



# KINGFISHER



Jan/Feb 2017

Vol. 66 No. 1

*Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis*

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

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### **Minneapolis Audubon Society**

CONTACT: Sylvia Winkleman  
 763-533-8381  
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### **Friday, January 13, 2017 1 p.m.**

Birds of Minnesota State Parks – Bob Janssen

Bob Janssen, author of Birds of Minnesota State Parks, a labor of love which was 11 years in the making will share his experiences.

### **Friday, February 10, 2017 1 p.m.**

A Millennial's Guide To Birding – Bob Dunlap

Bob Dunlap, Zoologist/Data Specialist at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will present "A Millennial's Guide to Birding." His life list now includes all the birds that regularly occur in Minnesota as well as many in other countries (including the U.S., Mexico, Costa Rica, and Ecuador.)

**Join the Minneapolis Audubon Society for food and fun at the Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, 31st & Bryant Avenue S, just one block south of Lake Street, easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes! For more information call 763-533-8381.**

## *January/February*



### **Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Upcoming Programs**



**Program meetings are held at 7:00 PM** at Beth El Synagogue, 5225 Barry St W, St. Louis Park 55416 (unless otherwise noted\*). All Program meetings are free and open to the public.

**No January meeting**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017** Jonathon Poppele

*"Language of Birds".*

Presented by educator, author and naturalist Jonathan Poppele. He is Minnesota coordinator for the Bird Language Leaders program with the National Audubon Society, and founder of the Minnesota Wildlife Tracking Project.

Birds are the alarm system of the forest, broadcasting the whereabouts of hawks, owls, foxes and more through their calls and postures. Learning bird language is not only fun, it allows us to understand them, see more wildlife, and feel more connected to the natural world.

## From the President

January/February 2017



As many of you know, I had a very serious cardiac event in October. Thankfully I am nearly fully recovered and back performing my duties as President and the other functions I performed before my illness. However, this event has caused me to rethink the amount of involvement in the Chapter that I have been doing. Fortunately the Chapter Bylaws prevent me from serving as President next year, so that was a decision I didn't have to make. I plan on continuing my participation by serving on the Board as the Past-President. By continuing on the Board in this manner, I'll be in a position to advise the new President on administrative matters and continue to provide historical information vital to running the Chapter.

It is time that the Chapter has a new infusion of leaders running it. In addition to the President, it is anticipated that other Chapter offices will also be available. While it is hoped that these offices are filled from the current Board, they may not be and therefore it is anticipated that the Chapter will need to recruit a few members to fill the anticipated vacancies. We currently have a couple of vacancies on the Board, so this is a great opportunity for anyone who might be interested in serving as President or any other Office in the future to learn about the Chapter activities and workings.

For those of you who are contemplating seeking the Chapter Presidency, here is some information you might need to know. The President is responsible for running all Chapter meetings. The President sets the agenda for all meetings. All official correspondence is signed by the President. The President provides all information needed by National Audubon. Depending on his/her vision and assistance in fulfilling it, the amount of time required to be President is about 15 hours/month. This is an ideal part-time job for someone who desires doing something fulfilling and rewarding. We do make a difference! As stated above, I will be available to assist the new President, as needed.

For the past 20 plus years I have also been the mailing chair for the *Kingfisher* newsletter. It is also time for me to pass this duty on to someone else. The newsletter is mailed every other month and so this is only done in February, April, June, August, October and December. It takes about 8 hours for each mailing. A crew of about 10 volunteers (established list) is needed to prepare the newsletter for mailing. A member mailing list is prepared and sent to the printer one week before the mailing for him to print on the newsletters. The mailing chair works closely with the *Kingfisher* Editor to insure the mailing goes smoothly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the mailing month. I have maintained the Chapter membership lists, but there is no reason someone else (a Membership Chair?) couldn't do it. If you are interested please give me a call and we can discuss it more. Contact me (call me at 763 572-2333 or email me at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)) or any Board member to add your name to those making a difference!

