



KINGFISHER



April 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Kingfisher Lite

Welcome to the new "look and feel" of our newsletter, *The Kingfisher*. In order to reduce costs, we have reduced the size of each issue to 4 pages. Why did we decide to do this? Our budget does not allow for a 50% increase [in printing costs]. This change will not result in a loss of content as we will publish longer articles and maybe some extra features on our web edition. We will maintain the September and February editions at six pages and one other issue during the year, as the Board designates.

For quite a few years, we had a volunteer who was able to print the middle two pages at no cost to the chapter (hint, if you know of someone that can print about 2,600 double-sided pages on a monthly basis, please let us know!); that volunteer is no longer able to do that printing. (The Board thanks that volunteer for those many years of service!)

Also, as another cost-saving measure, we strongly urge our membership to subscribe to our online newsletter. The link is on our website, www.geocities.com/audubon_geo. Each issue is posted on our web site and a note with a link is sent out to your e-mail account. The newsletter is in Adobe PDF format and is easily read using downloadable software.

Not only do we encourage our membership to subscribe to the online edition, we also want MORE contributors in the form of articles. An online newsletter is not limited to six pages, and longer articles are possible. We will try to list the extended articles in the print copy and have the opening paragraphs of those extended articles included as well; photographs can be included in the online version, too.

Help us welcome this new "look and feel" by sending Jerry Bahls (jobaud@comcast.net) a request to be added to the e-mail notification list and think about contributing an article. Thank you for your support.

—John Arthur

April Program

No Fooling on April Fools' Day: Searching for those rare and near-mythical birds

Minneapolis Audubon Chapter's April 1 meeting will feature an update from migratory bird scientist Bob Russell on four of the five rarest species of North American birds: the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Eskimo Curlew, Bachman's Warbler, and Whooping Crane.



Bob will have just returned from his most recent Ivory-billed Woodpecker trip to the Florida Panhandle and says he might show blurry photographs that hint at the species' continued presence. He will also present some exciting new developments on whooping crane reintroductions and invite folks to participate in a fall search for the Eskimo Curlew in the Canadian Maritimes.

Bob Russell works as a wetland bird biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program at the Midwestern Regional Office in Ft. Snelling, Minnesota. He is the shorebird coordinator for the Midwest and works with many of the field offices on wind turbine siting issues, powerline and communication tower impacts, and Great Lakes and habitat restoration issues. Bob helped a coalition of conservation groups preserve the last large remaining undeveloped tract of land in the New York City metro area, the Hackensack Meadowlands. He spends his vacations searching for near-mythical birds in Canada and the southeastern bottomland forests.

**Tuesday, April 1
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**

Summer Joint Programs

It is a pleasure to announce that Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League–Breckenridge Chapter will again hold joint meetings over the summer on June 24, July 22, and August 26 at 7:30 pm.

The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park.

Please circle these dates on your calendar. The speakers will be announced in the next Kingfisher. Tell a friend and bring a friend!

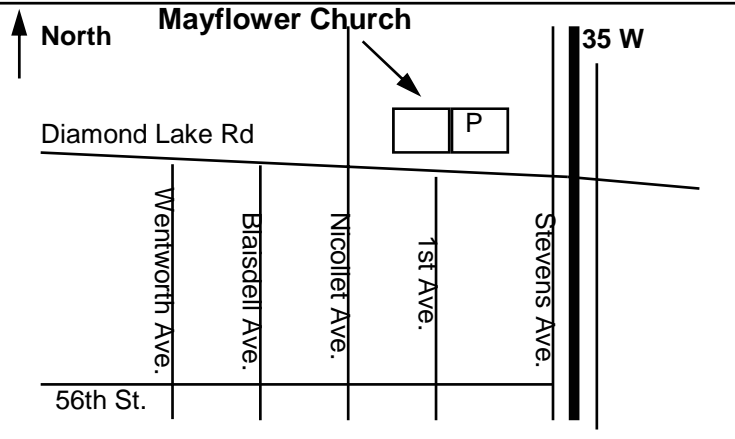
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 1, 2008

No Fooling on April Fools' Day

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



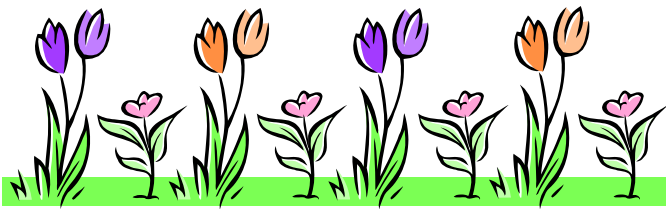
MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY FIELD TRIPS

