



# KINGFISHER



JAN/FEB 2013

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 62 No. 1

*Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County*

## Protect Migratory Bird Habitat

By purchasing a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly called a "duck stamp") for \$15, birders and conservationists can protect wetland and wildlife habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. 98 cents of every dollar generated goes to land acquisition.

A junior duck stamp is also available for \$5. Any of these choices is a wonderful way to help protect our migratory birds. Duck stamps may be purchased at your local post office or online. The bird featured on the 2012-2013 stamp is the Wood Duck.



## January Issue

**February 5th:**

Bill Steiner, *"Original Audubon Prints"*

**March 5th:**

Sharon Stiteler, *"Bird Banding"*

All programs are free and open to the public. Programs start at 7 p.m. and end by 9 p.m.

Program meetings are held at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park. *Please note: we are no longer meeting at Mayflower Church.*



## Roberts Tree Survey

A major step was completed in November on the tree survey that the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has been working on the last couple of years for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. All of the field work has been completed on the 30 survey plots in Roberts Bird Sanctuary. The data is being entered into a database and should be completed by the time this is published. Look for information on the report about the tree survey on our website and in the *Kingfisher*.

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Egge

It's often the case that those whose lives are closest to the environment, are the ones who feel the most need to preserve it. But as populations grow and technology improves, it is increasingly likely that the carrying capacity of the land will be stressed. Native Americans quite possibly hastened the demise of large mammals such as the woolly mammoth as they learned to quarry entire herds of the species. The deep plow accelerated the erosion of farmland by maximizing the area that was tilled. Trees were often in the way of agriculture, and as such were cut down rather than left for needed windbreaks.

When I was a boy in Kandiyohi County there were woods all over the place. Swamps dotted the farmer's landscape and were full of wildlife. We always found a decent place to hunt and learned to love the terrain that rewarded us with a stray mallard or a covey of Hungarian partridge. But swamps don't make much money and are in the way of 12-bottomed plows. Then the government began paying farmers to lower the water table with the dreaded drainage ditches. I now visit the same farmland that my uncles owned in the 50's and scarcely a tree or cattail remain. I think they intuitively knew that swamps and woods were what made living on the farm worthwhile, and made the whole system work. But living and farming on 320 acres made it personal. By the 1980's, farms of 800 to 1500 acres maybe took the love out of farming and businesses rarely tolerate intact ecosystems. The land was seen as a factory or a potential housing tract, and everything changed.

Forests were cut down to make way for trees, and a monoculture of sterile tree farms replaced the ecosystems that could support a multitude of wildlife species. But some species managed to survive and a few even thrived with human impact. So preserving wildlife had to take on a completely different course, and proponent. People like John Muir and Rachel Carson had given us new reasons to value the wild places and even the developed places, that could enrich our lives with outdoor experiences. Millions of dollars and hundreds of organizations later, we have preserved a bit of what once was taken for granted and falsely assumed to be permanent.

But demographics continue to change and the stakeholders hold claim to a whole new list of requirements. Few people today of working age, have connections to the rural life or to the land. Their families may do some hunting, hiking, or camping but that may not translate into a burning need for preservation. What I found interesting from the Sept 2011 issue of Audubon (Facing the Future), was that minority groups felt a stronger need for dealing with toxins in our food and drinking water. Minorities were also willing to pay higher taxes to preserve wildlife habitat than comparable white populations. And the difference was significant. For example, 61% of African-Americans felt that global warming was a serious problem, while for whites it was 39%.

*Continued on following page*

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		<b>MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890</b>
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

## **Member Poetry Corner**

### *A SNOW BUNTING YEAR*

*They came from their summer home -  
the treeless tundra, land of continuous  
sunshine, endless teeming insect life.*

*Sometimes, the only land bird around,  
alone with their kind, left  
to sing and raise their brood.*

*But, I didn't know know that then -*

*only living with hope they would  
simply return each winter to  
grace the prairie ground and sky.  
- Clem Nagel*

### SNOWBIRDS

The morning after a prairie winter storm,  
an old, frost-heaved, white house stood  
alone with its uninsulated walls and floors.  
Its roof, icicle-laden.  
Wavy windows lace-frosted and  
edged with ice.

"They are here!" the mother said  
as her warm hand melts a little clearing  
in a low pane of one of the windows.  
A child peers through to a stark white field.

Tiny birds flit and  
alight just outside.  
Their little wings send puffs of  
snow into the frigid air.  
Clean white breasts,  
dark gray backs.  
White flashes as they  
leave the child watching.

"They are snowbirds"  
she said.

- Clem Nagel

### *President's Note—continued*

Yet despite these statistics there is still not a representative sample of the minority groups that are going into professions that require environmental education backgrounds. It's difficult to say why this may be true. One thought is that today, minorities with science backgrounds and good people skills are in demand in higher paying jobs. For whatever the reasons, it is important to continue to reach out to a diverse population to educate and inspire children and adults to appreciate the wealth of natural areas still left in this country, as well as other parts of the world.