Jerry Bahls, President

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: **AUDUBON LENDING LIBRARY** :  
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Reminder: The Audubon Lending Library loans bird I.D. books (paperback mostly) to members traveling overseas or in U.S. Call [612-922-4586](tel:612-922-4586) or, preferably, email [dhscriven@comcast.net](mailto:dhscriven@comcast.net) if you would like to borrow one, OR if you have some to lend!

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Audubon Chapter is to inform and educate our members and the public about birds and other wildlife and the demands that a large metropolitan center puts on their habitat, to engage in advocacy to preserve, protect and improve existing habitat and to develop and maintain new bird and wildlife sanctuaries, including backyards, to enhance the human experience.

# Great Backyard Bird Count, Volunteers Needed, Contacts.

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Great Backyard Bird Count

On February 17 - 20, 2017, Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are having their 20th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). Be a citizen scientist! You don't need to do anything to advance register, but you will need to register as an eBird participant if you are not already using eBird. Also if you already participate in any of Cornell's Citizen Science project, you needn't 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.audubon.org/content/about-great-backyard-bird-count> for detailed information on participation. We will report results, if you don't have access to the internet, contact me (info below).

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).

### Chapter Needs Volunteers!!

The Chapter needs the following volunteers:

Board Member – 2 open  
 Program Chair  
 Membership Chair  
 Mailing Chair  
 Webmaster  
 Education Committee members  
 Conservation Committee members



We may need volunteers to be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer in May. Contact Jerry Bahls (763 572-2333 or email [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)) or any Board member to add your name to those making a difference!



### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2016 - 2017 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	(763) 572-2333	<a href="mailto:jobaud@comcast.net">jobaud@comcast.net</a>
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Conservation Chair (open)			
Audubon Center of the North Woods	<a href="http://www.audubon-center.org">www.audubon-center.org</a>		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	<a href="http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org">www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org</a>		
Audubon Minnesota	<a href="http://www.mn.audubon.org">www.mn.audubon.org</a>		

## ACM Birding trip, Valentine Event at RBS, Wren Quiz



### Guatemala: Spectacular Central American Birding with the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

**TRIP DATES - February 9 – 18, 2017 (Tikal Extension Feb. 18 to 21, 2017)**

#### Pricing Summary:

Guatemala: Spectacular Central American Birding (10 days) with 8 participants: \$2,390

Single Supplement \$180

Tikal: Mayan Heritage and Birding Extension (3-days) - \$600 with a minimum of four participants. Extension air fare not included. (In 2016, this was about \$240.)

See our website ([www.Audubonchapterofminneapolis.org](http://www.Audubonchapterofminneapolis.org)) for more details.

### Special Valentine Event at Roberts Bird Sanctuary



**What:** Love Birds in the Sanctuary

**When:** Tuesday, February 14, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Minneapolis (east entrance at the Visitors Shelter, near the Peace Garden parking lot on Roseway Road)

Thomas Sadler Roberts, founding member of the American Ornithologists' Union, author of *Birds of Minnesota*, and namesake of Roberts Bird Sanctuary, was born on February 16, 1858. Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary will celebrate Dr. Roberts' birthday with a Valentine's Day event in the Sanctuary. Munch on heart shaped cookies and sip on hot cocoa while strolling through the Sanctuary appreciating the beauty and love in this wonderful undeveloped natural area reserved for birds and other wildlife. Walk and listen for the calls of owls!

This free event is for singles, couples and families who want to celebrate their love of birds and Nature. Be prepared for winter trail conditions--wear boots and bring a flashlight! Please also bring your own cup for the hot cocoa. For further information, visit Friends of Roberts Bird Sanctuary on Facebook or [www.friendsofroberts.org](http://www.friendsofroberts.org)

### TEST YOUR WREN IQ By Jim Egge

1. Which wren migrates through, but does not nest in the Twin Cities?
2. What is the largest wren?
3. Which wren was formerly the Short-billed Marsh Wren?
4. Which two wrens are rare but found regularly in Minnesota?
5. Which wren has a beautiful descending "tew, tew, tew..."?
6. The "brown-throated wren", found in Arizona, is a subspecies of what wren?
7. How many wrens commonly nest in Minnesota?
8. Most wrens are \_\_\_\_\_ nesters, which means they find holes to nest.

