



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 49 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society
in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

Apr 2000

Upcoming Program

Tuesday, April 4: Hummingbirds of California presented by Don Mitchell

Donald Mitchell is a graduate student in the Conservation Biology program at the University of Minnesota. He was raised and has lived most of his life in California, where he became interested in hummingbirds and their role as pollinators. He is the author of the forthcoming Birds of North America species account for the Allen's Hummingbird, a near-endemic breeder in California. He is one of only about forty researchers in the United States (and the only person in the Upper Midwest) who has a master permit from the federal government to band hummingbirds. He is conducting research on the population biology of hummingbirds in California and is working on developing better methods for monitoring hummingbird populations, which may be in decline in California.

There are seven species of hummingbirds that breed in California, and over 80 plant species within the state that rely primarily on hummingbirds for pollination. Many of the plant species are endemic to California and some are rare or endangered. Donald will have slides of California hummingbird species and some of the flowers they pollinate. He will discuss the natural history of these hummingbirds and his research and banding program. This sounds like it will be a really fascinating program, hope to see you there!



Be sure to join us for the **Bird ID class**, led by Terry Brashear, immediately before the program at 6:30.

Armchair Activists Still Wanted

Response for the appeal for members to become Armchair Activists was fair. We now have nine who are picking their pen up off the edge of their armchairs and writing letters to politicians and bureaucrats, urging them to support environmental issues. However, we still need to convert about 40 more couch potatoes to move up to being Armchair Activists. We know many of you are highly motivated to spring to action on many issues, but don't know quite what to do or how to do it. Last month's issue was to raise interest in Congress to save the Everglades. Information on the Everglades and a sample letter were supplied to our exemplary environmental citizens so they could motivate their Congressional representatives to support saving the Everglades. That is how it works. About a half hour of your time to lend an untold impact upon an issue. It does work!! YOU can sign up by sending a letter to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, PO Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or calling me, Jerry Bahls (763-572-2333) or e-mailing me at bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

-Jerry Bahls

Great River Birding Trail

The GRBT is a major work element of the Upper Mississippi River Campaign of the National Audubon Society. The regional goals for the GRBT are that it will:

- Inform people about the ecological significance of the Upper Mississippi River and its watershed
- Provide an authoritative and useful series of guides to great birding and important bird habitat from the headwaters in northern Minnesota to the confluence with the Ohio River at Cairo, Illinois
- Benefit efforts for support of habitat protection and restoration along the Upper Mississippi River
- Increase tourism revenue for communities along the river

WE NEED YOU!

Audubon is working with local chapters, community birding groups, and volunteers to complete four maps that will comprise the Minnesota Portion of the GRBT from the Minnesota/Iowa border to the headwaters at Lake Itasca.

You can help Audubon map and inventory candidate sites for birding on localized maps by sharing your knowledge of great birding sites and species! Contact Bonnie Koop, Birding Trail Coordinator at 651-565-4989 or email her at

4eagles@wabasha.net (attention: Bonnie Koop)

Web Sites

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/ (this is new)

MN Audubon Council

www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html-ssi

National Audubon Society

www.audubon.org

Receive your Kingfisher electronically

Save postage and a tree. To subscribe or request information send an e-mail to bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

Birds Are on the Move

Birdwatchers have different clues to the arrival of spring from most people. One of the first harbingers of spring that I notice are Red-tailed Hawks on every third power pole. Although these hawks are with us all year around, we do not see them in such abundance except in the spring and fall. They will soon be joined by American Kestrels perched on the wires at regularly spaced intervals.

I confess that I am very glad to see this winter come to an end, even as mild as it was. For the first winter in many, I had to live without birds at the feeders. We moved into this house last June. The people that had lived here before us did not have feeders, nor do any of the surrounding houses. We had plenty of birds in the summer and a surprising amount during fall migration. (I have always believed it takes about three years for you to make it into the birds' migration atlas of where to find free eats.) But, then one mild October day, it was as if a vacuum cleaner swept the yard clean of birds. All winter I just got fleeting glimpses of Red and White-breasted Nuthatches, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Cardinals, woodpeckers and American Goldfinches. I admit it beats seeing House Sparrows, European Starlings and Rock Doves, which is what I mostly got in the city, but I desperately missed all the activity. The most regularly seen birds were Mallards and Canada Geese flying to and from their roosting areas.

