led many ornithology field trips for the Bell Museum. He is active in the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, having served on its records committee (MORC) for over a decade, and he recently (1997) received the MOU's T.S. Roberts award.

A similar program was presented on this subject by Mr. Fall in March of 1989 and again for the Minneapolis Audubon noon group in February of 1995. Due to the interest in this subject, it is being repeated.

- Dorene Scriven

Happy
EASTER

Spring is Coming and So Are the Bluebirds!

For bluebirds across the Midwest, 1998 was a great year. Minnesota even had some third broods. Three hundred twenty-six Minnesotans turned in official reports, indicating 10,730 new bluebirds fledged last year, and reports from other states brought the total reported to 20,080 fledged from 11,539 nestboxes. Eastern Bluebirds were observed in small groups wintering over in Minnesota, especially in the south. A Monticello observer not only had bluebirds into mid-January, but on February 23 reported a newly arrived pair of bluebirds thinking about keeping house already!

The Bluebird Recovery Program, part of the Minneapolis Chapter, will be celebrating its 20th year of existence at the Annual Bluebird Conference, to be held this year in Winona, MN April 17. (It's actually the 18th Annual Conference.) We expect over 150 people to attend this free event. The only charge (\$7.50) is for a catered lunch by Good Harvest. There will be cookies, coffee, displays, sale items, and demonstrations. New and "old" bluebirders are welcome. There will be special presentations on The World of Bluebirding, Bluebird Photography, Prothonotary Warblers, Effects on Wildfowl of Engineering the Mississippi River, Whitewater State Park, Bluebird Trail Basics, Wren Aggression, and the New Bald Eagle Center. A field trip to an established bluebird trail is included. Send a long self-addressed stamped envelope to Bluebird Recovery Program-Conference, Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55416 for registration details and suggested birding itineraries on the way down to Winona. Registrations should be received by the first week of April. Call Dorene Scriven (612) 922-4586 or Mary Ellen Vetter (612) 561-1761 for more details.

- Dorene Scriven



Beginning Bird ID Class



Come join us for our Beginning Bird Identification Class presented by Terry Brashear! We will focus on birds commonly found in Minnesota. You will learn how to identify birds by their field markings, behaviors, and habitats. Birders of all ages and skill levels are welcome! Reservations are

not needed.

For more information about the class, call Terry Brashear at (612) 821-1191. For information about our other programs, or to let us know that you will attend, call our chapter president, Tom Mahan, at (612) 588-5440.



When: 7:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Where: East Middle School, 12000 Ridgemoor Ave., Plymouth

Cost: FREE! Guests are welcome!

Directions: Take 394 to Hopkins Crossroad (County 73). Go north on County 73 approx. 1/2 mile to Ridgemoor Ave. Turn left on Ridgemoor and go approx. 3/4 mile to East Middle School on the right side. Park on the upper level and enter the school through the lower level south door marked, "Community Education."



Come to our next program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 6th, 1999

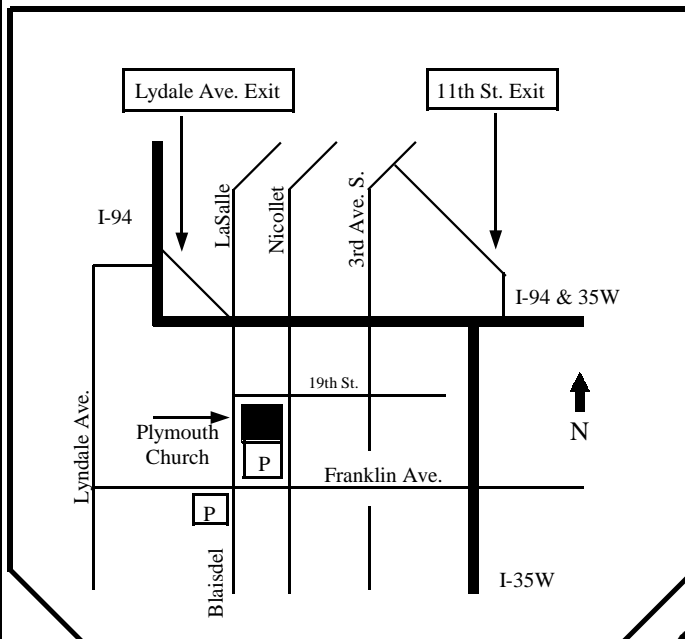
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Bruce Fall presents:
"Identifying Birds by Sound"

