



KINGFISHER



April 2005

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 54 No.3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

I would like to thank all the members of the chapter who attended the Citizens' Day at the Capitol. We had a good turnout. Audubon had about 50 members attend from all over the state. This does make a difference when we ask for protection of birds and their habitat.

In the past couple of weeks there has been some bad news for our chapter. We have lost some active members. Our Conservation Committee lost Mike Nauer. Mike had become very active with the Committee over the last year and was helping us write the IBA application for the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary. He had volunteered to help us with the Living Green Expo buckthorn wood project. We will miss his spirit of helping.

We also lost Ann Leykom. Ann was a past Board member and also helped with the Kingfisher mailing. All this in spite of her age and failing health. This spirit of wanting to give something back to Audubon is laudable.

Another loss that occurred was Clara Courteau. While she was not an active member of the chapter, she was a stalwart volunteer for the Springbrook Nature Center. Again the unselfish giving of her time so that people, and in particular young people, could enjoy the marvels of nature speaks louder than words.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis needs members to follow in the paths that these three blazed for them in providing the helping hands that volunteer organizations, and in particular Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, needs so critically. We have many volunteer activities members can participate in. Some take a moderate amount of time (3 - 4 hours/month) while others may involve only a few hours per year. Check our website for volunteer opportunities. At this time a critical need is finding members willing to be nominated to our Board of Directors or become our Treasurer. If you decide to help, please call Ed Thom (612.866.6667) and let him know you are available to serve on our Board of Directors.

Jerry Bahls, President

April Program

CAN URBAN GREENWAYS PROVIDE AVIAN HABITAT?

This topic, of interest to all of us as avian populations and their habitats decline, will be presented by Jamie Hull Mason. Her study, done in the Raleigh/Durham area of North Carolina will give us insight as to what we can do here in Minnesota.

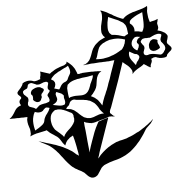
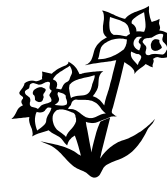
Ms. Mason earned a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Minnesota and an M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences from North Carolina State University. She now works as a Natural Resources Scientist for Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates.

As our cities spread out, wildlife habitat shrinks. Our places for people to be part of nature become harder to find and farther away. Ms. Mason's study of greenways show the broad range of social, economic and environmental benefits of these spaces. The study investigated how forested corridor width, landscape context and greenway co-position and vegetation structure affect avian community composition.

They surveyed breeding bird communities at 34 greenway study sites of different vegetation styles showing the effects of different vegetation and size of birds were included in the study including ovenbird and scarlet tanager.

This information is important to landscape and urban planners to maximize the greenways' good for wildlife as well as for people. It is an important message for us to hear and work from to improve our cities and birding.

See you there: Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM, Mayflower Church.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004-2005 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Vice President	John Arthur	952-931-0819
Treasurer	Phyllis Mahan	763-588-5440
Secretary	<open>	
Board Member	Jim Egge	612-827-7629
Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Board Member	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Board Member	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Board Member	Michael Flannery	952-404-9380
Board Member	Fran Durista	612-822-4822
Board Member	Dorothy Kuether	952-926-4205
Board Member	Ed Thom	612-866-6667
Board Member	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Birdathon Coord	<open>	
Aud. Adventures	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Bluebird Recovery	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Conservation	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Field Trips Chair	Mary Ellen Vetter	763-561-1761
Field Trip Leader	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Marcia Marshall	612-871-6611
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656
Lending Library	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Mailing	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Membership	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Park Feeders	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Programs	Fran Duritsa	612-822-4822
Publicity	Paul Fusco	
Sales	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Social	Helen Weides	612-824-6268
MOU Rare Bird Alert		763-780-8890
Minnesota Audubon		651-739-9332

John Arthur	jarthur@visi.com
Jerry Bahls	bahls001@tc.umn.edu
Kim Halek	mrvogelfrau03@mninter.net
Dorothy Kuether	dkuether@juno.com
Tom/Phyllis Mahan	mahan-mail@att.net
Marcia Marshall	mrcmars@aol.com
Dorene Scriven	scriv001@tc.umn.edu
Ed Thom	ethom@juno.com
Mary Ellen Vetter	mevetter@mninter.net