Answers on Page 5

## Article: Children and Nature

### Children and Nature

by Bryan Wood  
Executive Director  
Audubon Center of the North Woods



Less than 30 minutes a day. That is the average amount of time a child in the U.S. spends outside. This represents less than half the time kids spent outside just a generation ago. During this drop-off, screen time has exploded and now exceeds more than 7 hours daily. While the advances in technology are remarkable and make our world more efficient, connected and better in many ways, the loss of time outside is not without consequences. The last few decades of decreased outdoor time has coincided with spikes in childhood obesity, behavioral disorders and a fundamental change in the way kids communicate - through screens rather than in person.

We are living in extraordinary times where the world is literally at our fingertips, but we are also living in challenging times. 2014 and 2015 both set records for the warmest years in history, and 2016 is on pace to break them both. In fact, this August marked the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive warmest month on record. Let that sink in for a moment. We are seeing the effects of climate change in Minnesota as we become not only warmer, but also wetter with increasingly frequent extreme rain storms. There are myriad effects we are only beginning to understand and address with climate change. The Earth needs our help and the children of today will be the decision makers of tomorrow. That is why it is so critical to get them outside and help them learn about the environment, understand what is around them and develop a connection to it.

For many of the 4,000+ K-12 students that attend the Audubon Center of the North Woods' (ACNW) programs annually, this is the first time they have had any direct experience in nature. While here they learn about natural systems and the incredible diversity, beauty and ingenuity of life on this planet, and realize they are a part of it and have a role to play. With ACNW's ability to provide lodging and meals along with educational programs, students have a truly immersive and impactful experience. The magic of a residential experience is that for a few days, they are living, breathing, eating and sleeping in their classroom. The classroom is the 535 acre campus of ACNW.

Studies show that the more time a child spends in nature, the more powerful the experience is. As a residential environmental learning center, ACNW can reach children on a deeper level than day-use nature centers can. We can not only fill their minds, but more importantly we can touch their hearts. We can leave them with an experience that they'll carry with them and will impact their decisions and actions for years to come. We know the value these trips have and want as many children as possible to experience nature firsthand through a residential experience.

We are extremely grateful for the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter's support of ACNW through K-12 scholarships that help Minneapolis area schools and youth attend our programs. If you have a connection to a school as a faculty or staff member, parent or grandparent, please consider talking to your school about an ACNW residential experience. We have scholarships, first year discounts, and fundraising options to help finance your trip. We also have a terrific staff that will work with you to make your school's visit incredible. Your support allows us to make a difference in the lives of thousands of children every year. Thank you so very much.

#### Quiz Answers:

1. Winter Wren
2. Cactus Wren
3. Sedge Wren
4. Carolina, Rock Wrens
5. Canyon Wren
6. House Wren
7. Two – House and Winter Wrens
8. Cavity Nesters.

## Audubon in Action at the Legislature

Minnesota is a better place for birds and people because of your commitment to fighting for clean water, reducing carbon pollution, and making homes and communities more bird-friendly. Regardless of political affiliation, we must continue to work together as conservationists to address issues that impact us all.

The Minnesota Legislature kicks off the 2017 legislative session on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Your voice is needed to protect, restore, and conserve our natural resources.

### What to Expect

This will be the first year of the legislative biennium, which means legislators will focus on funding the state's budget. In order to pass a new budget or make other legislative changes, Republicans will need Democratic Governor Mark Dayton's approval. Gov. Dayton has signaled his continued desire to support clean water programs and policies and Audubon Minnesota will assist those efforts by advocating for budget outcomes that promote clean water.

