



# KINGFISHER



December 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 8

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Note from the President

All of human conflict is a response to try to control our own needs as we perceive them. In the earliest of primitive times, the ability of humans to control their environment was limited; they could hide or build shelters from the weather and make simple tools to hunt and gather food. As the number of people grew, the collisions between them increased for their food and spatial needs. Technology allowed them more free time, so cultures developed and humans learned that they could work together to provide for common needs. Farming let cultures create surpluses, and it transformed societies, which became interdependent.

But with agriculture came the need to have land and protect boundaries. People learned to work with their environment, largely by controlling water resources. As populations grew, the need for sustainability governed a culture's decisions and the collision of cultures necessitated weaponry and the building of armies.

Cultures are still colliding and wars haven't ended. Collisions that directly affect us the most today usually involve economics colliding with ethics or some other part of our culture. The battle for resource control means profit motive drives many of our decisions and requires legal and political conflict. It seems that for a while we lost sight of the need for sustainability, but Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, and others have reminded us that our lifestyles will affect the next generation. So we have had to raise an army of knowledgeable, conservation-minded citizens to combat the effects of unabated resource use.

I believe that we need a strong commitment to promote sustainability. Locally, that might mean giving time and money to remove buckthorn or garlic mustard from the remaining natural areas in the Twin Cities. It might mean that we look and ask for certified lumber when we build. We can protect lake and river shorelines by learning what to plant to prevent runoff and benefit wildlife. This spring, for example, I intend to plant more butterfly-attracting plants (such as milkweed) in my yard. Knowledge is power and multiplies as we share it neighbors and friends.

Simplifying our lives and not buying things we really don't need can promote sustainability. We can buy locally and pay a bit more to support businesses that try to be environmentally responsible, instead of buying the cheapest merchandise.

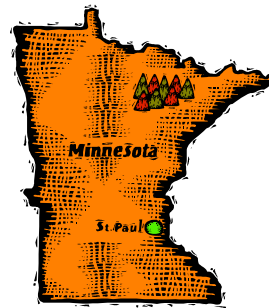
Above all, the shift from profit-motive to sustainability requires an educated, active public.

—Jim Egge

## December Program

### The History of Minnesota Birds and Birding

Bob Janssen will be joining us to share his knowledge of the History of Birds and Birding in Minnesota. Bob is the author of several books including, *Birds in Minnesota*, and *Birds of Minnesota and Wisconsin*. He is a past president of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and is the Coordinator for the Minnesota Breeding Bird Survey (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service).



**Tuesday, December 1**

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

**Mayflower Church**

### Upcoming Programs

**February 2, 2010**

Big White Birds – Swans and Pelicans

Arnie Fredrickson

Photographer and retired University of Minnesota Professor

**March 2, 2010**

Birding Sites in Minnesota

Kim Eckert

Author of *A Birder's Guide to Minnesota*

**April 6, 2010**

Captivating Bluebirds

Stan Tekiela

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

**May 4, 2010**

Saving our Wetlands and Bird Habitats

Tom Cooper,

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

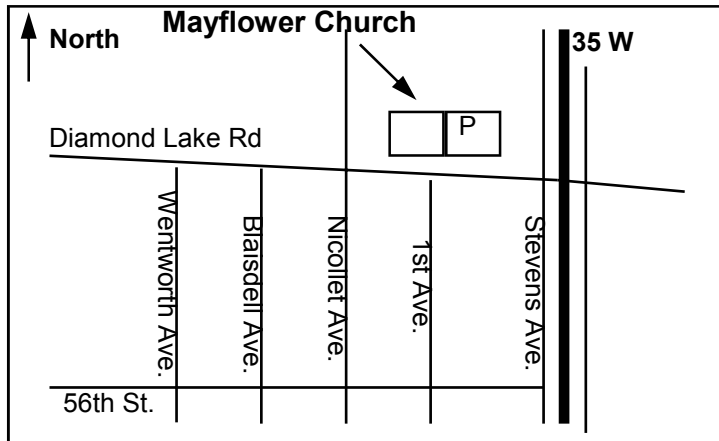
## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** December 1, 2009

### The History of Minnesota Birds and Birding

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 PM

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



## Explore Bird Behavior with New Online Course

Anyone can explore fascinating patterns of bird behavior in a new five-week online course from the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). The goal of “Investigating Behavior: Courtship and Rivalry in Birds” is to help people learn how to observe and interpret some of the ways birds are communicating with their behavior. Some of those behaviors are literally a matter of life and death. “Courtship and Rivalry in Birds” explores a basic principle of bird behavior each week, featuring common and exotic species. From Florida Scrub-Jay families in which siblings help raise new chicks, to the jaw-dropping plumages and bizarre dances of the birds-of-paradise, the goal is to help students develop new skills in observing birds and be able to apply what they’ve learned

As part of the course, students participate in online discussions with the instructor and classmates. Interactive activities include trying to think like a bird—making behavioral decisions that have a direct impact on survival.