AT: Plymouth Congregational Church
19th St. & Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis

PARK: Behind Church, or diagonally across Franklin

ROOM: Howard Conn Theater (main level)

Enter **Plymouth Congregational Church** on the south side (rear of church), at LaSalle Ave. Go through the door by the children's playground.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) 1998-1999 Contacts

President.....	Tom Mahan.....	588-5440
Vice President.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
Treasurer.....	Dick Gillmer.....	920-0447
Secretary.....	Vija Kelly.....	729-8343
Board/Bluebird Recovery...	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Board/Conservation Chair..	Melissa Winn.....	529-8490
Board/Mailing Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Board.....	Fran Duritsa.....	822-4822
Board.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Board.....	Jeane Kelly.....	862-1421
Board.....	Jim Sharpsteen.....	722-9109
Board.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Birdathon/Big Day Coord..	Terry Brashear.....	821-1191
Camperships/Hunt Hill.....	Marion Borell.....	866-1266
Camperships/North Woods.	Bob Nelson.....	933-7340
Education Chair.....	Mary Ellen Vetter...	561-1761
Field Trips Chair.....	Don Wanschura.....	866-3276
Kingfisher Editor.....	Elizabeth Peterson..	822-6051
Kingfisher Editor.....	Pam Rhoads.....	822-6051
Lending Library.....	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Membership Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
North Woods Rep.....	Jane Spence.....	425-2221
Park Feeders.....	David Stamps.....	374-3609
Park Feeders.....	Don Bolduc.....	927-0617
Program Chair.....	Fran Duritsa.....	822-4822
Publicity Committee.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Sales Chair.....	<open>.....	
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.



Farther Afield

There comes a time, especially in the course of a Minnesota winter, when a birder longs for greener pastures. The siren song of lifebirds flirts and teases until finally the birder succumbs. The bird walk gives way to the birding trip complete with expert guide to fulfill fantasies and deliver those new lifebirds that were previously no more than illustrations in a field guide.

A number of members of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis yielded to temptation this winter and fled south to Texas with Kim Eckert, fearsome head of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) and leader of Minnesota Birding Weekends. There were among us rank rookies and seasoned veterans. And for each the trip provided (in addition to lifebirds) a good time, some surprises, some learning experiences, new friends, great food, and sunny days with temperatures in the eighties. What more can you ask for if you call Minnesota home in the winter-time?

For those of you who have not yet taken the leap, let me share a little of what we experienced. As far as the nuts and bolts go, the trip cost less than \$1,000.00 including everything from airfare to identification lessons. It was six days in length. Kim made all of the arrangements with the help of a travel agent who called everyone to arrange for air transportation to Corpus Christi. We traveled around in a 15-person van with the far rear seat removed to accommodate luggage and scopes. We stayed in nice motels which usually provided breakfasts. We had picnic lunches and restaurant dinners. There was moderate hiking involved, but nothing too strenuous even for the oldest member of our group.

Something the novices had not expected was being on the go from morning until night. But, how else can you see 202 species of birds and so many new ones?

The aim of a birding trip such as this one is to see birds that are unknown or uncommon in your home state. This often meant spending a lot of time trying to chase down species such as Seaside Sparrow or Buff-bellied Hummingbird. For those new to the sport this can be tedious—until the desired bird is finally found.