Everything began to change last week. I had a couple of flocks of juncos and redpolls move through. They did not stay, but a new group arrived yesterday and are busily feeding now. A pair of Mourning Doves has staked out a patch of patio where seed has been scattered. House Finches are battling American Goldfinches over favorite perches on the feeder. Among three hanging feeders there are sufficient perches for all. I think they just like to fight. Then to make matters worse, a Northern Cardinal tried to land on a finch perch instead of using the platform feeder. The hustle and bustle is a balm to my soul.

There are many signs that this birder's favorite time for bird-watching has arrived. The eagles at Carlos Avery are on the nest. Goldfinches are actually beginning to show gold rather than olive drab. The Northern Cardinals are whistling their long songs. Chickadees are calling "fee-bee". Reports on MNBird are beginning to talk of bluebirds and waterfowl rather than northern owls. I, too, am beginning to show signs of "zugenruhe", which is the technical word for pre-migratory rest-

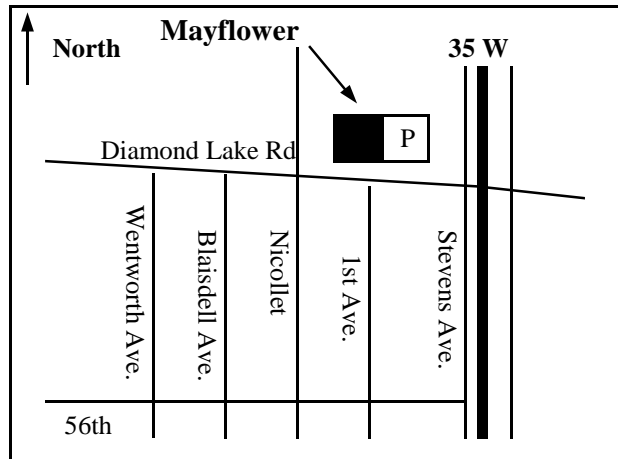
lessness. I have been reviewing my warbler songs. This year I vow to identify them all by sound. Well, it's a goal anyway.

- Vija Kelly



Come to our next program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 4, 2000
TIME: 7:30 p.m. "Hummingbirds of California"
AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 1999-2000 Contacts

President	Tom Mahan	588-5440
Vice President	Phyllis Mahan	588-5440
Treasurer	Kim Halek	427-8656
Secretary	Dorothy Kuether	926-4205
Board Member	Jerry Bahls	572-2333
Board Member	Fran Duritsa	822-4822
Board Member	Dorene Scriven	922-4586
Board Member	Tom Stinson	763-767-8736
Board Member	John Arthur	952-931-0819
Board Member	Jim Sharpsteen	722-9109
Board Member	Jean Kelly	763-862-1421
Board Member	Bill Sipe	331-1223
Board Member	<open>	
Birdathon/Big Day Coord	<open>	
Bluebird Recovery	Dorene Scriven	922-4586
Camperships Hunt Hill	Marion Borell	866-1266
Camperships North Woods	Bob Nelson	952-933-7340
Conservation Chair	<open>	
Education Outreach	Mary Ellen Vetter	561-1761
Field Trips Chair	Terry Brashear	929-1976
Field Trip Leader	Don Wanschura	866-3276
Kingfisher Editor	Wina Mortenson	781-7998
Kingfisher Editor	Paul Kinzer	781-7998
Lending Library	Dorene Scriven	922-4586
Mailing / Membership	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Park Feeders	David Stamps	374-3609
Programs	Fran Duritsa	822-4822
Publicity/Exhibits	Bill Sipe	331-1223
Sales	Tom Stinson	763-767-8736
Social	Phyllis Mahan	588-5440
MOU Rare Bird Alert		763-780-8890
MN Audubon Office		651-225-1830



Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

Notice is given that amendments to the Bylaws will be offered for membership approval at the annual meeting of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis on May 2, 2000. The Amendments will be approved by the members (providing a quorum of at least 25 members are present) by a two-thirds vote. The changes are as noted below (Double wave underline indicates a deletion. Underline and italics indicate an addition.). The changes bring the Bylaws into conformance to the current chapter operations. The majority of changes are clarifying phrases and sentences. Three standing committees are added and a special status is given to the Bluebird Recovery Program. Since Audubon Center of the North Woods is now an autonomous organization, references to it have been deleted. Copies of the current and proposed Bylaws can be obtained by calling Tom Mahan at 612-588-5440.