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

Minnesota Audubon

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

National Audubon Society

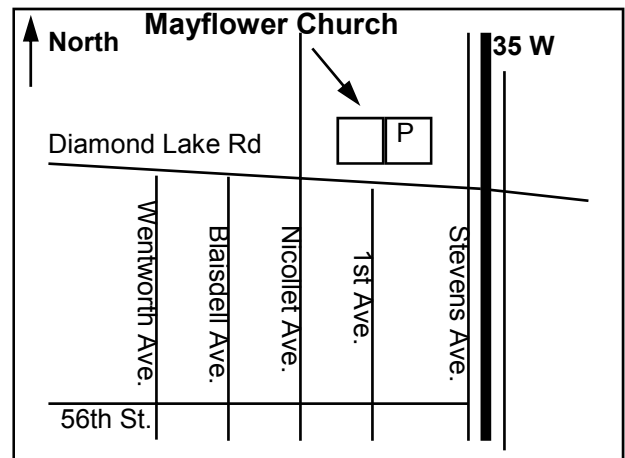
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, April 5
Can Urban Greenways Provide Avian Habitat? by Jamie Hull Mason, Natural Resource Scientist

TIME: Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, map below



Please send your memorable birding experience to bahls001@tc.umn.edu and we will share it with everyone. Half the joy of the experience is sharing it with others. Try to limit it to a couple of short paragraphs telling us where, when and what the experience was.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu

Beginning Birding Classes

Where: Science Museum of Minnesota, St Paul

When: Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 pm & Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00 am

Fee: \$20 / \$15 Science Museum member



And

Where: Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 West Franklin Ave, St. Louis Park

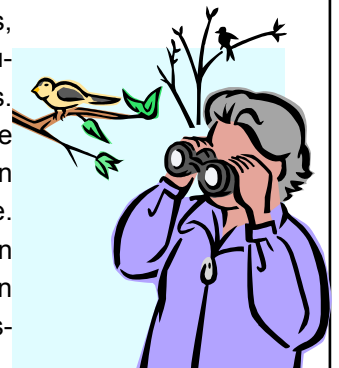
When: Saturdays, April 30th & May 7th both at 10:00 am

Fee: \$5, one child free with paying adult

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will be offering a two-session Beginning Birding Class this Spring at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The preparation of this class has been partially funded by a grant from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The class is a comprehensive guide for people who are interested in learning how to identify birds. The class will provide a basic knowledge of birds. It will provide the students with a method for observing a bird and help them identify it with the aid of a field guide. Basic instructions on the use of binoculars and field guides will be included. At the end of the class, it will be expected that the student will be able to identify 10 easily recognized birds. They will also be well on their way with a little study to be able to identify 25 common Minnesota birds. Finally they will have the tools and knowledge on how to identify many of the migratory birds that pass through the area. The class will include a field trip in the area to apply what has been learned in the classroom. Students are asked to bring a field guide and their binoculars to both sessions. A limited number of binoculars and field guides will be supplied. Prepare for the weather because the field trip will be held rain or shine! Anyone over the age of eight is encouraged to sign up for the class. A fee to be paid to the Science Museum of Minnesota will be charged for this class. Call the Science Museum of Minnesota at 651.221.4511 or e-mail registrar@smm.org for registration details.



This class will also be offered at the Westwood Hills Nature Center. Parents, bring your children! This is a lifelong activity that you can enjoy with them. Students are asked to bring a field guide and their binoculars to both sessions. Prepare for the weather because the field trip will be held rain or shine! The fee for this the class is \$5.00. Anyone over the age of eight is encouraged to sign up for the class. One child between the ages 8 and 18 attending with a registered adult is free. Please send your name, phone number and address along with your registration fee to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, P.O. Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Deadline for mail-in registration is April 23rd. Call 763.572.2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu for more information or late registration. This class will be limited to 25 students, so please register early!



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 (1785-1851) 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 depiction 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 painting 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 this death.



BOOKS for SALE

Did you know, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis sells books and other merchandise at its Program meetings?

We offer many of the most popular Field Guides for sale!

We have Bluebird Recovery items for sale!

We offer Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis patches and pins as well as National Audubon Society pins.

All items are at **discount** prices.

This month's featured book is:

Carroll Henderson's

Wild About Birds Feeding Guide

April Field Trips

EVERY SATURDAY DURING APRIL AND MAY!!

7:30 AM ---Join Minneapolis Park Trips, Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Wirth Park. There is a \$2.00 fee for all trips except North Mississippi Regional Park.

Take Hwy 55 to Wirth Parkway, south ½ mi. (cross Glenwood), Garden entrance is on left.

April 09 Saturday, **Roberts Sanctuary**, 7:30 to 9:30 AM

April 16 Saturday, **North Mississippi Regional Park**, 1:00 to 2:00 PM. Take I-94 North to Exit 49th/53rd Ave. N., east to Carl Koening Interpretive Center.

April 21 Thursday, **Minnehaha Creek**, 6:00 to 8:00 AM
Meet at the creek as it crosses 28th Ave. S., just north of Minnehaha Parkway.

