



# KINGFISHER



December 2005

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 54 No. 8

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Note from the President

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! Your response to our Fall Appeal was overwhelming! The total received was \$1650, far beyond what we had expected. The largest amount received was \$50 and there were three anonymous \$1 amounts. We know you gave as much as you felt you could and again, we thank you.

Because we now have the funds, we need to identify teachers who want to use *Audubon Adventures* in their classroom. So if you are a teacher in our chapter area, ideally teaching grades 3 – 6 (grade 2 can work with help), contact either Trudi Poquette or myself so that we can get you set up.

We will also be looking for other opportunities to use the funds to aid in our mission of environmental education. If anyone has any ideas, don't hesitate to pass them along. It has been my desire to set up a program to provide a leader in the classroom who deals with birds. Now that we have some funds to aid us in doing it, we only need the volunteers willing to give the classroom presentations. So if you have had some classroom experience or are comfortable speaking in front of groups, give me a call so that we can begin this program.

Another project I have been trying to get off the ground is video-taping our programs and then providing them to cable TV stations to run on their public-access channel. Also, we have many shut-in members who would like to attend the programs but can't for various reasons. I would like to have the tapes available to them through the area libraries.

We now have some funds to possibly do this, but again we would need a volunteer who has some video-taping experience or is willing to learn on-the-job. I believe we can get the equipment and the necessary training from the cable TV operators, we only need someone willing to be trained and show up to do the taping with some follow-up editing of the tapes to fit the time format for the cable TV programs. Any volunteers?

These are a couple of my ideas for using the funds, but as I noted in an earlier column, the money is great, but volunteers still are much more important to our organization. We never lack for ways to spend it, but it often requires someone to volunteer to get the greatest value out of it.

—Jerry Bahls

## December Program

### THE OUTBACK OF AUSTRALIA

What outdoors enthusiast isn't fascinated by the prospect of exploring the Australian Outback? Crocodile Dundee added color to the mystery of one of the last frontiers. On December 6, meet someone who has experienced the Outback first hand, and see beautiful pictures that will rekindle that urge to see it yourself.

Ted Galambos is an emeritus professor at the University of Minnesota. He is a structural engineer who has been a professor most of his career. His wife, Barbara, is the bird-watcher and an avid photographer. She is a biologist and ex-school teacher who raised four children who have now grown up to middle-age. Barbara has been a birder since before they were married 48 years ago.

Ted and Barbara lived in Bethlehem, PA and St Louis, MO, before they moved to Minneapolis in 1981. Ted's father gave him his first camera when he entered the Army 51 years ago. He has traveled to meetings and conferences all over the world, always carrying his camera. Ted and Barbara lived for a short time in Sydney, Australia, and have done birding trips in Australia, New Zealand, the New Zealand sub-Antarctic islands, Iceland, East Africa, and South Africa.

Please join us:

**Tuesday, December 6  
7:00 P.M. at Mayflower Church**

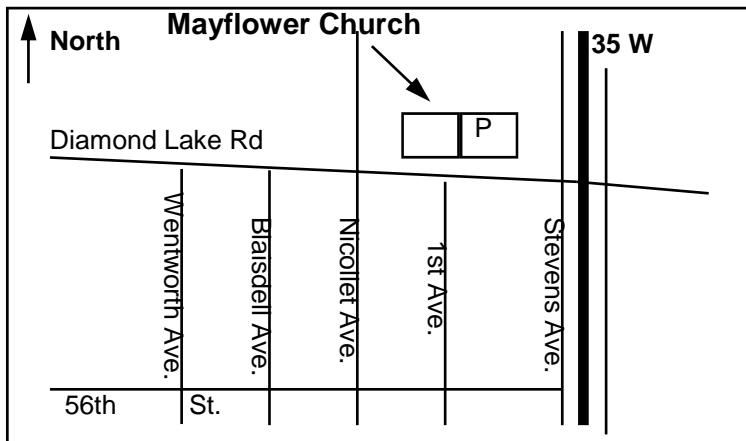


## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 6  
"Australian Outback"  
with Ted and Barbara Galambos

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

**AT:** Mayflower Church, map below

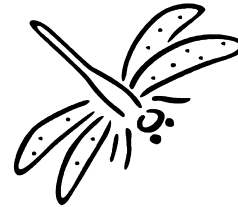


### December Bird of the Month:

## The Dragonfly

Presented by **John Arthur**

Learn about this delicious bird food at our  
December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.



### BOOKS FOR SALE

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

We offer many of the 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 feature is a **Christmas CD** by the  
Minneapolis Philharmonic Orchestra:

### *The Winds of Christmastide*

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2005-2006 Contacts

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National Audubon Society			www.audubon.org	
MOU Rare Bird Alert	763-780-8890			

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE  
KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!  
Contact Jerry Bahls at  
bahls001@tc.umn.edu



## National Audubon Society's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count

Our Chapter will participate in National Audubon Society's 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count. The records of 50,000+ annual counters in North America are considered the most significant contribution to citizen-science.

