



# KINGFISHER



April 2007

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 56 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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Phenology is a term that is very near and dear to me as it applies to the natural world. For those who don't know, phenology is the study of the times of recurring natural phenomena. Records of the dates that events like the spring migration (or spring for that matter), are of great use for those who study phenology. Examining the records can tell us when the best time to make a trip down the Mississippi to view the tundra swans or see bald eagles.

Swallows returning to the Mission at San Juan Capistrano is a classic example of a recurring event (March 19 is the expected date so you don't need to look it up.) Most recurring events happen within a range of dates, not just one specific date.

Reports of bird sightings posted to MOU and other sources are a type of phenological record. Over time, we have learned that around April 10 is the best time for viewing sandhill cranes along the Platte River in Nebraska. We have learned that the peak migration of turkey vultures past Hawk Ridge in Duluth is between September 15 and October 5, with the earliest record being August 2 and the latest November 26.

Pasque flowers are a sign of spring in much of the prairie region. They are often seen poking through the snow in early April. Pasque flowers are also the state flower of South Dakota, but that is not phenology, just trivia (although North Dakotans might differ).

Dragonflies, such as the Green Darner, start to reappear in late April. These insects are thought to be returning migrants. We often plan our events around phenology. Fall hawk watches and visits to Salt Lake are examples of trips timed for best viewing. Visits to Nerstrand Big Woods State Park are often planned around best viewing times for Spring Ephemerals. These are native plants that bloom in woodlands before the leaves provide too much shade. Pamela and I lead dragonfly walks in June for the most abundant times for many species.

We also have more human phenology. We often hear about the snow storms that accompany the high school sports tournaments.

And last but not least, it's that time again when we are looking for board of director candidates for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Watch for our recruiters or talk with a current board member for more information.

—John Arthur

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## April Program

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### Art Brings Birds to People and People to Birds

April's featured speaker is artist and educator Cynde Randall, founder and artistic director of the Twin Cities non-profit known as "Bird x Bird." From 1984 to 2006, Randall served as Program Associate for the Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program, an artist-managed branch of The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA). During her tenure at the MIA she helped to produce and present more than 100 exhibitions of contemporary art. Through words and photos, she will describe how art serves her passion for reconnecting people of all ages to nature and can help all of us develop compassion and empathy for the entire community of life with whom we share the Earth.

Bird x Bird's mission is to stimulate creative links between artists, scientists and the public, in an effort to enhance the stewardship of wild species and ecological literacy.

Since 2002, Bird x Bird has enlisted painters, printmakers, photographers, sculptors, and multi-media artists to create works of art in response to data collected about birds. It presents works that are decidedly contemporary, ranging widely in style, media, and content. Each year the artworks created are exhibited and auctioned, raising funds to benefit organizations that advocate for the environment. Over the past five years, the organization has grown from ten to 150 participants, including artists from Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, Illinois, Oregon, Washington, New York, Arizona, Montana, Missouri, and the UK.

Since 2004, Bird x Bird has worked in partnership with Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden & Bird Sanctuary at Theodore Wirth Park in Minneapolis and Audubon Center of the North Woods, a K-12 environmental learning center in Sandstone Minnesota. Both organizations collect and share data about avian species with Bird x Bird, which is posted on its website. The website (see [www.birdxbird.org](http://www.birdxbird.org)) has grown into a source of education and inspiration for artists around the planet. In turn, proceeds from the sale of artworks help support the work of both Eloise Butler and the Audubon Center

***Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.***

***Mayflower Church***

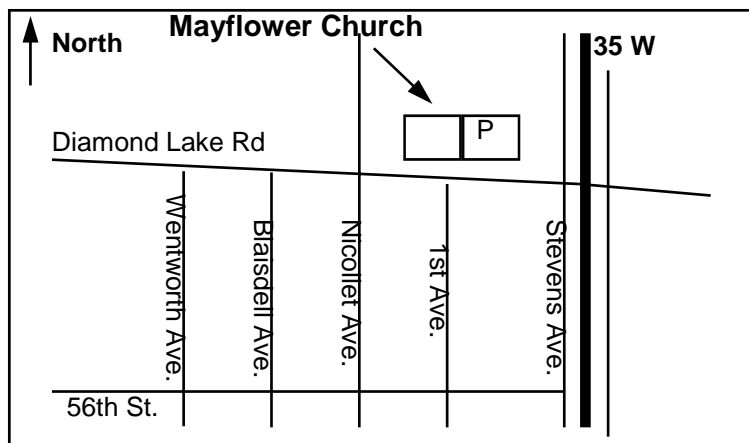
## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 3, 2007

**Art Brings Birds to People and People to Birds**  
by Cynde Randall

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 p.m.