One way this can be done is by helping kids to learn to grow gardens. There is a great program on public TV that focuses on just that-getting kids to enjoy planting and harvesting with their own hand. They need inspiring adults to take an interest in passing on their passion for nature. Carroll Henderson has found that outdoor photography is a great way to get young people outside and noticing things that are all around them. My desire is that Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis remains on the forefront and stays committed to these ends.

## Thank You Notes From Kenwood Elementary School

These are letters written to Audubon following a bird presentation and bird walk at Kenwood Elem. School last month by Jim Egge and Carol Nulsen.

Dear Mr. Egge and Carol,

Thank you for coming to our classroom and teaching us the main steps of birding. My Grandmother is a part of Audubon in Florida. I really enjoyed going outside and I think schools need more birding. I was exuberant when I heard we were going birding because I just learned to whistle on Sunday and I thought what an excellent opportunity to practise my whistling.

Thank you again,

Gwen

Dear Jim and Carol,

Thank you for coming to visit us today. I really enjoyed going up and down the hill. It was fun going bird watching even when I had a headache. I enjoyed looking at pictures of the birds. Thanks again.

from, Lauren

Dear Jim and Carol,

Thank you for coming out here to teach us how to identify birds. I really enjoyed it! Now I know how to use binoculars correctly!

Thanks again!

Maggey

P.S. I think that you guys are great at identifying birds!

### **Did you know? Some interesting facts about some of our nesting birds...**

*The Great Horned Owl begins laying eggs in February! It is the female who incubates and she begins after laying the first egg.*

*The Trumpeter Swan often has 4-6 young (although 9 cygnets are not unusual); only the Pen (the female) incubates once the last egg is laid. Trumpeters can breed well in to their 20s*

*Brown Creepers build their nests under loose bark of a dead or dying tree. One more reason to keep those dead trees!*

*The American Goldfinch is a late nester with nest building Mid-July to August, about the time when thistle is available for nest lining.*

*The Great Crested Flycatcher is a cavity nester, sometimes occupying a bluebird house. A snake skin is almost always incorporated into the nest!*

*The House Wren is another cavity nester, sometime taking over bluebird houses, but also nesting in old shoes, mail boxes and other odd places. While the male is busy filling all possible nest cavities with sticks (called dummy nests), the female chooses the one she likes by adding soft grasses.*

*Thanks to Madeleine Linck for this!*

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Backyard Bird Count!

On February 15 - 18, 2013, Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are having their 16th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). You will be a citizen scientist! You don't need to do anything to advance register. Just select a site (probably your backyard), time period and count the number of birds you see. Note each species and the largest number you see at any one time. Then at the end of the day report your results via the internet at the GBBC website. For more information, go to the GBBC website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for detailed information on participation. We will report results, if you don't have access to the internet.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is planning on having a couple of ways you can participate. *On Saturday, February 16, we have four choices for you! From 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 at the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, from Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park, from 10:00 to 11:00 at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield and from 10 – 11 at Eastman Nature Center in Dayton. There will be Audubon members there to help with I.D. Come, learn, have fun, and bring friends. Host a party for the birds! Enter the GBBC Photo Contest, see the GBBC website for details. For more information call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net).*

## Fall Appeal Thanks!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to thank the donors to our annual 2012 Fall Appeal. We had a successful appeal, receiving to date \$1555. The Board of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to recognize those that contributed. Thanks to the following contributors –

Les Barry  
Richard O. Bartz  
Lois Becker  
V B Bernards  
Virginia & Jeffrey Brooks  
Richard P Brown  
Eugene Carlson  
William H Caverly  
Bradley J Coulthart  
Lois Dick  
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Bill M. Sipe  
Susan J. Specker  
Steve Thompson  
Linda J Thomson  
Marianna Tiller  
Thomas Veilleux  
Mary Ellen Vetter  
Lois Whitehorn

If you haven't send your donation, there is still time to get them in before the end of 2012.

## *Audubon Advocacy*

From time to time the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is asked to sign on to letters to legislators, governmental departments or the Governor to advocate for a particular position or funding. We receive about 3 of these each month. The Board is given the authority to act in the interest of its membership and consequently we have signed on to many of these letters. In the past no report is made to the members on these sign on's. The Board at our last meeting decided that the membership should be kept apprised of these sign on's.