We set off from Minneapolis on a Saturday and, except for a flight delay, would have been birding the first after-

noon. As it was, we started in serious pursuit of our feathered friends the next morning. The first day was spent searching out the coastal birds, such as Roseate Spoonbill, White Ibis, Snowy Egret, and Little Blue and Tricolored Heron in the morning, and then a boat trip into Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge to view Whooping Cranes in the afternoon. Other treats seen were American Oystercatchers, Black-necked Stilts, Brown Pelicans, Cinnamon Teal, and Clapper Rail. A delightful treat was watching some Black-bellied Whistling Ducks perching on overhead wires.

The following afternoon we headed inland getting our first glimpse of such treasures as White-winged Dove and Green Jay. We stopped at a private ranch and saw the hard-to-find Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge, the Audubon Sanctuary of Sabal Palms, added such delights as Altamira Oriole, Least Grebe, Plain Chachalaca, Inca Dove, Tropical Parula, a Harris's Hawk building a nest, Green Kingfisher, Ringed Kingfisher, and many more.

Of course, no trip to south Texas would be complete without a stop at McAllen to look for Green Parakeet and Red-crowned Parrot or the Brownsville dump for Tamaulipas Crow and Chihuahuan Raven. Another traditional stop, Anzalduas County Park, added Grooved-bill Ani. Further up the Rio Grande we found Brown Jay and Zone-tailed Hawk. A final day in drier country included birds such as Scaled Quail and White-collared Seedeater.

The first-timers added as many as a hundred species to their lifelists, something unlikely to be repeated again in the United States. I had been once before, but I found that on this second trip I saw more and learned more. To illustrate how much of a difference a return trip makes, I thought I had added four lifebirds on this trip. When I returned home and checked my list, I found I had added only two. Should I have really added the other two the first time if I couldn't remember them? This time I could add them with good conscience because I really saw them and appreciated them. I think I'll go back again; I'm sure there are other birds I could stand to spend more time with. Besides, how can you argue with sunshine and temperatures over 70 degrees when it can be 20 below here?

- Vija Kelly

Become a Valuable Volunteer

We have many interesting and rewarding volunteer opportunities available for anyone with a strong desire to participate in our Chapter activities! Please contact Tom Mahan at (612) 588-5440 if you are interested in being the chair or a committee member for any of these, or other activities. We look forward to working with you!

Membership Committee

Meet new people and help spread the Audubon message! (**Jerry Bahls**, Chair)

Program Committee

Contact prominent topic experts and welcome them at our programs! (**Fran Duritsa**, Chair)

Publicity Chair/Committee

Contact the media with announcements for programs and trips! (**Bill Sipe**, Committee)

Sales Chair/Committee

Introduce and sell nature items during the friendly pre-program mingling! <open>



Upcoming Field Trips

May is a wonderful month for birding in Minnesota with spring migration returning warblers and songbirds among others to our area. It's also a great month for field trips. The following schedule includes something of interest for every birding taste. As always, the trips are open to members and nonmembers alike. Make plans to attend.

May 1st : Rice Creek – a great spot for warblers and other passerines. Prairie Warblers and Louisiana Water Thrush have both been found here in recent years. Connecticut Warblers also seem to be fairly regular here. Call Terry Brashear at 821-1191 for details.

May 3rd : Spring Lake Park – A first for the field trips. A beautiful spot on the bluffs of the Mississippi near Hastings. Nice hard wood forest and views of the river. Looks good for migrants and residents. Call Don Wanschura at 866-3276 for details.

May 8th : Louisville Swamp – A great spot with a wide variety of habitat including oak prairie, hardwood forest, swamp, marsh and open water. A wide variety of species are possible here. Call Don Wanschura at 866-3276 for details.

May 10th : Theodore Wirth/Eloise Butler – A popular spot for both birds and wildflowers with a nice variety of habitat. Hopefully both birds and blooms will be in abundance. Meet in the parking lot off Wirth Parkway immediately south of Glenwood Avenue at about 7:30 a.m. Call Don Wachura at 866-3276 for details.

