



KINGFISHER



April 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

Bluebirds, Bluebirds, Bluebirds!

Recently, the Bluebird Recovery Program published their 2003 Directory with the help of 357 Minnesota bluebirders. The number of bluebirds were down slightly from last year and several causes are suspected, one of which will be discussed at the Annual Conference in Monticello, MN on April 17th.

Those 357 Minnesota bluebirders (out of 870 program members) monitored 7,990 nest boxes. There were 2,451 successful bluebird broods which resulted in the fledging of 9,201 Eastern bluebirds. Delayed in their migration by the cold and late snowstorms, the 2003 returning arrivals were late in nesting, but had an unusually large second-nesting success across the state. A record number of great crested flycatchers used the bluebird boxes this year. There were quite a few unexplained deaths of adult bluebirds, as well as of young birds nearly ready to fledge.

The West Nile Virus was found to be the cause of death in Nebraska bluebirds last year, and the virus is suspected in bluebird deaths across Minnesota as well.

A virus expert will speak at the spring conference, which will mark the 25th anniversary of the chapter's Bluebird Recovery Program. The program was started in 1979 by Dick Peterson and others, including Mary Ellen Vetter and Dorene Scriven of our own Audubon chapter.

Come celebrate with us! All Audubon members are welcome to attend the April 17th conference. Besides lots of bluebird tales and research presentations about the effect of the West Nile Virus in songbirds, there will be a fascinating talk about hummingbirds by Carrol Henderson of the non-game division of the Department of Natural Resources.

Kent Borcherding of Wisconsin will speak on the topic of successful concrete bat houses, and a delightful play by St. Croix 4-H bluebirders will be featured. Lots of unique sale items and a bird-oriented silent auction will round out the event.

Pre-registration is requested, and the \$8.50 cost of the luncheon must be prepaid by April 7th. Contact Dorene Scriven for registration forms.

For more information or registration materials, please contact Dorene H. Scriven at 612.922.4586 or via e-mail at Scriv001@umn.edu

—Dorene Scriven
Bluebird Recovery Program

April's Chapter Field Trips

Join Chapter members every Tuesday during the months of April and May for spring birding field trips!

- ◆ **9:00 am**—We will join the Minneapolis Audubon Society for birding in the T.S. Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Meet at the east gate of the sanctuary, which is on the north side of Lake Harriet. Park in the lot across from the Rose Garden or on the street.
- ◆ **11:30 am**—The group will caravan to another destination for an afternoon of birding. Bring your lunch and enjoy a whole day of birding!

For more information, contact Mary Ellen Vetter, Field Trip Chair, at 763.561.1761.

MOU's Annual Salt Lake Trip, April 24th and 25th

Here is a weekend trip for birders interested in viewing waterfowl and shorebirds common to Minnesota's marsh, lake and prairie habitats. Salt Lake and western Lac Qui Parle County will be the destination of this trip.

- ◆ **April 24, 7:00 am**—Meet at the American Legion in Marietta, MN (11 miles west of Madison, MN on Highway 40) to form car caravans or get maps for birding on your own.
 - * **Noon:** Lunch available at the Marietta American Legion
 - * **7:30 pm:** Dinner at the Sons of Norway Hall, Madison, MN, \$10.00. For reservations, contact Becky Vonderhar at 320.598.3797.
- ◆ **April 25**—Birding on your own

For lodging ideas or more information, contact Mike Hendrickson at 218.626.2268 or smithville4@charter.net

Happy Birding!

(Editor's note to those who attend this trip: I'd love to print a paragraph or article on what you found!)

—Mary Ellen Vetter
Field Trip Chair

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

Minnesota Audubon
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

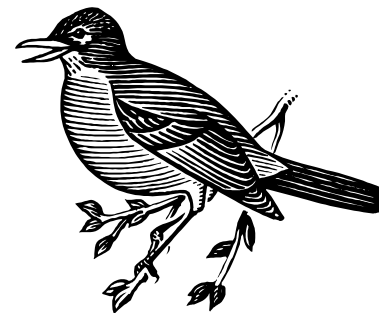
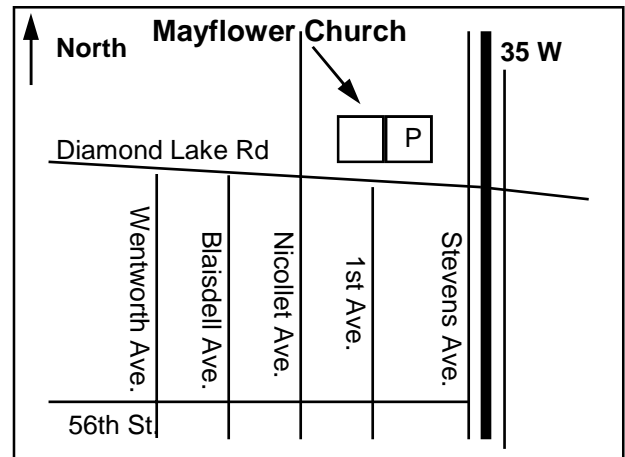
National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 6
tentative: "Recovery of Endangered Piping Plover" Francesca Cuthbert, University of MN