- Mar 30– Apr 1** Southeastern MN Birds
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407
- Apr 2** 6:30 pm Old Cedar Ave. Bridge
George Skinner 952-936-0811
- Apr 5** 7:30 am Scott Co. Wetlands
George Skinner 952-936-0811
- Apr 7** 6:00 am Anoka Co Birding Day
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407
- Apr 8** 6:00 am Chisago Co Birding Day
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407
- Apr 8** 6:00 pm Nine Mile Creek Wildflowers
Mary Brown 952-885-0913
- Apr 12** 7:00 am Crex Meadows
Chris Hills 952-953-3613
- Apr 14** 6:30 pm Beginning Birding
George Tkach 952-975-2972
- Apr 15** 6:00 pm Wildflower Walk, Eloise Butler
Mary Brown 952-885-0913
- Apr 19** 3:00 pm Sparrow ID Class
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407
- Apr 25-27** Salt Lake
Ken Larson 952-595-9265
- Apr 26** 7:00 am Carlos Avery WM Area
Doug Mayo 952-922-0346
- Apr 28** 6:30 pm Birding Class
George Skinner 952-936-0811
- Apr 30** 6:30 pm Purgatory Creek
George Skinner 952-936-0811

Please contact trip leader for more information

Mayflower Church Exit Now Open

Diamond Lake Road Exit from 35W to Diamond Lake Road is now open. It will now be easy for you to attend our meetings.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2007-2008 Contacts

President	John Arthur	952-931-0819	jarthur@visi.com
Vice President	Jim Egge	612-827-7629	aubullet2@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ernie Gunderson	612-721-9103	
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Marcia Marshall	612-871-6611	marciamarshall@comcast.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656	mnvogelfrau05@visi.com
Audubon Chapter Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890

5th Annual Wood Duck Jump

Jerry Bahls will again host a special field trip to his home to view the annual jump of the baby wood ducks. The trip (jump) will occur sometime in May between 7:00 and 11:30 AM, depending upon the hatch date. If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry at 763 572-2333 to get on his call list. Since there is a video camera in the box, a one day's notice will be given to those who want to see this magic moment. Wood ducks hatch and the next day, they jump. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies in the box before the jump and then review the video (instant replay) after. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

Monitor Bluebirds Spring or Summer!

Interested in watching bluebirds develop from egg to adult? Want to know one beautiful bird species well? Whether for one week or more, you can help monitor bluebird nesting boxes in the Theodore Wirth Park/Cedar Lake area in Minneapolis. Contact Carol Nulsen at 952-925-0482 or cnulsen@gmail.com for more information.

Bird Banding at Springbrook

One of the best ways to see birds up close is to attend a bird banding event. Springbrook Nature Center continues to have bird banding scheduled each month on Sunday mornings on the following dates: **March 30 beginning at 7:00 am, Apr. 20, May 18, Jun. 8, Jun. 29, Jul. 20 and Aug. 10 all at 6:30 am.** Show up at any time during the morning and enjoy the bird show!

Marsh Frogs

Early spring emerges
like an Easter sunrise,
when the breath is
but a small fog hanging in the air.
Fingers of warmth penetrate
the muck—
sun energy, felt by
small, waiting things.
Frozen marsh frogs thaw,
their hesitant voices swell.
An unleashed chorus
floods the universe.

—Clem Nagel

Happy Birthday to John James Audubon April 26

The National Audubon Society, founded in 1905, is one of the oldest and largest conservation organizations in North America, but John James Audubon was never a member of the society. One of the most romantic figures of the nineteenth century, Audubon was an artist, naturalist, explorer, writer, publisher, and environmentalist.

His monumental publication, the *Birds of North America*, with over 400 stunning watercolors, captures the rich diversity of the natural world through its depictions of birds from southern Florida to Labrador, from New York to the wilds of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana.

Many credit Audubon's art with providing the spark for America's passion for bird-watching and for protecting wild life in general. Audubon's wife, Lucy, used her husband's paintings as teaching aids, which deeply impressed one of her students, George Bird Grinnell. When Grinnell formed a new bird protection organization, he named it for the artist, guaranteeing that Audubon's name and legacy would continue long after his death.

Audubon Minnesota Announces Spring Bird Seed Sale

Audubon Minnesota's bird seed sale is back! Feeding birds is a great way to bring nature to your windows, and all proceeds from the sale support Audubon's bird and habitat conservation programs in Minnesota.

Orders must be placed and prepaid by May 2, 2008. Seed will be available for customer pickup on Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am to noon at seven locations throughout the Twin Cities including Bloomington; the MN Landscape Arboretum in Chaska; Minneapolis; Plymouth; Saint Paul; White Bear Lake; and Woodbury. Order forms are available on the web at <http://mn.audubon.org>; by email mnaudubon@audubon.org, or calling 651-739-9332. Volunteers are needed at the pickup sites on May 17th from 9:00 am to noon. If interested contact Jenny at 651-739-9332.



Audubon Minnesota is the state office of the National Audubon Society and is dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems in Minnesota, focusing on at-risk native bird species and their habitats. This fundraiser is made possible through the generosity of Performance Seed in St. Cloud, MN.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 280



KINGFISHER
APRIL 2008



**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

MARCH

30 Bird banding at Springbrook

APRIL

1 Chapter Meeting
20 Bird banding at Springbrook
26 John James Audubon's Birthday

MRV field trips are held throughout the year.
Please check page 2 for current list

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through March.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net