May 15th : Old Cedar – This ever popular spot has a long history of good birding. Much watery habitat, plus flood plain and hardwoods. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in parking lot at Old Cedar or call Tom Mahan for further details at 588-5440.

May 18th : Springbrook Nature Center – This wildlife oasis amidst the sprawl of Fridley is well worth a visit and there's no better a guide than Siah St. Clair, the director. A Boreal owl spent the winter here a few years back. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Springbrook.

May 22nd : Big Day Bird Count – How many different species of birds can you spot in one 24 hour period? Call Terry Brashear for details at 821-1191.

May 24th : Crosby Farm Park – Extensive flood plain and upland forest, marsh, and wetlands on the banks of the Mississippi. A really nice spot for a wide variety of species. Directions: Take freeway 494 to 5 eastbound. Stay on Highway 5 past Fort Snelling to Fairview/Edgecumb/Shepard Road exit. Go to Shepard Road and entrance is just to left and down a long hill to parking lot. We meet at 7:30 a.m. Call Don Wachura for details.

Regretfully the field trip scheduled for **April 24th** has been cancelled but watch for details of a June field trip in future issues of *Kingfisher*.

Wildlife Rehab Center Seeks Volunteers

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota located at 1946 Fitch Avenue on the St. Paul Campus of the U of M is asking for volunteers in the following areas: Avian Nursery, Mammal Nursery, Waterfowl Nursery, and the Treatment Crew. Volunteers will receive training in the area of their choice and will be asked to work one morning, afternoon, or evening shift per week lasting three, four, or five hours depending on which area is chosen. Volunteers to the nurseries will help feed and care for infant songbirds, infant mammals, or infant waterfowl. Volunteers to the treatment crew would help wild animals recover from their illnesses or injuries often incurred as victims of human related trauma.

The Center also asks for donations of the following specific items: branches (1/4 –3/4 inches in diameter); canned pumpkin, pears, and peaches; Science Diet growth formula dry dog food; raisins; bait (crickets, worms, meal worms, minnows) or gift certificates to local bait shops; heat lamps; new heating pads; extension cords; plastic storage baskets (call for description); toilet paper; household appliances (refrigerators, microwave ovens, washers, and dryers).

Please call Keri at (612) 625-7033 prior to bringing your donation to the WRC.

Stewards To Our Parks

"Bird Identification: Sparrows and Finches" is the topic of a slide program to be presented by Craig Mandel, Dianne Rowse, and Karol Gresser on Wednesday, April 21, from 7-9 p.m. at Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville.

Craig Mandel is a field trip leader for the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge, and Dianne Rowse is a professional naturalist. Karol Gresser participates in bird identification programs at Richardson Nature Center, Hyland Park, Bloomington.

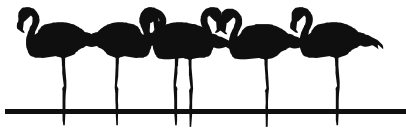
This is a fundraiser for Stewards To Our Parks, and a \$10 donation is requested to help purchase parkland in Terrace Oaks Park. For information call Karol Gresser (612) 890-6533.

Another fundraiser, a pig and turkey roast, will take place on Sunday, May 16, 1-3 p.m. at Terrace Oaks Park West chalet on County Road 11, just south of Burnsville Parkway, Burnsville. Further information will be provided in the May issue of *Kingfisher*, or call Dale Vaillancourt (612) 882-7863, or Shirley Asklund (612) 890-6753.



Program Chair Sought

If you are interested in education and planning, we have a job for you—our program chair! The program chair researches speakers and their topics through various sources, corresponds with potential speakers on availability, arranges speaking dates, obtains biographies, and announces the schedule to the membership. The program chair also coordinates the nine program meetings—greet and announces the speaker if possible, and sees to details such as lights and projection. It is a fun and interesting job for the right person. Are you that person? If so, please call Mary Ellen Vetter at (612) 561-1761.