**AT:** Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake  
Road—map below



## Minneapolis Audubon Society Programs

**April 13 Wonders of Aitkin County**  
Warren Nelson

**May 11 Madagascar Memories**  
Richard Kane

1:00 to 3:00

**Bryant Square Park Community Center**  
31st Street and Bryant Avenue South

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

## SUMMER'S COMING . . .

### Audubon Center of the North Woods

Absolutely Awesome Adventure Camp  
Ages: 10-13

June 24-29, 2007

\$430

Outdoor adventure awaits you!  
Challenge yourself on our high ropes  
course and climbing wall.  
Canoe beautiful Grindstone Lake.  
Learn about teamwork on our low  
ropes course.

Pitch a tent for an overnight sleep out.  
Develop new abilities, push your limits  
and make new friends while exploring  
the beauty of the North Woods!

Contact information: 888-404-7743  
or go to our  
website at  
www.audubon-center.org

# Minnesota River Valley Field Trips

## April 3

6:00 am, Isanti/Anoka Counties Birding Day, Minnetonka  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## April 4

6:30 pm. Old Cedar Ave. Bridge MVNWR, Bloomington  
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

## April 7

7:30 am. Scott Co. Wetlands, Burnsville Trans. Center  
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

## April 10

6:00 pm. Nine Mile Creek Bluff Prairie, Bloomington  
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

## April 14

7:00 am. Crex Meadows, Southdale, NW Corner  
Chris Hills, 952-953-3613

## April 14

3:00 pm. Sparrow ID Class MVNWR Center, Bloomington  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## April 17

6:30 pm. Beginning Birding, Wood Lake Nat.Ctr, Richfield  
George Tkach, 952-975-2972

## April 17

6:00 pm. Wild Flower Walk, Eloise Butler Garden  
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

## April 25

6:30 pm. Bredesen Park, Edina  
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

## April 28

7:00 am. Carlos Avery WMA Southtown Carpool Lot  
George Tkach, 952-975-2972

## April 27-29

6:00 pm. Salt Lake Weekend (prairiefarm@mm.rr.com)  
Ken Larson, 952-959-9265

## April 28

3:00 pm. Long Meadow Lake MVNWR Bloomington  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## April 29

10:00 am. Wildflowers, MN Arboretum, Chanhassen  
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

## April 30 & May 7

6:30 pm. Birding Classes, Hopkins Comm. Ed., Hopkins  
George Skinner, 952-939-0811

Please contact the trip leader for further information.

## Beginning Birding Classes

**Where:** Westwood Hills Nature Center,  
8300 West Franklin Avenue, St. Louis Park,  
**When:** Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:30 pm and  
Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 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 Westwood Hills Nature Center. Parents, bring your children! This is a lifelong activity that you can enjoy with them. 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 also 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 on Saturday 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. The fee for this class is \$5.00. 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 2nd. 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!



April Bird  
of the Month

“The Wild  
Turkey”

Presented by  
Trudi Poquette

# Spring Bird Seed Sale

Audubon Minnesota's bird seed sale is back and bird-lovers are invited to stock up for spring bird-feeding while supporting Audubon's conservation work in Minnesota. Seed quality is excellent, and many seed varieties, including the popular Audubon Minnesota Mix, will be offered at competitive prices, made possible through the generosity of Performance Seed in St. Cloud, MN.

Orders must be placed and prepaid by April 16, 2007. Seed will be available for customer pickup on Saturday, April 28 between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm at five locations around the Twin Cities including Tamarack Nature Center in WBL, Mother Earth Gardens in Mpls., and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, with additional pick-up sites in Plymouth, and Merriam Park in St. Paul. Seed can also be picked up after April 28<sup>th</sup> in Woodbury.

To receive a bird seed order form with pick-up location details, visit <http://mn.audubon.org>; email [mnaudubon@audubon.org](mailto:mnaudubon@audubon.org), or call 651-739-9332.