The online course was developed in partnership with [eCornell](#), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cornell University. For more information about the course and to register visit [www.ecornell.com/birds](http://www.ecornell.com/birds)--**be sure to watch the video** with more about the course contents. A new session will begin January 6, 2010. The cost of the course is \$295 (\$255 for Cornell Lab members) with a \$30 registration fee. To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up by phone at 866.326.7635.

## RhWR Update

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) has completed the second year of its survey of red-headed woodpeckers (RHWO) at Cedar Creek Eco Science Reserve in East Bethel. In 2008, 18 nest sites were located and in 2009, 21 sites were located. Some nests in 2009 were in the same tree as in 2008. For more information, attend the MOU Paper Session on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Bell Museum of Natural History (9:00 am) on the Minneapolis Campus of the University of Minnesota. The RhWR has also confirmed seven more RHWO clusters. Eleven volunteers visited 21 sites to determine if there were at least two or more breeding pairs within about a quarter of a mile. See the RHWR website ([www.RedheadRecovery.org](http://www.RedheadRecovery.org)) for a map of the locations and other interesting items. The RhWR newsletter, *The REDHEAD*, is now on the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis website for your convenience. For more information, call Chet Meyers (612.374.5581) or Jerry Bahls (763.572.2333).

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	<a href="http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo">www.geocities.com/audubon.geo</a>		
Audubon Minnesota	<a href="http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn">www.audubon.org/chapter/mn</a>		

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

# Conservation Committee News

by Kit Healy

Soon after I wrote about buckthorn pulls in the October *Kingfisher*, I received a thoughtful email from a chapter member who had read my column. I forgot to ask permission to mention her by name, so I won't at this time, but her point was that while it is all well and good to remove buckthorn from public land, we'll never make any real progress if we don't address the buckthorn on private land as well (these are my words, not hers). I agree.

This morning, I attended at meeting with—among others—a Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) supervisor. We met to talk about funding habitat enhancement projects at Roberts Bird Sanctuary but, inevitably, the talk turned to buckthorn and its pervasiveness. Everyone at the meeting agreed that any enhancement project at the site would have to include a provision for ongoing removal. We all knew the buckthorn removal had to be continuous because, as the MPRB supervisor pointed out, buckthorn is all over private land. He said MPRB crews have focused on removing buckthorn from certain parklands in the past, only to see their work undone a season or two later because some private land near the park contained a buckthorn hedge.

So, how do we handle buckthorn on private land? I know some Minneapolis and St. Paul neighborhoods have had buckthorn pulls in the past. I know many suburban neighborhoods have as well. It seems as if a lot of these efforts have been in vain, however, because it's hard to find any evidence of neighborhood follow-up activities and without follow-up (years of follow-up!), buckthorn will return.

The Conservation Committee has been working with the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council's Environmental Committee on the Roberts project. The LhiNC members have mentioned an ongoing removal program in their neighborhood that appears to be having some success. A few years ago, the neighborhood group received a grant to take a visual survey of all the private land in the neighborhood and record the sites with buckthorn on them. Homeowners with buckthorn on their property were told about the problem and offered matching funds from the grant to help pay for removal. Many homeowners decided to take advantage of the program. Today, LhiNC maintains the list and continues to work with homeowners; the neighborhood group also holds fundraisers to replenish the matching money. Maybe this program could serve as a model for other neighborhoods?

If you have any thoughts about buckthorn removal or anything else, let me know by coming to a Conservation Committee meeting: the next one is Tuesday, Nov. 24, from 6-7 pm at Lund's in Uptown.



## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 110<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



Our Chapter will participate in National Audubon Society's 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count. There were 2,124 Christmas Bird Counts conducted in 2008 with a total of 65,596,663 birds counted. Be part of the largest Citizen's Science Project. Newcomers are MOST welcome and will be assigned to a team with a seasoned birder.

**DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009**

**TIME: 7:30 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**MEET: SPRINGBROOK NATURE CENTER  
100 85TH AVENUE NORTH, FRIDLEY**

A fee of five dollars will be assessed by the National Audubon Society. Please bring a **food item** to share for our **potluck luncheon** that day.

### QUESTIONS???

Contact Siah St, Claire at  
(763) 572-3588 or [stclairs@ci.fridley.mn.us](mailto:stclairs@ci.fridley.mn.us)  
OR

Mary Ellen Vetter at  
(763) 561-1761 or [mevetter@mninter.net](mailto:mevetter@mninter.net)

## Incipience

Spruce branches  
reach out—  
waiting.  
Heavy, slow  
snowfall.

Outstretched limbs—  
whitened, lead-laden.  
Burdened.

Slow bending  
begins an avalanche  
of cascades.

Frozen moisture  
released to earth.  
Branches flex  
upward.

Root capillaries  
await spring's  
water of  
new life.

—Clem Nagel

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

Return Service Requested

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U.S. Postage  
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Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 280



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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  
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**

DECEMBER

- 1 Chapter Program at 7:00pm
- 19 Christmas Bird Count

JANUARY

No chapter program—have a happy holiday!

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**

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!  
Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)