New Sight for Minneapolis Audubon Chapter Meetings?

The Minneapolis Audubon Chapter Board has recently been discussing a possible move for the chapter's monthly meeting sight.

Currently Board meetings and most monthly programs are being held at the Plymouth Congregational Church located at 19th Street and Nicollet Avenue south in Minneapolis. This will remain our meeting sight through September of 1999.

The Board is looking for members' input on the possibility of moving the meeting sight to the Mayflower Church at Diamond Lake Road and Highway 35W beginning with the October 1999 meeting.

Please give this issue some thought and call Tom Mahan, Chapter President, at 588-5440 and let him know if you would be more likely to attend meetings and/or programs at the proposed new location.

March, 1999 Meeting Review

The meeting announcements included a positive indication that spring is near – an outdoor field trip in search of eagles. Also, there is a new bird on the block that is so new that it is not found in the field guides. The Eurasian Collared Dove has been sighted a number of times in the state, and it is likely that sightings will increase this season. Here's your chance to add a new bird to your list.

"Warblers in Voyageurs National Park" was the topic of Dr. John Pastor's presentation. Pastor, a teacher in the University of Minnesota-Duluth's biology department has been observing warblers in the northern forest and shared his insights with the chapter. Of the 42 warbler species found in the United States, 21 breed in northern Minnesota.

Pastor explained that warblers have favorite niches in the forest. That is what allows so many different species to exist in the various forest habitats. In the wet areas, the Northern Waterthrush, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Yellow Warblers are found. Moving upland, one encounters the Mourning and Chestnut-sided varieties. Interestingly, when John Audubon first noted the Chestnut-sided, he listed it as rare. Today, it is very common, thanks to the expansion of its habitat by the logging industry. Approaching the forest's edge, you will likely encounter the Nashville Warbler while the forest interior will house the Magnolia, Pine, Black and White, and Canada Warblers.

Pastor's presentation focused on the interactions between warblers and the forest ecosystem. Warblers are mainly insectivores. Coniferous forests are subject to an insect infestation known as spruce budworm. The larva of this insect eats the young needles in the tips of branches and emerges after several molts to move down the branch and consume the older needles. Ultimately, the tree is defoliated. These outbreaks last from two to three years and then the budworm population drops to non-threatening levels. Over the years, the forest recovers and the infestation cycle continues. Warbler nesting pair counts indicate that from one to three pairs normally live in a hectare of forest. During a spruce budworm outbreak, this number rises to seven to eight nesting pairs. Counts indicate that a nesting pair eats 50,000 of the caterpillars every two weeks. In Minnesota alone, the cost of controlling the insects by alternative means would be \$118 million. The birds do the job for free. After the infestation, the birds disperse.

If all these warblers are eating the same type of insect, how can they coexist? Studies show that warblers partition the forest canopy as they forage for insects. One type will feed in the upper canopy while another forages along the trunk. Still another will forage in the lower canopy, while a different species gleans its insects from the tips of branches in the middle canopy. This way, the various species do not directly compete with each other. It also accounts for the high species diversity seen in small areas.

Warblers, as well as many other living things, are subject to environmental changes. Some of these changes are natural while others are the result of human activity. Those species that migrate to the tropics must contend with deforestation in their winter range. Logging practices in the boreal forests threaten their breeding habitat. Planting monoculture tracts results in a lowering of species diversity. Global warming will certainly result in a shifting of the range of many ecosystems. Change is inevitable. It is the rate of change that humans should be concerned with. After all, we are part of, not apart from, our living planet.

