



# KINGFISHER



April 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

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## A Note from the President

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In the past year, the list of activities of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is a long one, but accomplishments are harder to measure. Only the lasting impact on members and on the citizens of the community is ultimately of value. To that end, I believe that the quality of our efforts was good and will affect the environment for the long-term benefit of the Twin City area.

In March about seven members spent a day talking to legislators about such issues as off-highway vehicles, environmental support, and preserving the Ecological Services Division of the DNR. This annual event may be an opportunity for other members to speak out on important issues. If interested, contact Jerry Bahls.

At Audubon Park in North Minneapolis, a joint effort with the Audubon Neighborhood Association resulted in an Environmental Fair for local residents to be more aware of birds and habitat. Boy Scouts provided help to people to make bird feeders, while Audubon supplied seed and provided t-shirts of the event. Approximately 200 people took part in activities such as bird-watching trips in the park.

ACM joined the Friends of Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary to rid the area of exotic plants such as buckthorn and garlic mustard. ACM provided equipment, bags, hoes, and aprons for about ten volunteers to spend the day improving the native ecosystem.

ACM has spawned the Bluebird Recovery Program and the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Program which grow in numbers of volunteers and impact each year. We have had information tables at Living Green Expo, Minnesota Green, and Wild Ones Expo.

Kit Healy has spearheaded an effort use the Minneapolis Adopt-a-Park program to continue the ongoing purge of exotic species in Roberts Bird Sanctuary. RBS is part of a recently designated Important Bird Area in the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. Kit has worked with the Minneapolis Park Board to come up with a plan and apply for a funding grant to restore this sanctuary to its historically prime state.

Marji Miller has acted as program chair this year to provide a series of great speakers at the monthly program at Mayflower Church. Susan Anderson as membership chair has actively promoted member involvement, and we have seen an increase in attendance to 45-50 people at our recent programs .

*President's Note continued on page 2...*

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## April Program

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### Captivating Bluebirds

Stan Tekiela

Author of *Birds of Minnesota*, *Captivating Bluebirds*, and many more

Naturalist, wildlife photographer, and writer Stan Tekiela is the originator of the popular state-specific field guides such as *Birds of (state name) Field Guide*, *Wildflowers of (state name)*, and *Trees of (state name)*. Over the past two decades, Stan has authored more than 100 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation, presenting many species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, trees, wildflowers and cacti.

Holding a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural History from the University of Minnesota and as an active professional naturalist for more than 20 years, Stan studies and photographs wildlife throughout the United States and has received various national and regional awards for his books and photographs.

Also a well-known columnist and radio personality, his syndicated column appears in over 20 newspapers and his wildlife programs are broadcast on a number of Midwest radio stations. He is a member of the North American Nature Photography Association and Canon Professional Services along with many other professional organizations.

Stan resides in Victoria, Minnesota, with his wife, Katherine, and daughter, Abigail. He can be contacted via his web page at [www.naturesmart.com](http://www.naturesmart.com).

*Bluebirds are one of Stan's favorite birds to photograph and this PowerPoint presentation shows it. It is filled with award winning images of one of America's most beloved backyard birds. Stan's talk about bluebirds will enlighten even the most knowledgeable bird lover.*

**Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Mayflower Church**

**Coming May 4, 2010**

**"Saving our Wetlands and Bird Habitats"**

Tom Cooper, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

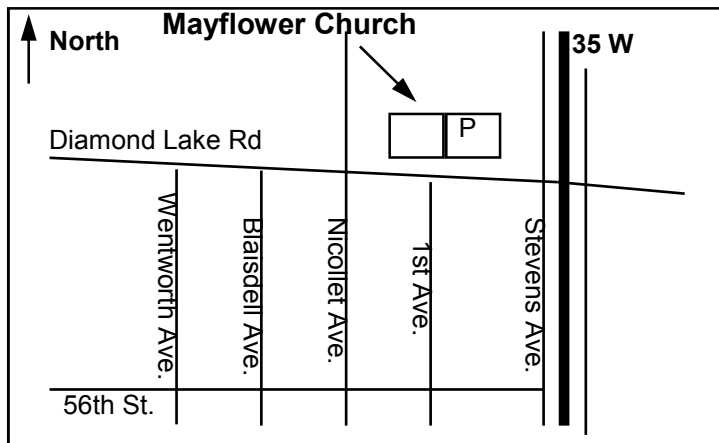
# Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 6

“Captivating Bluebirds” with Stan Tekiela

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

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



## Spring WingDing

The annual Spring WingDing at Audubon Park (29<sup>th</sup> and Buchanan St N.E.) will again be held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> (11:00 am – 2:00 pm). All are welcome to attend and join in on the festivities. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will again have an information table. If anyone would like to help, please contact Kit Healy or Jerry Bahls.



## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2009-2010 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

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

*President's Note, continued from page 1*  
John Arthur, Susan Tertell, Jerry Bahls, Susan Anderson, and others have initiated our new website at [audubonchapterofminneapolis.org](http://audubonchapterofminneapolis.org). It has seen an increasing number of contacts as people (and local TV stations) begin to rely on it for chapter information. In our goal as an education organization, we have seen the following in the past year:

- Audubon Adventures kits actively used in nine elementary schools (parents and teachers: are your schools making use of this valuable resource?)
- Adopted Harvest/Seed Academy in North Minneapolis to provide field trips and birding resources to the fifth grade. Members also donated many types of field guides for the classes. We were given a grant to send 55 of these students on an educational boat trip down the Mississippi to see eagles and other wildlife
- Adopted Aurora Academy in South Minneapolis. Fifth grade students have gone on bird walks and have benefited from presentations and Audubon Adventures. Binoculars have been donated from the Target Center lost and found, which are being distributed to these schools for students who have no access to them
- A total of ten presentations were made to various schools including slide shows of birds and field trips using binoculars
- Susan Tertell has also acted as field trip chair, organizing many trips for local members and friends. Check the website and each Kingfisher for upcoming events

We are always looking for other members to donate their time, talent, and enthusiasm for chapter activities. We need people to go into the schools and tell kids about birds. We need people for our publicity committee to help promote our programs, volunteer to help remove buckthorn or lead field trips or a host of needs in our community.

—Jim Egge

## ACM Drafts Agreement to Adopt Roberts Bird Sanctuary

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) has drafted an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to Adopt-a-Park (Roberts Bird Sanctuary). It is the hope of ACM to finalize this agreement so that we can help restore Roberts Bird Sanctuary.

The agreement will involve performing some mundane tasks such as picking up litter, but will also involve more interesting tasks, such as doing bird surveys. ACM also expects to begin holding regular bird walks, which will use the lists generated to make a Bird List for Roberts, which will be available to all visitors to Roberts. ACM would like to enlist a core of about ten volunteers (others will be recruited as needed) to do most of these tasks.

If you are interested in making a difference at Roberts, contact Kit Healy at 612.789.375 or heal0055@umn.edu.

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2010 HMANA CONFERENCE

The 2010 Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) conference will be hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory held in Duluth, Minnesota **April 15-18, 2010**.

Positioned at the southwestern tip of magnificent Lake Superior, Duluth offers a mix of great birding, picturesque scenery and a terrific spring raptor migration. April birding in Northern Minnesota offers a wide variety of boreal species, winter specialties, northern owls and spring migrants as the convergence of three different biomes maximizes the number of different species to be seen.

The 2010 conference will feature scientific presentations, informative posters, entertaining keynote speakers, a silent auction, fantastic northern-specialty field trips as well as free shuttle service from the conference site to Hawk Ridge's Spring Hawk Count site!

Registration fee is \$160. For more information, contact Conference Coordinator Julie O'Connor at HMANA2010@aol.com or 218.348.2291.

### GLARE ICE (A HAIKU)

the Crow looks at me....

perched atop sub-zero tree

glass between our thoughts

—Jim Goff

## Wood Lake Nature Center News

Thanks for the great discussion at Wood Lake's Environmental Book Club! If you couldn't make it or didn't get a chance to read the book, I strongly recommend it:

*Eco Barons* by Edward Humes. Here are some links associated to the book and our discussion:

The following is a link to the documentary called *180°South* that follows Yvon Chouinard's and Doug Tompkins' 1968 journey around Chile and Argentina. It comes out March 30<sup>th</sup> on Netflix (we could potentially watch this after our discussion; if folks are interested, let me know).

<http://www.180south.com/>

The following is a link to Edward Humes' blog about "Eco Barons." There is a lot of great information here:

<http://ecobarons.wordpress.com/>

The following is the link to the Center for Biological Diversity. Check out all of the amazing work they are doing:

<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/index.html>

### Upcoming book club meetings:

April 6: *An Unspoken Hunger*, by Terry Tempest Williams, 6:30 pm at WLNC

May 11: *Wesley the Owl*, by Stacey O'Brien, 6:30 pm at WLNC

### Other Upcoming Events at Wood Lake:

April 30: Friends of Wood Lake Benefit Dinner

April 26 and May 3: Spring Bird Hikes, 6:00 pm to sunset.