So here is a brief summary of the last letter that we signed on to. The letter originates with The Nature Conservancy and urges "...support for the Sportsmen's Act of 2012 (S. 3525) which has strong provisions to conserve land, water, and fish and wildlife habitat in addition to sportsmen's access to public lands. The Sportsmen's Act is a bipartisan, consensus-based package that reauthorizes critical conservation programs, including the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as provisions such as Making Public Lands Public that dedicates a percentage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to projects providing hunting, fishing and other recreational access. The immediate reauthorization of these programs and many others in the bill is necessary to continue their years of proven conservation and partnership successes." If you would like to read the letter that we signed on, please send a message to [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net) and you will be sent a copy of the letter.

We would like your feedback on the letters we sign on to. Please send your comments to [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net).

### **Winter Bird Walk**

Enjoy a winter morning bird walk to meet the feathered winter residents. See birds at the feeders, learn bird calls, and hike the Maple Trail in search of birds. Binoculars provided.  
Dress for a winter hike with boots, hat and mittens. Reservations required.

Lowry Nature Center

7025 Victoria Drive  
Victoria, MN 55386

**Saturday January 26th, 2013 9:00AM—11:00AM**

Restricted to participants age 12 and older. \$5.00 fee.

Call (763) 694-7650 for more details!

### **Minneapolis Audubon Meeting**

**Friday, February 8, 2013 1 p.m.**

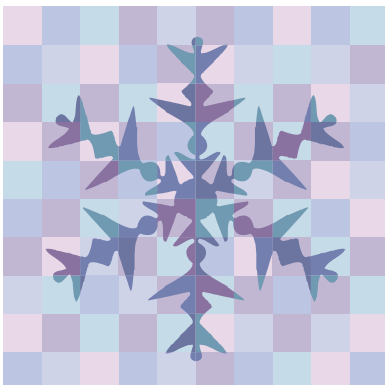
Dr. Scott Sharkey will share outstanding photography from his Minnesota River world in "Scenes from a Bloomington Marsh." The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join us for the program and refreshments! For more information call 952-926-4205.

CONTACT: Barbara Franklin

Minneapolis Audubon Society

763-657-1907

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## ACM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis currently serves 10 schools in the Metro area with program called Audubon Adventures. These kits are paid for by the chapter and supplied free of charge to the schools. They contain 4 sets of 32 activity magazines, on topics such as alligators, spiders, birds and their eggs, trees, or elephants. They also have posters and a teacher's manual geared to national standards.

ACM also does bird presentations in elementary schools using the Minnesota Ornithologist Union's Youth Mentorship kits. These kits contain a set of slide pictures of birds, bird books, and 15 pairs of good binoculars. Presentations in 2012 were given in 8 elementary schools and 1 outdoor fair. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders are taught how to use binoculars, and after viewing some common birds, are taken out for a bird walk. 9 adults were involved this year at some level. A total of 569 student hours were logged. Included in the Kingfisher are letters from some of students. Below are the schools served and the adults involved. If you'd like to be involved in 2013, or if you would like to see your school included contact Jim Egge 612-827-7629

1) Kenny Elem		Mike Menzel
2) St Helena's Elem		Kathy Iverson
3) Northrup Elem		Bob and Carilyn Papke
4) Birchview Elem		Paul Fusco
5) Harvest Acad		Carol Nulsen
6) Seed Acad		Sid Stivland
7) Kenwood Elem	Pres. Only	Sylvia Winkelman
8) Odyssey Acad		Jim Egge
9) Annunciation Elem	Aud Adv only	
10) Aurora Acad	Aud Adv only	
11) Rice Lake Elem	Aud Adv only	
12) Mound Outdoor Fair		

## Wood Lake Nature Center Events!

### Environmental Book Club

Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation based books. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Books are available at local libraries and/or are available for the lowest price through [ad-dall.com](http://addall.com)

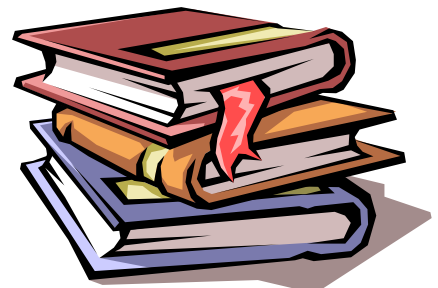
January 8th: *The Children's Blizzard* by David Laskin

February 12th: *The Root Beer Lady: The Story of Dorothy Molter* by Bob Cary

March 12th: *Silent Thunder: In the Presence of Elephants* by Katharine Payne

Please call to register [612-861-9365](tel:612-861-9365)

6:30pm-8pm, \$5/person, Free for members



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
January/February 2013

Return Service  
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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**

January

22: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

February

5: Program: Bill Steiner, *Original Audubon Prints*, 7-9PM @ Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

26: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

March

5: Program: Sharon Stiteler, *Bird Banding*, 7-9PM @ Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

26: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

*The Kingfisher is published every other month beginning with the January issue. All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings! For more information on upcoming events please check out our website at : [www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org](http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org)*

**Electronic Kingfisher**

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Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)