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
(35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu



2004 Spring Birding Festivals in Minnesota

Spring

...is just around the corner and its time to start planning your birding trips! May is such a good month for birding and there are many great local birding festivals. Those we have learned about are listed below and the date, place and contact information are included. Good Birding!

April 30—May 2: Morris WMD & Big Stone NWR Free Birding Weekend. Pre-registration required by April 14th. Call 1-800-248-5868 (320-589-1001) or e-mail kdliving@yahoo.com

May 7—9: Northwest Minnesota Birding Festival. Phone 218-674-4259 or e-mail kkkr@wiktel.com for additional information. Headquartered at Lake Bronson State Park (about 45 miles north of Thief River Falls)

May 7—10: Horicon Marsh Bird Festival. See www.horiconmarshbirdclub.com, Horicon and Mayville, WI. Contact: Horicon Marsh Bird Club, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, WI 53032 Phone 920-387-7877

May 14—16: Great River Birding Festival. Hosted in Wabasha, MN. For information or to pre-register call 877-525-3248 or visit the www.mississippi-river.org/birding/

May 14—16: Bluff Country Bird Festival. Sponsored by Houston Nature Center, Zumbro Valley Audubon, Coulee Region Audubon and SE MN Historic Bluff Country Inc. Registration deadline is May 1st. Contact 1-800-428-2030 for more information or check out http://www.bluffcountry.com/bird_fest.htm

May 14—16: Oak Savanna Birding Festival. Sponsored by "Friends of the J.C. Hormel Nature Center" and the Austin Audubon Society. For more information, contact the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau at 507-437-4563 or e-mail rnsbaby@charter.net or twdorsey@charter.net or visit the Austin City web site at <http://www.ci.austin.mn.us/Parkandrec/bird.htm>

May 21—23: Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds. Sponsored by the Detroit Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Holmes Theatre. Contact 1-800-542-3992, extension #433, for additional information

June 4—6: Boreal Birding Festival. Sponsored by the Grand Marais Area Tourism Association, the North House Folk School, Community Education and the U.S. Forest Service. For more information, check the Grand Marais Visitor Information Center at www.grandmarais.com/birding/index.html or contact the North House Folk school at 1-888-387-9762 or by e-mail at info@northhouse.org

Board Nominations Needed

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is in need of qualified nominees for the Board of Directors. At the May meeting, we will be holding elections for three Board members whose terms will expire in May 2007. At this writing there are vacancies (one each) on the Board whose terms expire in May 2005 and 2006. These can be filled by Board appointment if candidates step forward. The Board is made up of not more than nine Directors, the Past-President, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Board normally meets every month (except July and August) on the second Tuesday of the month for about 2 hours. The Board sets policy and conducts business as needed. Each Board member is expected to serve on one of the Standing Committees and probably chair it (this may involve some time for committee meetings). The Board sets the budget, oversees production of the Kingfisher, sets up monthly programs and provides serve to the community

through its 15 standing committees. The Conservation, Field Trip, Education, Newsletter, Program and Social committees are the most active. The Bluebird Recovery Program is a special program that is operated independently but is a part of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and receives assistance from it.

Please step forward to serve on the Board so that we can continue the service our members expect and expand it to better serve the community. The vitality of its leadership is so very important for a vigorous and thriving chapter. Please serve—we need YOU! Jerry Bahls, Nominating Committee Chair, can be reached at 763.572.2333 or by e-mail at bahls001@tc.umn.edu. You may also contact any member of the Nominating Committee or any Board member to put a name in for nomination.

Happy Bird-day, um *Birthday*, to
John James Audubon on April 26!

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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.
- 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

April

- 6** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
Chapter program, 7:30 pm
- 13** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
Chapter Board meeting
- 20** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
- 24-25** MOU Salt Lake field trip weekend
- 27** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am

May

- 4** Last Chapter program for the season
- 11** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
Chapter Board meeting
- 18** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
- 25** Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
- See inside article for many spring
birding trip and festival details!**

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please check our website or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761) for more details...

See you on the birding trails—
guests are *always* welcome!