BYLAWS

(as amended to May 1, 1990 2000)

BYLAW 1 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. ... is eligible for membership by joining the National Audubon Society.

Section 3. (Sentence 2) ... shall be as set by the Board of Directors, but shall not be greater than the amount received by the chapter as its share of the fee for a regular membership in the National Audubon Society.

BYLAW 2 MEETINGS

Section 1. ... shall be held each month monthly beginning with September and ending with May except January, June, July and August.

Section 2. ... shall be held in Minneapolis, during the regular meeting in May. Reports of officers shall be made to the membership. Board members shall be elected at the May meeting.

Section 3. (Add sentence to end) If a quorum is not present, transaction of business must be postponed until the next regular or special meeting that a quorum is present.

Section 4. (Sentence 2) ... shall be given to each member at his/her last known mailing address.

BYLAW 3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Add) Section 7. In the absence of the president and vice-president, the secretary then the treasurer shall be the order of succession to conduct business at a Board meeting. In the event no officer is present, the president may designate any other Board member to conduct business at a Board meeting, providing a quorum is present.

BYLAW 4 OFFICERS

Section 5. (Delete sentences 2 and 3) This person shall furnish essential information concerning chapter operations to the editor of the chapter publication -- the KINGFISHER -- so that the membership may be kept informed. This person shall handle all correspondence which does not come under the responsibility of the president, the treasurer, or committee chairs.

BYLAW 5 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 2. (Sentence 2) ... shall be presented to the Board at its February March meeting. The names of those nominated shall

be publicized in the April KINGFISHER.

(Add) Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall serve until a new committee is appointed to succeed it in January the next year.

BYLAW 6 ELECTIONS

Section 1. ... shall be held at the annual meeting in May.

Section 3. ... shall take office at the conclusion of the annual meeting in May.

BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES

Section 3. Standing committees of the chapter shall be as follows:

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

(Sentence 2) ... to keep the Minnesota Audubon Council and the National Audubon Society informed of chapter actions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

... carry out plans for obtaining financial support for, the chapter and for providing financial support by, the chapter.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

... and accountability of all chapter property; the printing, storage and distribution of literature; and the purchase and distribution of stationary, supplies and forms used by the chapter.

(Add) SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to promote scholarships for camperships and to identify qualified individuals to receive scholarships to Summer camps at Audubon Center of the North Woods and to Hunt Hill Center. Upon approval of recipients by the Board, the committee is to present the scholarships to the recipients. The committee shall also promote and identify individuals qualified to receive any future scholarships authorized by the Board.

(Add) STATE FAIR COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to provide personnel to staff the booth during Fair hours and to supply the chapter's newsletters, brochures and other promotional items.

(Add) PARK FEEDERS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to purchase bird feed, fill and maintain the bird feeders at Lake Nokomis, Wirth Park and Lake Harriet.

BYLAW 8 (Delete) AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS

Being affiliated with the Audubon Center of the North Woods, the chapter is entitled to be represented by three (3) directors on the Board of the Center. The president of the chapter, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall, prior to September 15 of each year, forward the nomination of a director for the Audubon Center of the North Woods to that Center for action by its board at the October meeting of that organization. Such appointment shall be for a period of three (3) years, so that a system of rotation of its director nominees shall be established and maintained.

(Add) BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM

Being a committee that functions to the extraordinary benefit of the chapter, the Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP) shall be responsible for programs that benefit the long term survival of the bluebird and other cavity nesters and shall operate independently from the chapter. They shall maintain their own



Proposed Amendments, Cont.

officers and have a financial committee and be responsible for their own funds which may be used for publications and programs that benefit the bluebird. The Bluebird Recovery Program may solicit members and appoint committees as needed.

BYLAW 14 AMENDMENTS

... shall have been mailed to each member of the chapter published in the KINGFISHER at least fifteen (15) ten (10) days before said meeting.

Scholarships for Summer Youth Camps

Our Audubon chapter has scholarships available to local area students to help defray the cost of a week of summer camp at the two local Audubon centers. We will provide \$500 in scholarships for Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone, Minnesota and \$250 for Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in Sarona, Wisconsin.

Audubon Center of the North Woods (Sandstone, MN)

For more information on North Woods adventures, or to apply for a scholarship, please contact Bob Nelson at (612) 933-7340.