Volunteers are needed to distribute seed on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Please contact Jenny Vitale, 651-739-9332 or [jvitale@audubon.org](mailto:jvitale@audubon.org)

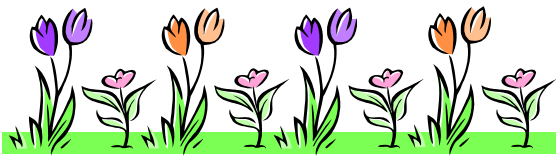
## Looking Ahead

### Spring Warblers Field Trip

Murphy Hanrehan

May 12, 2007 11:00 am

Contact Jim Egge at 612-827-7629



### Skyscraper 'Lights Out' is for the Birds, in a Good Way

The "Lights Out-Twin Cities" program begins; the campaign is being promoted by experts from Audubon Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota.

See [www.startribune.com/1453/story/1000712](http://www.startribune.com/1453/story/1000712) for details

*I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes.*

—Charles Lindbergh

## Audubon Center of the North Woods



Join us on Saturday April 14th for a National Day of Climate Action

[www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org)

We will gather in Sandstone from 12:00 to 2:00 pm in an effort to send a strong message to Congress to cut carbon 80% by 2050.

For further information contact Kate Crowley, Audubon Center of the North Woods at 320-245-2648 or at [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org)

## 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.

To Learn More about Audubon, read:

### JOHN JAMES AUDUBON THE MAKING OF AN AMERICAN

BY

PULITZER PRIZING WINNING AUTHOR

**RICHARD RHODES**

## THE AUDUBON CENTER



## ANNUAL AUDUBON BIRDING FESTIVAL

JUNE 8-10, 2007

The Audubon Center of the North Wood's first Audubon Birding Festival was a success! All the evaluations indicated that it was a fun, positive experience for everyone and there was much interest in returning next summer, so mark your calendars for June 8-10, 2007 when the Audubon Center will host its second annual Birding Festival.

We are happy to report that the excellent field trip leaders who were with us in 2006—Mark Alt, Anne Hanley, George Skinner, and Laura Erickson—will be back this year. Minnesota Audubon staff will also be involved in various presentations. Author/photographer Stan Tekiela will be a keynote speaker. We will offer field trips to local hot spots, as well as exhibits and other break out sessions and activities.

To register or receive a brochure, please call 1-888/404-7743 or email [audubon1@audubon-center.org](mailto:audubon1@audubon-center.org). For more information or updates, check our website: [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org).

## BBRP Conference

The 2007 Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP) Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm at the Elk River High School, 900 School Street in Elk River. Pre-registration is \$4.00 per person before April 4<sup>th</sup> and \$5.00 after that date. Lunch will cost \$9.50 per person.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about attracting bluebirds, establishing a bluebird trail, and other related topics. Conference highlights include speakers Carrol Henderson of the MNDNR Non-Game Division who will provide an update; Keith Radel on beginning a bluebird trail; Roger Strand on Wood Duck management; Loren Murphy on dealing with poorly-placed and improperly mounted nest boxes; Lance Krog on establishing bluebird trails in parks; Darryl Hill on raptors and Hawk Ridge in Duluth; Al Batt with his usual wit; and Jerry Bahls on the new Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery Program.

Registration forms may be downloaded at [www.bbrp.org](http://www.bbrp.org). For additional information contact:

Jenean Mortenson at 507-332-7003 [clmjmm@ll.net](mailto:clmjmm@ll.net) or  
Keith Radel at 507-210-0961

## *The Solitary Sandpiper* By Clem Nagel

*The springtime swollen river  
brushes under a low tangle of trees.*

*The Ottertail nears its end—  
soon to empty into the  
Red River of the North,  
in a slow flow  
into Canada.*

*The deep swallow-like beat of  
dark wings lifts a woodland sandpiper  
to a low branch.*

*Landing softly with a white flash of tail,  
wings held aloft, momentarily,  
it perches quietly.*

*Dark eyes stare into  
a dark woods, watching me.  
Motionless and  
unafraid.*

The Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) is such a gentle, trusting bird—if one is quiet and moves very slowly.

I find it amazing that it is said to nest in trees. As a young boy, I would seclude myself in trees along the rivers and just watch in silence.

## GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

*The 10th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), which took place February 16-19, garnered extensive media coverage on a local and national level! Participants in this year's count have broken an all-time record for the number of checklists submitted.*

*Check out the results at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc)*

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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**KINGFISHER**  
April 2007



**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**

- 3 Chapter Program
- 12 & 14 Beginning Birding Classes
- 14 Bluebird Recovery Program Conference
- 14 National Day of Climate Action
- 18 Last day to place bird seed orders
- 28 Bird seed pick-up date

MRV field trips are held throughout April.  
Please check page 3 for the complete list.

**MAY**

- 12 Spring Warbler Field Trip

Board meetings are held every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!