Enjoy the many exciting changes that have taken place in March...Red-winged Blackbirds were spotted in Bloomington!!!

Thanks for your support,  
Amy Markle, Naturalist  
Wood Lake Nature Center  
612.861.9369

### Spring Activities with the Three Rivers Park District

Check out the multitude of birding activities at various Three River parks this spring.

"Raptors in the Yard"—meet a captive Merlin and Barred Owl up close and personal and learn about these birds.

\* Sunday, April 4 at Richardson Nature Center, 3:00 pm

\* Sunday, April 18 at Lowry Nature Center, 2:00 pm

"Heron Homecoming"—welcome back the great blue herons, see a slideshow, visit a rookery, try spearfishing and make a craft at N. Mississippi Regional Park, Saturday, April 3, 1:00 pm. Reservation required.

# May's Urban Birding Festival Is Bigger and Better than Ever!

Mark your calendars now for a fun, free celebration of springtime birds: the Urban Birding Festival, May 13-16, 2010. Kids, families, and everyone else is invited to take part in all or part of this four-day event, now in its fifth year. Billed as "Where birds and people meet," the festival welcomes everyone—from brand-new to experienced birders—to see many of the interesting birds found in the Twin Cities and suburbs. No registration is required, so just show up at the events you wish to attend.

The festival, with metro Audubon chapters key sponsors, features free daytime and evening bird walks, plus a day-long series of events at Fridley's Springbrook Nature Center, "Birding Central" for the festival. The only event requiring a reservation and a fee is Birding Central's catered lunch on May 15, featuring birder and conservationist Lyle Bradley speaking about bird habitats.

The festival wraps up on Sunday, May 16, with hikes through the rarely-open Arden Hills Army Training Site. All walks during the festival are led by experienced bird watchers, many of them Audubon members.

Check the schedule and plan to attend as many sessions as you can. The schedule is also posted at, [www.urbanbirdingfestival.org](http://www.urbanbirdingfestival.org).

## Urban Birding Festival Schedule

### Thursday – May 13

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Rice Creek Trail Hike**

Meet at the County Road "I" parking lot, east of I-35W, 1901 Co. Rd. I, Shoreview

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Vento Nature Sanctuary**

Meet at parking area at the corner of Commercial St. and 4<sup>th</sup> St. E., St. Paul

#### **7:30-9:00 pm, Tamarack Evening Hike**

Meet at Nature Center, 5287 Otter Lake Road, White Bear Township

### Friday – May 14

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Como Park Hike**

Meet at Black Bear Crossing Parking Lot, 1360 N. Lexington Ave., St. Paul

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Locke Park**

Meet at park parking lot at end of 71<sup>st</sup> Ave. off of University Ave., Fridley

#### **10:00–11:30am, Roberts Bird Sanctuary**

Meet at entrance at 4124 Roseway Rd., Minneapolis

#### **10:30–11:30am, Anoka County Riverfront Park**

Meet at 5100 East River Road, Fridley

### Friday – May 14, continued

11:30am–1:00pm, Osprey Nest Observations at Josephine

Meet at Co. Rd. C2 between Lexington Ave. and Victoria St., Roseville  
and

Peregrine Aerie Observations at Lock and Dam 1

Meet at Army Corp observation deck, 5000 West River Parkway, Minneapolis

### Saturday – May 15

#### **8:00 - 9:30 am, Woodview/Reservoir Woods Hike**

Meet at Reservoir Woods parking lot at 481 Larpenteur Ave. east of Dale St., Roseville

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Innsbruck Park**

Meet in park parking lot on Arthur Street south of Gardena St., Fridley

#### **8:00-9:30 am, Crosby Park Hike**

Meet in the east end of the parking lot at 2530 Shepard Road, St. Paul

#### **9:00am–3:00pm, Springbrook Nature Center, Birding Central**

Books; Face Painting; Displays by St. Paul Audubon, Audubon Minnesota, MOU, Nongame Program, Bell Museum

Demos: Binoculars, Bird Feeders, Bird Banding

Walks: Kids walk, Spring Migrants, Wetland hike

10:00am Wetland hike

11:00am Young birder walk

12:00pm Lunch, Lyle Bradley speaker\*

1:00pm Young birder

\* Box lunch can be purchased, reserve at Springbrook Nature Center, 763.572.3588

Meet at nature center at 100 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.W., Fridley

