



KINGFISHER



April 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Our Nominating Committee members are currently calling prospective Board members to fill the six vacancies. They will also be looking for nominees for the Chapter officers.

You don't have to be on the Board to become an officer. I have announced that I will not be a candidate for President. Amy Carlson also announced she would not stand for reelection for Vice-President nor the Board.

Last year we were in a similar situation. We were only able to fill one of the vacancies at that time but were able to add another over the summer. Resignations have contributed to our vacancies. They didn't happen because of poor recruiting but because individual circumstances had changed. The Chapter has been having trouble recruiting Board members the past few years. This is a trend for our organization and others. We've got to reverse this trend. Members have to step up to lead this organization.

We are doing some good things. Jim Egge has done a great job in mentoring the Harvest School. We have begun an effort to reach out to the minority communities. We need to continue these efforts, but we can't do it if we don't have leaders to do it.

My ideal Board member would be someone who has just retired and has some leadership experience. It would be great if the candidate had some computer skills and the ideal candidate would have good personal skills. The candidate should have a minimum of four hours per month free to attend the Board meetings and to work on a project. Please take a good look at your situation and seriously consider becoming a Board member.

We have a very large Chapter and should have many talented birders who can help run the Chapter. Please call Susan Anderson (612-331-1117), our Nominating Committee Chair, and let her know you are interested in being on our Board to continue the good things we have started!

—Jerry Bahls

Happy Birthday to John James Audubon on 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, captured 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 wildlife 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.

April Program

Birding Tips

The April program will be an experiment in providing tips to attendees about birding. The program will be moderated by Jerry Bahls, and other members of the Board will provide insights into birding. The program will begin with a segment on very basic birding in Minnesota. The next segment will deal with tips for identifying types of birds such as raptors, neo-tropicals and waterfowl. The last segment will be an extended question and answer session, in which the Board members or audience members will answer questions posed by the audience.

To facilitate the question and answer session, we're asking members to submit any questions beforehand.

Send your questions to Jerry Bahls (jobaud@comcast.net) or any Board member. Let's have a lively meeting!

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



**Coming in May . . .
Successful Vegetable
Gardening Simplified**

-Start Small and Stay Close to Home-
by Bruce Blair of Welch Permaculture Gardens

We can all enjoy fresh vegetables by planting a small 4'x6' backyard garden this summer. Learn from an expert who has compiled all the pertinent information to be successful in our climate.

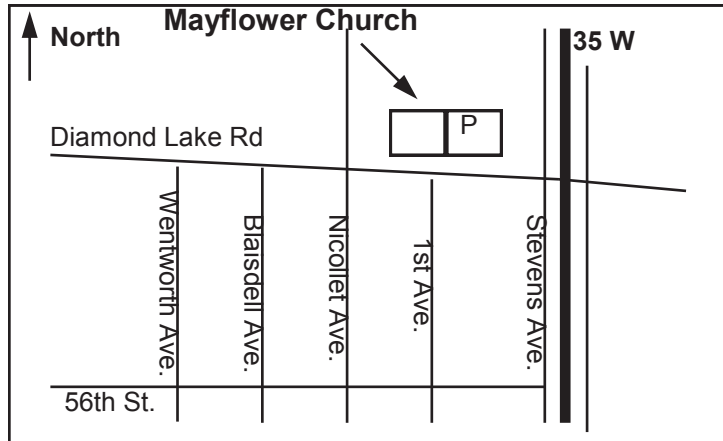
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 7, 2009

“Birding Tips” with Jerry Bahls

TIME: Program at 7:00 PM

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



Bring your mug to the Audubon Mug Club

Hot water and an assortment of instant coffee, teas and cocoa are provided at the Chapter meeting.

OUR FIELD TRIPS

Free and Open to All!

Westwood Hills Outing

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2009

Time: 8:00 to 10:00 AM

Trip Leader: Naturalist Greg Feinberg, 952-924-2544, gfeinberg@stlouispark.org

Meet: at Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 W. Franklin Ave., St. Louis Park, MN 55426

A 160-acre gem of a park with marshes, woodland, prairie and lake. They are opening early especially for us, with an Open House to follow at 10:00 AM. Restrooms available.