Newcomers are MOST welcome and will be assigned to a team with a seasoned birder.

**DATE: Saturday, December 17, 2005**

**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 pot-luck luncheon that day.

### QUESTIONS??

Contact Terry Brashear at  
612.929.1976 or [birdnird@yahoo.com](mailto:birdnird@yahoo.com)

OR

Mary Ellen Vetter at  
763.561.1761 or [mevetter@mninter.net](mailto:mevetter@mninter.net)

## MOU Paper Session

**Saturday, December 3 9:00 AM to 4:30 AM**

Bell Museum of Natural History  
University of Minnesota  
at the corner of Church Street & University Avenue

Papers on various bird related topics will be present  
and displays can be viewed all day.

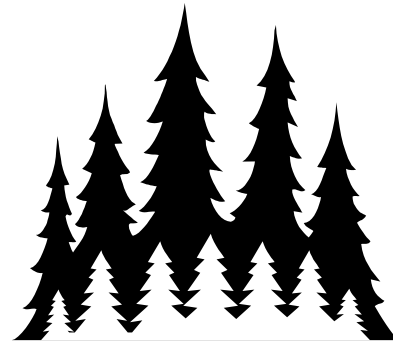
For information: Bill George, 2312 Old Beach Road,  
Wayzata, MN 55391

## SMALL, SUCCESSFUL CEDAR LAKE BLUEBIRDTRAIL UP FOR ADOPTION!

The amazingly successful bluebird trail on Cedar Lake Park property just west of downtown Minneapolis has been monitored regularly since 1987. Established by Mary McGee, the four pairs (8 total nest boxes) have been enjoyed by several monitors since, and observed by many along the walking/bike trails on the north end of the lake. This year, there were six bluebirds nests and thirteen youngsters fledged.

The current couple monitoring the trail did not want to give it up, but must travel abroad next year. Commitment is from April through August, once a week. The trail can be shared so several people could take turns checking.

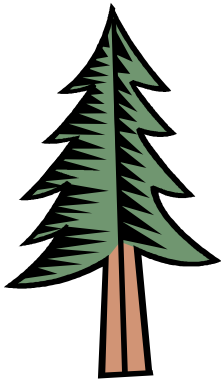
Call Mary McGee at 612-377-0630.



## BETTY HALE

We learned of the recent death of Betty Hale, a long-time and very active member of the Minneapolis Bird Club which became the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter. She was an ardent birder on field trips, traveled with the summer trips, and was in charge of mailing the Kingfisher for many, many years. John Hale, who preceded his wife in death, was active in the chapter as well. John spent many years taking the Audubon story into Minneapolis classrooms.

## Environmental Round-Up



A symposium on northern owls is planned for March 16-18 in Duluth. International speakers will be invited to this event hosted by Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory and the Natural Resources Institute, UMD. Focus of this symposium will be on the northern owl irruption and its causes.

In July, the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society held their 2005 butterfly count in Rochester. They found 31 species which equaled the previous high count, although the total numbers (495) were less than half of previous peaks. Forty-eight Milbert's tortoiseshells were found compared with only two in any other year. The temperature was 90+ and perhaps limited the counters' activity.

Minnesota River Valley AC has a full schedule of wildlife field trips planned for the year. Check the website [www.mrvac.org](http://www.mrvac.org) for information and registration.

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver has scored a 100% success in the Colorado legislature. Every bill they worked to oppose died, and every bill they supported, won. It's encouraging to see environmental issues going forward in other places. Included was a bill to fund air and water quality as well as Colorado State Parks.

Voters across America last November overwhelmingly supported measures to protect parks and open spaces. Out of 161 funding measures, 121 were approved, creating \$3.25 billion for land conservation.

Although both Minnesota senators kept their vow to vote against it, the U.S. Senate passed an energy bill that opens Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. We hope when the House votes, it will act more responsibly.

—Jim Egge

*Editor's follow-up:* The planned November 10<sup>th</sup> House vote on the ANWR bill was delayed because of opposition to issues unrelated to the Arctic Refuge topic. Deep cuts in the budget-cutting package (to which the ANWR drilling provision was attached) angered House GOP moderates, forcing a temporary suspension of the matter. For the time being, the caribou and tundra are safe.



## FIND A DATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY AT SPEED-DATING IN THE PARK

Find a date who shares your passion for the Great Outdoors and a healthy active lifestyle at Three Rivers Park District's Valentine's Day "Speed-Dating in the Parks."

Two speed-dating sessions are available: Session 1 for ages 22-33 meets from 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 7, and Session 2 for ages 30-45 meets from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9, at French Regional Park in Plymouth.

During Speed-Dating in the Parks, participants will snowshoe with their dates on a candlelit trail for five minutes, keeping track of their dates on a dating card. If dates share an interest in each other, they will receive each others' contact information so they can set up another date. The program concludes with hot chocolate and time for socializing.

The entry fee is \$20 and includes use of snowshoes. Participants should be prepared to hike if there is no snow. Reservations are required; call 763.559.6700. Reference Activity Number #125117-00 for the 22-33 year-old session and #125117-01 for the 30-45 year-old session.

