



# KINGFISHER



July/August. 2016

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*Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis*

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

## *In This Issue:*

## *July/August.*

- Page 1- Upcoming Programs & Events, Mini - Bird Quiz
- Page 2 - Letter from the President, Mission Statement.
- Page 3 - Red-headed woodpecker Report Volunteers Needed, Contacts.
- Page 4 - Mini - Bird Quiz Answers, Report from ACM bird hike.
- Page 5 - Conservation Article: "Beautiful and Mysterious": Bird calls and sounds.
- Page 6 - Conservation Article...continued.
- Page 7 - Conservation Article: "Do We Really Love Our Children?": What is our legacy?
- Page 8 - Member Application, Calendar.



### Upcoming Programs



### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

**Joint Ikes Program meetings are at 7:30 at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at – 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park. Note location change. All Program meetings are free and open to the public.**

**Tuesday, July 26, 2016 – Lee Lewis - Enbridge Pipeline Update-** Lee Lewis is a volunteer with the St. Croix River Association where he chairs their pipeline safety task force. He has been a lobbyist for Minnesota Audubon and Minnesota Center for Environmental Action at the Minnesota Legislature.

#### Enbridge Pipeline Discussion:

Oil pipelines in Minnesota have been in the news recently. Most of them are owned by Canada's largest pipeline company, Enbridge. They transport tarsands from Alberta and shale oil from North Dakota to refineries and terminals in Rosemount, MN, Superior, WI and various sites in Illinois. Risks to waterways, wetlands, wild rice beds and other habitats, as well as potential ways to minimize them, will be identified. If time allows: current challenges to Enbridge's expansion plans and the projects' relationship to climate change and U.S. policies to reduce carbon emissions will be explained.

#### Participants will:

- understand the current status of pipelines that transport hazardous liquids through the headwaters of the Mississippi and St. Croix watersheds.
- be able to articulate the risks associated with these pipelines and options for minimizing those risks.
- know how to become engaged if they want to.

**\*Tuesday, August 23, 2016—7:30 p.m.**

#### North Metro Summer Joint Program

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League– Breckenridge Chapter will hold a joint meeting at the The speaker for this meeting is TBA. Please check the ACM Web-site for updates.



### Mini - Bird Quiz



- 1. What is the largest songbird in North America?**  
A) Cedar waxwing B) Common raven  
C) Northern oriole D) Indigo bunting
- 2. What is the most popular US State Bird?**  
A) Northern cardinal B) American robin  
C) Western meadowlark D) Northern mockingbird
- 3. What is the best way to offer water to birds?**  
A) In a deep bowl on a pedestal  
B) In a fountain  
C) In a shallow plate on the ground  
D) All of the above

From: nationalgeographic.com **Answers on Page 4**

## From the President

July/August 2016



Volunteering has been a very enjoyable and rewarding activity in my daily life. I have chosen to volunteer in the area of the environment and more specifically restoring bird habitat. This has taken many forms over the years. My principle efforts have been associated with Audubon Minnesota and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM). I thought I'd review for you my volunteer history with some activity highlights with the hope it will encourage you to become an active volunteer with Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis or any other organization that fits with your life goals.

My volunteer activities began many years ago when I helped the Sierra Club cleanup in parks and other public areas. While this activity filled a small amount of my free time, the majority of my time was devoted to family and work activities. It wasn't until I was able to retire and my children left the proverbial nest, that I was able to devote a significant amount of time to my passion of helping the environment.

My first efforts began by volunteering to help mail the *Kingfisher* - becoming the Mailing Chair. At about the same time I began attending Audubon Minnesota Environmental Issues Committee meetings which led to becoming involved with activities at the State Capitol during legislative sessions. With the tutoring of Don Arnosti (then the Audubon Minnesota Administrative Director); I was able to learn a lot about the political process and to better understand the process with all its nuances and intrigues. To help with the advocacy activities many of us volunteers would regularly attend legislative committee meetings to keep an eye on what was happening so that early intervention could be made to stop any bad legislation or to help good legislation pass.

Because of my involvement with the *Kingfisher*, I was asked to join the ACM Board and after a few years as a Board member and with the tutoring of Mary Ellen Vetter, I was elected President of the Chapter. This has been both a rewarding and frustrating activity. The rewards are having Board members that take the lead on an activity and see it to a successful conclusion. The frustrating part is seeing a need and not having anyone available to attack the problem. One ongoing and disturbing concern is the lack of minorities in the Chapter. I would love to have anyone step forward to lead a strong effort to recruit them into our Chapter.

Probably the most enjoyable part of volunteering is the many Citizen Science Projects one can become involved with. I particularly like the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Feeder Watch and Nest Watch. My most enjoyable Citizen Science Project was participating in the Breeding Bird Atlas project led by Audubon Minnesota. It got me out into parts of Minnesota that were difficult to get to and observe birds and often other wild animals seldom seen. This spring I am again working with Audubon Minnesota on a new project to survey marsh birds in Minnesota. It is a two year project that hopefully will become an annual project to monitor the populations of these birds to better understand their needs.

That is a short history of my volunteer activities and a little of how I got involved with them. I hope my experiences have inspired you to see that doing is so much better than thinking about it. Remember if you don't go out and look, you won't see! Or the corollary, if you don't do, it won't get done.