Directions: From I-394, take Louisiana Ave. south to the first street and turn west onto Wayzata Blvd. (frontage road). After ~ 1/2 mile, turn left onto Texas. Go another 1/2 mile, turn right onto Franklin (first stop sign). Go four blocks to the Nature Center.

Looking Ahead:

Sat. May 9, Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park: for intermediate and experienced birders, 10:00 AM to Noon.

Sat. May 16, T. S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary: for beginning and intermediate birders, 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

Wed. May 20, St. John's University and Stearns County, 7:00 AM to 1:00/4:00 PM.

Sat. June 6, Bluebirds: a family friendly trip, Anoka Riverfront Regional Park, 10:00 to 11:00 AM.

Note: New Field Trip Coordinator needed! Contact Jerry Bahls 763-572-2333, jobaud@comcast.net

Phe-nol-o-gy [fi-nol-uh-jee]—noun. “The science dealing with the influence of climate on the recurrence of such annual phenomena of animal and plant life as flowering, breeding, and bird migrations.”

Signs of spring come on strong in April! Typical phenological events to look (and listen) for are ice-out on large Minnesota lakes; nesting Canada geese, robins, and ospreys; vocal tree frogs; rhubarb and tulips popping up; and deciding if your lawn may need a mowing.

Egrets, house wrens, yellow-headed blackbirds, purple martins, Baltimore orioles, and assorted kinglets return in April. Because protein-rich insects are still scarce, the returning birds in your neighborhood would be grateful for your offering of tasty mealworms in a shallow dish.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2008-2009 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

Proposed Bylaw Changes

In the process of reviewing the Bylaws, it became apparent to the Board that they needed to be updated to reflect the current status. The Scholarship Committee has only one function and that is to award scholarships. This is usually done once a year and only takes a few minutes of Board and Committee time; therefore, it is being combined with the Education Committee along with its duties and responsibilities. Next, the Newsletter Committee is being renamed the Communications Committee and gives the Board the option of either the Editor being its Chair or of naming a Chair. To reflect the change in communication technology, the Board is adding the Webmaster to this committee and adding the Publicity Committee as a subcommittee of the Communications Committee along with its duties and responsibilities. Due to the lack of sales and the Board's ability to find a replacement for the current Sales Chair, it has decided to eliminate the Sales Committee. One other minor technical correction was also recommended. The proposed Bylaw changes will be voted on by the membership on whether to accept the Board's recommendations at the April Program during a special very short business meeting. The Proposed changes are listed below. The changes are lined out or printed in italics.

1. Title Page Bylaws, ...DECEMBER 2, 2008, *REVISION APRIL 7, 2008*

2. 1st Page Bylaws, ...amended to December 2, 2008 *APRIL 7, 2009*

3. BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, ... groups; and for exhibits. *It shall also be the duty of this committee to promote scholarships for camperships and to identify qualified individuals to receive scholarships to summer camps (such as the Audubon Center of the North Woods and to Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary). Upon approval of recipients by the Board, the committee is to present the scholarships to the recipients. If no recipients are nominated the Board may grant an at large recipient(s) that will be selected by the summer camp administrators. The committee shall also promote and identify individuals qualified to receive any future scholarships authorized by the Board.*

4. BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES, NEWSLETTER COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, The Chair of this committee shall be the editor of The KINGFISHER, the chapter newsletter, *or other Board designee. The committee shall include the Publicity Subcommittee and the Webmaster.*

Continued in next column...

It shall be the duty of this committee to publish The KINGFISHER for the members of the chapter at periodic intervals; *provide publicity for the Chapter as needed and to maintain the Chapter Website* as directed by the President and the Board of Directors.

5. BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES, PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of this committee to publicize and promote the purposes and programs of the chapter through newspaper, radio, television, and other publicity media.

SALES COMMITTEE

This committee shall be responsible for: stocking materials and equipment, approved by the Board, for sale to the membership; recommending to the Board the price to be charged for such items making recommendations to the Board for the discontinuance of sale of existing items and/or the acquisition of new sale items.

6. BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES, 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 Audubon Sanctuary. 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.

7. BYLAW 7 COMMITTEES, LIVING GREEN EXPO COMMITTEE, ...the booth during Fair Expo hours...

BirdSafe—Lights Out Began March 15

The spring bird migration is underway, hooray! So is the local program called *BirdSafe*, which encourages businesses to extinguish exterior decorative lights and interior building lights between midnight and dawn from March 15 to May 31.

The reduction of unnecessary lighting benefits migrating birds who can become confused and drawn off-course by building lights. Eliminating excess lighting also reduces pollution and energy consumption costs.

Please visit Audubon Minnesota's website for more info.

Conservation Committee News

Here's an update on the activities of the Conservation Committee. We've decided on a regular meeting schedule and location. We'll be meeting on the last Tuesday of the month from 6-7 PM at Lunds in Uptown. This means the next three meetings are on March 31, April 28, and May 26. The ACM Board meets from 7-9 PM on the same schedule. Chapter members are encouraged to take advantage of this two-for-one offer and double their meeting pleasure! (Of course, it's not mandatory to attend both meetings.)

At the last meeting, we discussed some of the legal challenges urban residents face when they try to make their surroundings more bird-friendly. For example, homeowners who decide to replace their turf grass with native plants may run afoul of local ordinances regulating vegetation height. We decided we would like to do what we can to ensure municipal regulations are environmentally-friendly. To that end, Trudi Poquette, who is a Minneapolis resident, decided to research that city's regulations. Depending on her findings, the committee will look into the process of changing the regulations. We would like to research other municipalities as well with an eye toward compiling a data base that chapter members can use. This is an ambitious plan, however, and to make it happen we need help. Please consider volunteering to research your area. There's no need to attend any meetings; you can do your research from home!

The committee is looking for hands-on outdoor projects. We don't have any lined up yet, but we hope to have some soon. In the meantime, keep your eyes open during the month of April for events celebrating Earth Day, April 22. Many cities and neighborhoods hold family-friendly clean-up events on that date, as well as on the weekends before and after it.

Mark your calendars, too, for the kick-off event at Audubon Park on Saturday, April 25. Officially called the Spring WingDing, it runs from 11 AM to 2 PM in northeast Minneapolis at 29th Ave. N.E. and Lincoln St. N.E. For details, visit www.springwingding.org.

As always, feel free to email me with any comments or questions at heal0055@umn.edu (Please put the word 'Audubon' in the subject line.)

—Kit Healy

Membership Committee Meeting

The Membership Committee has begun meetings to discuss ways to increase interest in being Chapter leaders and to recruit members to the Chapter. Susan Anderson, Membership Chair, is leading the discussions. They meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 9:00 AM at the Cupcake Café, 3338 University Ave., west of Hwy 280 on University Ave., St. Paul, across from KSTP.

Please e-mail Susan (susan331@mac.com) or Jerry Bahls (jobaud@comcast.net) to confirm date and time.

Audubon Spring WingDing

The Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, with help from the Audubon Neighborhood Association and with participation of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) and other community organizations, will be hosting the "Audubon Spring WingDing" at Audubon Park in Northeast Minneapolis near Johnson and 29th on **April 25th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.**

There will be games, bird walks by ACM, tables featuring native plant, rain garden and bird information, as well as stage presentations about native gardens and birds, featuring the BBRP nest box care presentation. In the early afternoon there will be a bird release (pending availability).

This is a family, environmental-oriented event with an emphasis on birds. Circle your calendar and plan to be there!

Spring Bird Seed Sale

Audubon Minnesota's popular bird seed sale is back and you are invited to stock up for spring and summer bird feeding! Ninety-five cents of every dollar raised during this fundraiser supports Audubon's bird and habitat conservation work in Minnesota. A variety of seed types will be offered, including the popular Audubon Blend.

Orders must be placed and prepaid by April 30, 2009. Seed will be available for customer pickup on Saturday, May 16, 2009, from 9:00 AM to noon at a number of locations throughout the Twin Cities.

Visit <http://mn.audubon.org> or call 651-739-9332 for order forms and location details.