### Sunday – May 16

#### **8:00 – 9:30am, Battle Creek Hike**

Meet at parking lot of Battle Creek Rec Center at 79 S. Winthrop St., St. Paul

#### **8:00 – 9:30am, Mississippi River Gorge**

Meet at Parking Lot at the intersection of the West River Parkway and 36<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis

#### **12:00 – 4:00pm, AHATS Tour/Open Hike**

Guided hikes at 12:00–1:30 pm, 1:00–3:30 pm, and 2:00–3:30 pm

Meet at Gate 1 parking lot at Hamline Ave. and Ben Franklin, North of Hwy 96, Arden Hills

Additional information can be found at [www.urbanbirdingfestival.org](http://www.urbanbirdingfestival.org)



## CITIZEN ACTION



People of Minnesota live here largely because of the wealth of natural surroundings with which we are blessed. Most folks are willing to go out of their way to recycle, conserve energy, and purchase goods that are produced responsibly. But to do so they must have access to—and sort through—a large amount of information.

For example, in the 1890's, women's hats sporting plumages of birds, mostly from the Everglades, were all the rage. The Audubon Society raised the awareness of the public by reporting the moral dilemma raised by unsustainable animal harvesting. They even tried to get women to wear birdless hats called Audubonnets. This was only mildly successful, but laid the foundation for John F. Lacy, a legislator from Iowa, to formulate a bill: "The Lacy Bird and Game Act of 1900." This bill put an end to indiscriminate killing and put animals under greater federal protection.

Today, there are stores in some states that have eliminated the use of plastic bags. Even after 30+ years of recycling programs, plastic bags are rarely recycled. Instead, bags can become tiny particles that can act as a sponge for toxic chemicals, and can concentrate them one million times. These particles can kill many species of birds and fish.

There are five factories in India that make plastic bags. They use 17 million barrels of oil and large quantities of natural gas per year. One million bags are used per minute and four billion per year end up in a landfill or in the soil, lakes or oceans. The one trillion (doesn't seem like as big a number as it used to) bags used, last about 1,000 years in a landfill. Biodegradable bags don't help the situation much.

If you want to help reduce the use of plastic bags, you can take washable bags and reused bags to the store, but you don't have to stop there. You can tell store clerks and managers, or the company itself, that you prefer they take steps to reduce bag use.

—Jim Egge

### HE'S STILL ON THE MOVE!

Last year, this newsletter mentioned Golden Eagle #42, a raptor who had been caught in a leg-hold trap in Wisconsin, was treated at the U of MN Raptor Center, banded with a satellite-monitored radio, and released back into nature.

His movements are still being tracked and his journeys are traceable via Minnesota Audubon's website:

<http://mn.audubon.org/news-events/golden-eagle-42-release>

For an update on his whereabouts, visit the site's map and you'll see that his travels have taken him between many MN and WI locations; most recently, he's nearing the Iowa border and increasing his range of exploration.

## Minneapolis Audubon Society

Bryant Square (31<sup>st</sup> & Bryant Avenue S)

Friday, April 9, 2010 1 p.m.

Warren Nelson will share with us more "Wildlife of Aitkin County."

Please join us for the program and refreshments.

All are welcome.

For more information call 952-920-0176.

### Bosque del Apache Cranes

Cranes fly in from nearby fields.  
Threads of gray, stream through  
an early evening sky, descend to  
sunset-burnished shallow waters.  
They take their places within  
a cacophony of raucous greetings.

Cranes join their own reflections  
in shallow waters with a ballet of  
bows, prancing dances, tossing limp  
weed strands. Courting in the  
dimming light . . . all hints of  
a soon northward journey.  
For now, waiting.

Something within insists  
on opening wings and—  
moving on.

—Clem Nagel

### 2010 Junior Duck Stamp Contest

Young artists around the county have been busy observing and studying their favorite waterfowl to use as a model for their candidate in the 2010 Junior Duck Stamp Program. March 15<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for drawn or painted entries, but on Friday, April 23, the Midwest Region will host the **2010 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.**

The Junior Duck Stamp is a pictorial stamp produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recognize the conservation efforts of young people, and the program has been in existence since 1993. Proceeds fund environmental education programs and award the students for their work.

—from Audubon MN

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
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Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 280



**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**

- 6** Chapter Program at 7:00pm
- 15-18** HMANA Conference
- 24** Spring WingDing

**MAY**

- 4** Chapter Program 7:00 pm
- 13-14** Urban Birding Festival

Board meetings are held every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

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Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)