April 24 Sunday, **Minnehaha Park**, 7:30 to 9:30 AM
Take Hwy 55 to Minnehaha Pkwy (4900 South), east on Godfrey Pkwy to Park Pavilion.

April 28 Thursday, **Twin Lake**
Meeting place to be determined

EVERY TUESDAY DURING APRIL AND MAY!

9:00 AM ---Join the Minneapolis Audubon Society at Roberts Sanctuary, Lake Harriet

Meet: East Gate, north side of the Lake. Parking at Rose Garden Lot or on the street.

11:30 AM --- Group will car caravan to another destination for afternoon birding. Bring your lunch and enjoy the whole day.

April 23 and 24
MOU's Annual Salt Lake Trip, see page 5

FOR INFORMATION: Mary Ellen Vetter 763.561.1761 or Mevetter@mninter.net

Mississippi River Gorge Stewards Open House

Thursday, March 31, 6:00 - 8:30p.m.

St. Francis Cabrini Parish

1500 Franklin Avenue SE, Minneapolis (2 blocks east of the Mississippi River)

Join residents of Gorge neighborhoods-6:00-7:00 p.m. Neo-tropical Migrants in the River Gorge 7:00 - 8:30 PM with special guest Bob Janssen You can learn more about local river stewardship projects, sign up for upcoming Gorge Stewards activities and socialize with neighbors. A highlight of the open house will be a presentation at 7:00 PM by birder Bob Janssen, author of "Birds in Minnesota and Wisconsin." Mr. Janssen is a former president of Minnesota Ornithologist's Union and will focus on Minnesota's 30 warbler species and other neo-tropical migrant birds in the gorge. Residents from all neighborhoods bordering the gorge are encouraged to attend.



Bird of the Month

Presented by -

← ← **Vija Kelly**

The April Bird of the Month will be the Sandhill Crane! Learn about this exiting bird at our meeting on April 5th...

Ducks, Wetlands, & Clean Water Rally Saturday, April 2 Capitol Mall

Mark Saturday, April 2, on your calendar to attend the Ducks, Wetlands & Clean Water Rally at the Capitol Mall. There will be other activities as well.

IF YOU'RE NOT THERE, YOU DON'T CARE !

MOU's ANNUAL SALT LAKE TRIP

APRIL 23 AND 24

Birders will cover western Minnesota's Salt Lake and Lac Qui Parle County and can expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds and much more in marsh, lake and prairie habitats.

April 23: 7:00 AM

Meet at the American Legion, Marietta, MN (11 miles west of Madison, MN, Hwy 40) to form car caravans or get maps to bird on your own.

Advance reservations only. Contact:

Becky Vonderhar

304 Western Ave., Madison, MN 56256

beckaberk@yahoo.com

Housing/information: Jan & Scotty Kuehl 320.598.3664

2005 Living Green Expo **April 30 – May 1, 2005** **Minnesota State Fair Grounds**

More than 10,000 people are expected to attend the Expo Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st, 2005, at the Minnesota State Fairground.

The Expo will feature more than 200 exhibitors showcasing environmentally-sound products, services, and practices. Free workshops will feature everything from how to compost and reduce toxicity in your home to using the latest energy-saving technology.

Many groups reach hundreds of people with their environmental stewardship messages at the Expo. Your help is needed to reach citizens and consumers. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will have booth suggesting many ways to use buckthorn wood. Make it valuable enough to steal!

Please send your memorable birding experience to bahts001@tc.umn.edu and we will share it with everyone. Half the joy of the experience is sharing it with others. Try to limit it to a couple of short paragraphs telling us where, when and what the experience was.

Bluebird Recovery Program

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Bluebird Recovery Program will be in Faribault April 16. It's a fun and informative all-day session with speakers, workshops, demonstrations, exhibits, sale items, silent auction and a field trip. The lectures are free and the public is welcome, but we request pre-registration and prepaid lunch reservations. Please call or email Dorene Scriven for more information, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

BBRP

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Box 3801

Minneapolis, MN 55403

and we will send details and a short registrations form.

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Minneapolis MN 55403

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April 2005



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

- 2 Rally, Capitol Mall, see page 5
- 5 Chapter Program, 7:00 pm
- 16 BBRP Annual Conference
- 21-23 Beginning Birding Classes at Science Museum
- 23-24 MOU Salt Lake trip
- 29-31 Women's Wellness Weekend
- April 30-May 1 Living Green Expo

Minnesota park trips every Saturday
Minneapolis Audubon trips every Tuesday
(See page 4)

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this issue or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761)

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