This fundraiser is made possible through the generosity of Performance Seed in St. Cloud, MN. Thank you!



Audubon Services

One of the important services that Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis does is to provide information at events in the area.

This does a couple things: provides venue to promote us, provides a service to organization holding events, and most importantly, provides information about birds and their habitat. The photo above shows Board Member Paul Fusco working an event at a Bird Store.

Environmental Roundup

Would you like to see video game addiction put to good use? Even if you're not an addict, log onto:

ecodrivingusa.com

and see if your driving habits are sound. This is an educational site aimed particularly at young drivers to show them how to become more aware of their abilities and ways to reduce inefficient driving.

This tip comes from Molly Webster in the winter edition of *On Earth* magazine from the Natural Resources Defense Council. Encourage your kids to log on and perhaps learn something valuable while having fun.

Theodore Roosevelt was the last trained ornithologist to view passenger pigeons in the wild. To those who revere Teddy as I do, you will enjoy "To Dare Mighty Things" in the fall *National Parks* issue.

—Jim Egge

Please consider volunteering for the ACM Board! Thanks!

BIRD FOR THE BIRDS

Audubon Minnesota's First Annual Bird-a-thon will take place May 1-10, 2009 throughout the state. This special **FUN**draiser will support our many bird conservation projects such as the Audubon At Home Program, Project BirdSafe – Lights Out, and bird conservation activities in our Important Bird Areas. And to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day!

What is Bird-a-thon? Donors pledge a dollar amount for each species seen during a certain time period (in this case 24 hours) or a fixed donation amount. Then participants will take to the woods, prairies, wetlands, or their backyards to count as many bird species as possible. Once the count is complete, the participants will contact those who supported them with the number of species they counted and collect the dollars from those who pledged.

There will be a raffle for all those who donate (dinner for two at the Hilton Inn, Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport in Bloomington), as well as prizes for participants (e.g. most dollars raised, most species seen, most species seen in an Important Bird Area, youngest participant...).

To download registration forms, **FUN**draising tips, rules and prizes, pledge sheets, and participant report forms, go to <http://mn.audubon.org/news-events/bird-birds>.

Questions? Please contact Ron Windingstad, Audubon Minnesota, Audubon at Home Coordinator, @ 651-739-9332 or email at rwindingstad@audubon.org

Tree Bird Serenade

*An early spring, wooded glade
rings with calls of tree birds.
Towering cottonwood canopies
cover the stream rushing its
way to the river.*

*Writing at a picnic table,
I hear drawn-out call of flick-
ers,
soft churring of the red-bellies,
punctuated by distant downies.*

*Nearby sharp pics of the hairy.
Wild, raucous calls of pileated
float across the river.*

*Nuthatches and chickadees
busy themselves.
All keeping the trees
company.*

—Clem Nagel
April 2007



Note: Written at the confluence of Rice Creek and the Mississippi River on an early spring morning with a cloudless sky.

"Turn Off the TV Week" is April 20-26 and Earth Day is April 22. Challenge yourself (and your kids/grandkids) to shut off the boobtube for a week and get outdoors. A number of Three River Park District parks have interesting and fun activities during this week (and all spring), including birding and nature walks. Get outside!



Volunteer Corner

Check out this corner for volunteer opportunities. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) will publish current activities being planned in our community. If you will be holding an activity with which you would like some help, contact the ACM to get your activity publicized.

Current: ACM is seeking candidates for their Board. Call Susan at 612-331-1117 for more information.

Conservation Committee is looking for help with the "Audubon Spring WingDing". Call Kit at 612-789-1375 for info.

Education Committee is looking for help mentoring Harvest School. Call Jim at 612-827-7629 for info.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
APRIL 2009



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
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250



LOCAL CHAPTER
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Incentive Code:
C9ZM020Z

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 7 Chapter Program 7:00 pm
- 25 Field Trip
- 25 Spring WingDing
- 30 Bird Seed Order Due

MAY

- 1-10 Bird-a-thon
- 5 Chapter Program 7:00 pm
- 9 Field Trip
- 16 Field Trip

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 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 Jerry Bahls for details!

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

Electronic Kingfisher

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