The 2017 legislative session is not a bonding year, however, both majorities have expressed interest in passing a pared down bonding bill.\* An important project that was included in the 2016 bonding bill was funding for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). CREP benefits clean water by helping landowners install and maintain perennial grasses and flowers on their most erodible acres. Many of you wrote and encouraged your legislators to support bonding for CREP last May. Of your action and others, CREP was included in the 2016 bonding bill for \$10 million., the overall 2016 bonding package failed to pass the Legislature, but we will need your help again to appeal for the inclusion of CREP in any bonding bill considered this session.

Whether you are supporting clean water, habitat for birds, or renewable energy, your voice will make a difference. Minnesota will endeavor to keep you informed of relevant actions at the Minnesota Legislature and assist you in making your voice heard.

We can help by scheduling and facilitating discussion between you and your representatives at the State Capitol.

Watch for calls to action and consider meeting with your legislators in person to advocate for these important issues.

You can also make an impact by writing a personal letter or phone call.

The best way to support policies and state funding for birds is to get involved. We know how we can help you participate in our joint mission.

**As a result of the election, below is an update on the make-up of the House and the Senate:**

### Senate

Republicans have a new majority, led by Majority Leader Paul Gazelka.

The Senate majority will be held by a single seat (34-33) which will likely necessitate a higher level of cooperation with the Democratic Farm-Labor minority, in order to, pass most legislation.

Senator Tom Bakk will serve as Minority Leader for the DFL.

### House

Republicans have an expanded majority in the House (76 seats), led by Speaker Kurt Daudt.

The DFL will hold 58 seats and be led by Minority Leader Melissa Hortman.

*\*Bonding dollars generally go towards repair, renovation, or replacement of publicly owned buildings, property, and land. The state raises money for these projects by selling bonds on the bond market and then pays debt service to pay off the bonds over time.*

**Molly Pederson**

Audubon Minnesota Executive Director

Conservation Article, Poetry



Conservation
Minneapolis Approves Bird-Safe Skyways



By Ann Laughlin, ACM Board Member

Minneapolis joined a growing list of progressive cities this fall when the City Council unanimously approved bird-safe glazing requirements for new skyways.

Skyways are acknowledged internationally as a building-related hazard for birds because of their transparency. Birds attempt to fly through such see-through hazards to get to habitat or sky they can see on the other side.

The new standards require all new skyways to incorporate defined bird-friendly materials for at least 85 percent of the glass. Bird-safe materials include several options, such as a combination of physical structure and visible glass patterns such as horizontal or vertical lines or dot patterns.

Minneapolis boasts the world's largest continuous skyway system with 90 skyways spanning nine miles and connecting nearly 70 city blocks. Both ACM and Audubon Minnesota hoped to include a retrofit requirement for existing skyways that would require using bird-safe glazing upon the replacement of a specified percentage of glass.

Minneapolis now joins the cities of San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, California; Portland, Oregon; and Toronto, Ontario, Canada, in addressing the problem of bird collisions with fly-through obstacles such as skyways and similar structures.

~Some information in this article was provided by Joanna Eckles, Audubon Minnesota Bird-Friendly Communities Manager.

On Birdfeeder-watch Detail

Somewhere -a woodpecker stutters in an old oak tree.
The fierce wind tears at a lingering leaf, clinging to an almost bare tree.
From either side of a hanging suet feeder, a chickadee and a nuthatch
cautiously, compare plumage.
Birds feed in haste and jerkily, as if, in an old, silent, black-and-white movie film...
Re-touched with color... A cardinal flashes past.

Clem J. Nagel 10/28/2018

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
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KINGFISHER  
January/February 2017

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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.

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: **No January Program**

Feb 7th **Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**– Chapter Program  
Beth El Synagogue, 5225 W. 26th Street, St.  
Louis Park - Jonathon Poppele  
“*Language of Birds*”.

*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.*

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

**Electronic Kingfisher**

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