French Regional Park is located at 12605 County Road 9 in Plymouth. From I-494, take County Road 9 (Rockford Road) east one mile to the park entrance. From Highway 169, take County Road 9 west two miles to the park entrance. Parking is free. French Regional Park is operated by Three Rivers Park District.



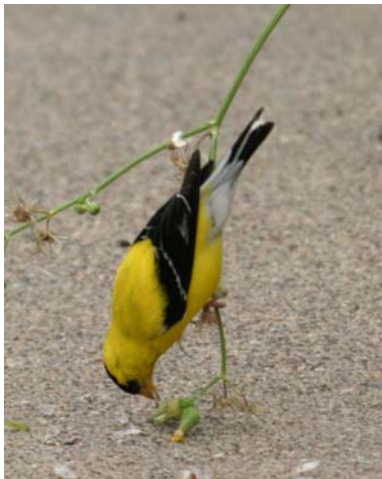
JUST IN!

***The Bluebird Recovery Program members fledged 12,700 bluebirds in Minnesota this year!!***

***The Annual Audubon Birdseed Sale was a Great Success!***

*Lots of birds will not go hungry this winter: the annual birdseed sale raised nearly \$10,000 to support Audubon programs in Minnesota. Thanks to all who supported this sale, and to Sheldon Sturgis at Performance Seed in St. Cloud who donated all of the seed!*

## It Started with Goldfinches



A good place to watch birds may not be in some far-off natural area or in another country. It could be as close as your own backyard. In previous articles, I have talked about how Pamela and I started planting our yard with native species. Over time, we have noticed a change in the varieties of birds coming to the yard. Early on, it was mostly house sparrows and house finches. There were also the other

assorted common birds that came for the sunflower seeds and thistle seeds in the feeders.

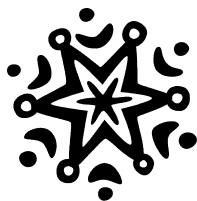
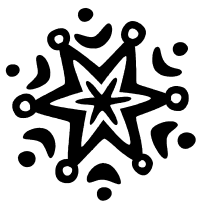
Last summer, we stopped filling the feeders to see what would happen. The birds still came. Goldfinches were often seen in the tall coneflowers, cup plants and some of the other seed producers. We learned to stand still when the coneflowers were moving on a windless day and look closely to find the finches eating the seeds. One day, we walked out of the house and saw a goldfinch hanging upside down on a toppled stalk. I managed to get one photo before it took off.

The lights went on: *the goldfinches are coming to the yard without having a feeder. They are coming for the native seed.* Our garden is becoming an oasis in a desert of urban/suburban lawns.

Will other birds start visiting? Even with the feeders removed, the birds are still coming to the yard. A catbird nested nearby this summer and was seen frequently in our lilac bush. A white-throated sparrow and chipping sparrow were seen in the yard. Could this be the start of a miniature bird sanctuary? It's very doubtful in a small city lot such as ours, but if more of the neighbors start adding native plants to their yards...Hmmm?

*As I mentioned, it started with goldfinches.*

—John Arthur



## AUDUBON MINNESOTA

**Save the Date:**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2006, 5 – 8 p.m.  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Forum**

**Hear Legislators Speak on  
Environmental Issues at the  
Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul**

**Save the Date:**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2006  
Audubon Lobby Day at the Capitol**

**Lakes & Plains Regional Council  
of Carpenters & Joiners Union Hall  
700 Olive Street, St. Paul**

**Register early by e-mailing Susan Solterman at [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org) or calling her at 651-260-7040. A packet of information will be sent to you in early March.**

### Spring 2006 Birding Festivals

Yes, springtime may feel like a distant idea by the time you are reading this newsletter, but there are already a few spring trips in the planning that may be of interest to you.

From May 19-21, the Third Annual Mississippi Flyway Birding Festival will take place along the river near La Crosse, WI. A mix of guided hikes, tours, workshops, and evening events are scheduled for beginning and advanced birders alike. For more information, go to [www.couleeaudubon.org/mfbf](http://www.couleeaudubon.org/mfbf) or call 608.784.2992 or email [bkoop@audubon.org](mailto:bkoop@audubon.org).

Another popular southern Minnesota-area festival gets a little tweak this coming year: The Great River Birding Festival in the Lake Pepin area between Red Wing and Winona will feature special birding events all year in individual communities located along this Globally Important Birding Area instead of a weekend-oriented festival. For more information, go to [www.mississippi-river.org/birding](http://www.mississippi-river.org/birding) or call the Lake City Tourism Bureau at 877.525.3248.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
December 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**

DECEMBER

- 3 MOU Paper Session
- 6 Chapter Program
- 13 Board Meeting
- 17 Christmas Bird Count

JANUARY

- No Program
- 10 Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 7 Chapter Program
- 14 Board Meeting
- 17-20 Great Backyard Bird Count

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 Vetter 763.561.1761.

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 President Jerry Bahls for details!