Level I Wildlife: Ecology of North Woods Wildlife Ages 10-12

July 8-15 \$325

July 22-29 \$325

Cool breezes off Grindstone Lake drift through ancient white and red pines, while 535 acres of Audubon sanctuary hold surprises and ecological diversity for campers to discover and enjoy. This camp is about wildlife with a touch of adventure.

Visit raptors and wolves and discover how they are ambassadors for their kind; learn how to track; take a bogwalk; participate in a songbird banding program; study wild aquatic creatures; and learn camping skills. Discover flora and fauna as you canoe a wild river. Finish up with an overnight camp trip on-site and the high ropes challenge course.

Ropes, Rocks and Rapids

Ages 12-14

July 8-15 \$325

July 22-29 \$325

Join us for a week of wild adventure as you experience our high ropes course and climbing wall. Apply those skills on a wild site exploring the Kettle River gorge. Learn to navigate the wilderness with a compass and by canoe to navigate the rapids. Experience the fur trade history of Minnesota and learn survival skills. Learn minimum impact techniques and practice them during an overnight canoe camping trip on a historic fur trade route. You'll meet other young people from around the country, making

new friends with each other as you explore the natural world.

Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary (Sarona, WI)

For more information on Hunt Hill adventures, or to apply for a scholarship, please contact Marion Borell at (612) 866-1266.

Youth Ecology Adventure

Ages 9-13

July 23-29 \$325

Campers participate in a fun, learning adventure while they explore, paddle, hike and enjoy our 500-acre wildlife sanctuary. Campers board our "lake lab" to study the hidden underwater world of glacial lakes; don mask and snorkel to view underwater plants and wildlife up close; and venture in search of insect-eating plants. Activities are complemented with demonstrations by a variety of professional wildlife managers, scuba instructors and wildlife rehabilitators. The learning adventure continues all week with canoeing, swimming and overnight camping. Evenings are filled with campfires, night explorations, and guest visitors as campers enjoy nature and forge new friendships.

Teen River Ecology

Ages 13-15

July 23-29 \$355

This camp is designed to help teens discover their connections to the earth, develop outdoor skills, and learn what it means to be a team player. It is geared toward first-time or novice explorers interested in learning the basics of river ecology and low-impact camping during a canoe trip on the scenic Namekagon River of northern Wisconsin. They gain skills in camping, safe paddling and outdoor cooking while they forge strong relationships and a team orientation for the days ahead. Afterwards the group sets out for a three to four day canoe trip where they explore the ecology of the region, while practicing and gaining confidence with outdoor skills. Group sizes are small and campers fully participate in camp life on the river and collection of data as they paddle their way downstream. The Namekagon National Scenic Riverway is home to Bald Eagles, soft-shelled turtles, badger, muskie and a variety of other fascinating northern wildlife.

Help Wanted

Your chapter is in need of a Birdathon Chairperson

to supervise this annual fundraising event to be held in May. The Birdathon is our only fundraiser. Proceeds from the Birdathon go toward bringing Audubon Adventures to fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes. We need someone to lead this very important effort. **We are also seeking a Conservation Chair.** If you would like to volunteer for either of these, or have any questions, please contact Tom Mahan. 588-5440

The Kingfisher Editors, Wina and Paul, will be on vacation next month during print time. Please send all submissions to Phyllis Mahan at mahan-mail@worldnet.att.net, who will be filling in for them. Thanks, Phyllis!



March Program Review

On Tuesday, March 7th, a good-sized crowd of more than fifty people was treated to a slide presentation by John Gregor, of ColdSnap Photography. He started this company with his wife, Jenny, about five years ago. ColdSnap is a small company that does contract photography, and it also offers workshops on nature photography. For more information on ColdSnap, or to view some slides, their web address is www.coldsnap.com.

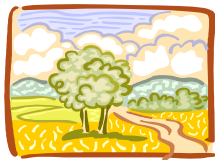
The slides (more than a hundred of them) that John shared with us were mostly taken as part of a project for the DNR. ColdSnap took photos that ended up in the book *A Guide to Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas*.

The photos ranged from extreme close-ups of wildflowers, to wide-angle sunsets, taken in every part of Minnesota, at all times of year.

John talked about the cameras, film, and techniques that ColdSnap has found most effective. He said that the most essential piece of equipment for clear, sharp photos is a good tripod. His advice should probably be heeded: all of the slides were beautiful.