- Frank De Steno



Killdeer

Technically a shorebird, the Killdeer is more a bird of open uplands and is common on almost any grassy or open ground including fields and lawns. Their scientific name, *Charadrius vociferus*, is well chosen since the bird spends long stretches of its breeding period giving its *kill-dee* call from which its common name is derived. Other calls include *dee-dee-dee* or a trilled *tree-dididididee*. Although Killdeers are not particularly colorful, they do have distinctively patterned plumage. Male and female adults are approximately 10 ½ inches in length and have white underparts and underwings with two contrasting broad black bands across the breast. A white collar completely encircles the neck over the upper black band, which reaches the nape. The bird's crown, back, scapulars, tertials, and wing coverts are plain brown; the rump, bright rufous; the tail, long and tapered, is brown and rufous with white edges and a black subterminal band. The upper wing has a bold white stripe seen in flight. The Killdeer's blackish forecrown and face mask are separated by a white forehead and eyebrow. The bill is small and black and the eyes are large and dark. Juveniles are similar but duller.

You may find this active little bird displaying a wide array of behaviors such as bobbing its head up and down when it is mildly alarmed; "broken-wing" display in which the bird runs a short distance, stops, tilts to one side drooping a wing and spreading the tail to expose the rufous rump to distract potential predators away from the nest or the young, and "scraping" in which with the neck extended, the body is tipped forward so the breast is near the ground while kicking the legs backward to create a scraped-out depression. Occasionally the bird interrupts this display to toss pebbles and debris over its back.

When the males arrive on the breeding ground they may

feed together in small groups and even after territories have been formed the birds often share a feeding area. When they do form territories there is bound to be a great deal of displaying and interaction such as circling flights, scraping, and chases accompanied by a great deal of calling. All of which make Killdeers particularly interesting to watch.

When the females arrive, in some cases, the males seem to treat her as he would an intruding male. Eventually as she remains on the territory, the male's aggressive displays lessen and he accepts her presence. Once two birds are paired, they defend the territory and stay close together most of the day. Bouts of scraping during courtship result in a number of saucer-like depressions in the ground to which the female will add a few small pebbles and bits of debris, and that will be the extent of their nest building. Seemingly unprotected, this minimal change to the environment results in a nest that is well camouflaged.

Killdeers lay 3-5 eggs that are light brown and mottled so they are difficult to distinguish from the stones around them. Both birds incubate the eggs, taking turns leaving the nest to feed. In 24-28 days the eggs hatch and the young, who can walk and feed themselves, leave the nest within hours never to return. The parents lead their chicks to an area of abundant food and some cover and take turns brooding them for the first few days and nights.

During fall, Killdeers migrate in small groups as far as South America. Migration north starts in March. In July and August flocks of Killdeers gather on mudflats where there is adequate food. They remain there, defending their temporary feeding sites, until they once again begin their fall migration south.

- Pam Rhoads



Rarity Spotted at Lake of the Isles

Lake of the Isles, the slightly smaller lake wedged between Lake Calhoun and Lake Cedar in the Minneapolis chain of lakes, has recently been found to harbor an avian rarity, a pair of Brown Boobys, found nesting on the larger of its two "wild islands." In an interview, local birding specialist Thomas S. Roberts, author of the definitive volume *Birds of Minnesota* published in 1936, stated "It is extraordinary to even find this bird in our area, but to find that it is breeding here...Astounding! And in mid-winter, too!"

Birders by the thousands have been crowding the shoreline directly opposite the island despite the below freezing windchill in hopes of viewing this amazing occurrence. When asked why they don't just walk across the ice for a closer view, one man responded, "I've spent a lot of money on these binoculars, I'm darn sure going to use them."

When we asked Mr. Roberts why a bird with the silly name of Booby would cause such a stir in our area, he replied, "The Brown Booby, despite its name, is truly a graceful and delicate little bird usually found in the Dry Tortugas or hanging out, in its off time, at several of the well known bars of Key West. One was known to have been a close companion of Ernest Hemingway himself despite all those six-toed cats."