By the way, I bought a copy of *A Guide to Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas*. It truly is a *guide*, since it not only gives detailed descriptions of each of the 129 SNAs that existed when the book was published last year (two more have since been added); it also has accurate maps that give complete directions to each site. The SNA program was started more than 25 years ago to preserve areas of special natural significance within Minnesota. They are undeveloped, without facilities, but they now contain more acreage than the entire State Park System!

If these areas are important to you, write to your MN Legislator quickly, because the funding is threatened.



-Paul Kinzer



Chapter Directory

Our new Secretary, Dorothy Kuether, will be compiling a directory for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. If you are interested in having your name, number, and address in the directory, please sign up at the April or May program, at Mayflower Church. If you will not be at either of these programs, but would like to be in the directory, please give Dorothy a call at 926-4205. This will be a helpful directory to have!

Bluebird Conference

The 19th Annual Bluebird Conference will be on Saturday, April 15, at the U of M Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen. There is no registration fee, but lunch reservations are necessary, *no later than April 1*, at a cost of \$7.50 per person. The conference includes speakers, videos, demonstrations, sales, exhibits, and a field trip in the Orchard or Spring Peeper Meadow Restoration Area. For info, call 612-922-4586 or 612-561-1761.

Nominations for Directors

The Chapter membership will be voting for Board Directors by voice at the May 2 meeting. The following three Board Directors whose terms are up in May 2000 have consented to be re-nominated for additional 3 year terms.

Jim Sharpsteen has been a Chapter member since 1991. He has participated in lobby day, served in the booth at the State Fair, and in the past was in charge of sales for the Chapter. He birds at T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary and his own back yard.

Bill Sipe came onto the board in 1997. He has done the publicity for us, placing notices of Chapter activities in the Mpls. Star Tribune, and the suburban papers. Bill has helped set up our displays at various locations, and he would like to continue on the Board.

Jean Kelley came onto the Board as a replacement for Steve Laufers. She has been a lifelong birder. She participates in the Christmas Bird Count, and is an enthusiastic field-tripper. Currently she has been helping with sales at the monthly meetings. Jean has found expanded interest in the Chapter since accepting appointment to the Board in 1997-98.

There will be an opportunity at the May meeting to offer nominations from the floor, assuming that any nominee from the floor has given previous consent.

- Fran Duritsa

April Field Trips

Friends of the Mississippi is hosting a birding field trip, with the help of Minnesota Audubon and Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, on April 29th at 7:30 a.m., at Coon Rapids Dam.

Minnesota Audubon's Spring Membership Meeting will be on April 29 - 30 at the Assissi Center in Rochester, MN. A variety of talks and field trips are planned.

If you would like more information about either the Coon Rapids Dam trip or the Spring meeting, contact Suzanne Plass via e-mail at splass@audubon.org, or by phone at (651) 225-1830.

Terrace Oaks Park Fundraisers

"Bird Identification: Hawks and Owls" is the topic of a slide program to be presented by Craig Mandel, Dianne Rowse, and Karol Gresser on Tuesday, April 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Burnsville City Hall, 100 Civic Center Parkway, Burnsville.

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, 952-890-6533.

Annual Pig/Turkey Roast

Sunday, May 7, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Terrace Oaks Park West Chalet on County Road 11, just south of Burnsville Parkway, Burnsville. Adults are \$10, Children 5-12 are \$5, and children under 5 are free. No tickets are sold at the event, ticket deadline is April 29. For info, and how to get your tickets through the mail, call Dale Vaillancourt at 952-882-7863, or Shirley Asklund at 952-890-6753.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
April 2000



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Calendar of Events

April

- 4 Bird ID Class, 6:30 p.m.
Chapter program, 7:30 p.m.
"Hummingbirds of California"
Mayflower Church
- 11 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Anwatin School
- 29 Field Trip, 7:30 a.m.
Coon Rapids Dam
- 29-30 Spring Council Meeting
Field Trips throughout the weekend

May

- 6 Field Trip, Rice Creek
- 7 Field Trip, Wood Lake Nature Center
- 11 Field Trip, Louisville Swamp
- 13 Field Trip, Old Cedar/Bass Ponds
- 18 Field Trip, Springbrook Nature Center
- 20 Tom Crosby Park
TBA Big Day Bird Count
TBA Spring Lake Park

Board of Directors meet at Anwatin School, Minneapolis.
All are welcome! Call the president for details.



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
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Chapter Code: **CM02**
9M99