The editors of *Kingfisher* urge all our chapter members to take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to laugh at this article and enjoy a happy April Fool's day on us.





Theodore Wirth Park/Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden/ Quaking Bog.

Every time I read about the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary I find the word “gem” in the description. I certainly can’t disagree. The tiny 14-acre fenced-in garden is a delightful array of four different habitats: wetland, prairie, mature woodland, and open woodland. Each habitat provides excellent opportunities for birding amid spectacular wildflowers. Park at the main entrance and follow the woodchip strewn trails, making sure to stop at the cabin known as the Crone Shelter. After completing the trip around the sanctuary, exit out the back gate and wander the paved trails past swampy wetlands where you’ll likely find ducks, herons, crows, and songbirds. Behind the picnic grounds on Glenwood Avenue you will find a maze of unpaved trails threading through the woods. Overhead you may see Common

Nighthawks. Across Glenwood Avenue at Wirth Lake look for Belted Kingfisher, Redwing Blackbirds, Eastern Pheobe, American Goldfinch, and waterfowl.

After exploring this part of the park, return through the Eloise Butler and drive (or walk) down the hill to Wirth Parkway. Make a right on the parkway to the next parking lot on your left where you will find the Quaking Bog. The five-acre tamarack quaking bog is the last of the dozens of tamarack bogs that were once found in this part of the city. The small wooded picnic area gives way to a wide well-maintained path leading to the bog itself. Follow the signs to the floating dock and cross to the plastic boardwalk that winds through the tiny bog. Look for migrating warblers in spring and fall. Although the birding here is good, don’t forget to check out the flora growing at your feet. With any luck you’ll find Jack-in-the-Pulpit nestled in among the greenery.

Be aware that Eloise Butler is closed from the end of October to early spring. Call the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at (612) 370-4900 to get exact dates.

Directions: From downtown Minneapolis take Olsen Memorial Highway (Hwy 55) west to Theodore Wirth Parkway. Turn left onto the parkway past Wirth Lake and cross Glenwood Avenue. The entrance is marked on your left. Return to Wirth Parkway and turn right to find the Quaking Bog. Restrooms are provided at all three locations. There is a parking fee at each lot. Drinking water is provided at fountains.

- Pam Rhoads



Celebrate the

60th

Anniversary

of the

**Audubon
Chapter of
Minneapolis**

Come to the Program
Meeting May 4th , 1999
at 7:30 p.m.

Hunting of Mourning Doves Proposed

Legislation now pending before the state legislature will result in the removal of hunting restrictions for Mourning Doves. Hunting groups in Minnesota are currently attempting to remove the long-standing protection of these birds.

Concerns have been voiced that Mourning Dove hunting will be used only as live target practice since their small size makes their value as a food item questionable. Because doves are ground-feeding birds, they pose no threat to agricultural crops in Minnesota. Dove hunting has been banned in this state since 1946, a period of 53 years.

If you would like to oppose changing legislation that currently does not allow Mourning Dove hunting call and urge your state senator to vote no on SF 539 and urge your state representative to vote no on HF 609. Please contact them immediately before they commit to supporting the bill. If you do not know the names of your state legislators, please call your local library or visit www.vote-smart.org.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403



KINGFISHER
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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: M02 7XCHA

Calendar of Events

April

- 6 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Identifying Birds by Sound"
- 13 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Bird Identification Class, 7:30 p.m.

May

- 1 Rice Creek Field Trip
- 3 Spring Lake Park Field Trip
- 4 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"History of Falconry in Art"
- 8 Louisville Swamp Field Trip
- 10 Theodore Wirth/Eloise Butler Field Trip
- 11 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Old Cedar/Bass Ponds Field Trip
- 18 Springbrook Nature Center Field Trip
- 22 Big Day Bird Count
- 24 Crosby Park Field Trip

June

- 19 Prairie Trip/ Wildflowers (TBA)