Jerry Bahls, President

### 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.

## Red-headed Woodpecker report, Volunteers Needed, Contacts.

### Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Research

Since 2008 the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) has been conducting research on red-headed woodpecker (RHWO) nest sites at Cedar Creek Ecosystems Science Reserve (CCESR). This has included data on nest trees, tree location and surrounding vegetation. Using a camera and pole, Ari Waldstein began looking into the nests to determine how many eggs were laid, how many hatched and how many fledged. This was continued by Patrick Hartman and Alan Watchuka. Brittney Yohannes expanded the scope of the research by recording when the first egg was laid, when eggs hatched, when and how many fledged for all nests found during the summer as well as which individual bird was involved at each nest. Members of the RhWR were heavily involved with all this research by assisting in locating nest trees for the researchers. Jim Howitz has color banded nearly all the RHWOs at CCESR so that individuals can be identified. Siah St. Clair used his photography skills in aiding in the identification of each bird at each nest site by taking photos of each bird with their color band visible making positive identification of each bird. Taking photos proved to be easier and more accurate than relying on an observer using binoculars.

A new administrator at CCESR has required a reevaluation of the research the RhWR is doing there. A new Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IUCAC) approval will be required before the RhWR can continue to band birds and to photograph inside the nests. We are assured that with a new research proposal and an approved IUCAC request, the RhWR will be able to resume banding RHWO's and photographing inside the nests in 2017. Our new research proposal may include the use of electronic devices to track birds inside nests and possibly across the country. To assist us we are investigating a cooperation with other researchers at other universities who have experience using these devices. The administration at CCESR is very receptive to this idea.

The RhWR will continue to monitor RHWO nests and record pertinent data related to the nest trees this year. If you are interested in assisting us with this effort, contact Chet Meyers at [chetmeyers@visi.com](mailto:chetmeyers@visi.com) or 612 374-5581 or Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net) or 763 572-2333.

### Volunteers Needed

**Conservation Committee Chair** - The ACM is seeking a person to chair our Conservation Committee. The Chair guides the chapter Conservation Committee on environmental issues and projects. An example is the continuing work on reducing Bird-Window Collisions. Some new building projects will be coming up in the near future and we would like to insure they are built complying with Bird Safe Guidelines. Time required is about 4 – 6 hours/month.

**Webmaster** - The ACM is seeking a qualified person to be its webmaster. The webmaster would manage all electronic communications, including updating and posting new material on the Website and Facebook pages.

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2016 - 2017 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	(763) 572-2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Vice President	John Arthur		jdragonflyarthur@gmail.com
Treasurer	Judy Hamm		judybirds@att.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Cathy Bailly	(612) 267-9098	eaglessoar1964@gmail.com
Conservation Chair (open)			
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	www.mn.audubon.org		

## Mini - Bird Quiz answers and Report from ACM Bird Hike

### Mini Bird Quiz Answers– from Page 1

1) B. Common raven

With a 4-foot (1.2 Meter) wingspan, the common raven (*Corvus Corax*) is the world's largest perching bird and North America's largest songbird. The garrulous bird commands a broad, quirky vocabulary of *Cr-r-ruks, prruks and toks*.

2) A. Northern cardinal

The popular Northern cardinal is the State bird for seven States ( Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia) The Western meadowlark is a close second with six states to it's name.

3) B. In a fountain

The sound of dripping or running water from a fountain will bring birds to your backyard. Deep bowls-in which smaller birds could drown– are a bad idea, as is a plate or bowl on the ground, where cats and other predators can attack the bathing birds.

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Bird Hikes Spring of 2016

The two bird hikes led by Minneapolis's Audubon Chapter this spring were quite successful. The first hike was at Springbrook Nature Center on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and the second hike was at Baker Park Reserve on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. Twenty five people attended the first hike where 33 species of birds were seen, with only one warbler species, an Orange Crowned warbler. Many raptors, woodpeckers, and water birds were seen, including Green herons, Great blue heron, Blue winged teal, Belted kingfisher, and Hairy, Downy, Red Bellied, and Flicker woodpeckers.

The Hike at Baker Park was cold (31 degrees) with strong winds, but we found a pocket of warblers with 12 warbler species. The group of 13 people attending saw a total of 38 species, including a Yellow- throated and a Philadelphia vireo. Many Swamp sparrows were calling, and Blue-gray gnatcatchers were seen. Ruby-crowned kinglets were still present and observed, and Crested flycatchers were also seen.

Thanks to Madeleine Linck for all of her help in leading these hikes over the years. This was Madeleine's last official participation. Just a couple of days after this hike, the moving truck came to make the final move to Massachusetts after her retirement from the Three Rivers Park District.

Siah St.Clair .

## Conservation Article



### BEAUTIFUL AND MYSTERIOUS

By Jim Egge

Even if my eyes were to weaken to the point where it was difficult to see the identifying details in birds that would still not stop me from spending time in the field “birding”. When I take students outside for a bird walk, I emphasize the calls and the importance of being quiet and listening, to get the full enjoyment of the birding experience. Many birds are heard first and identified before or without seeing them. To most 5<sup>th</sup> graders the idea of being outside without making a lot of racket is a foreign concept.

Learning bird calls and songs is quite difficult even for the advanced birder, and often requires “relearning” each spring as the warbler migration unfolds. Why do birds sing, and what is the distinction between a song and a call? There is a difference in purpose for each. A call is generally shorter and more complex, serving to alert all within earshot that the individual is present or that something unusual or dangerous is happening. Alarm calls are often similar and can be understood as communications between species. Most calls within species serve to keep track of each other or to notify others of claiming territory. For example, a family of chickadees can travel together through the winter, squeaking and chipping almost constantly when moving about. That 3 note call with the first note slightly higher than the last 2 that starts in February is the chickadees’ territorial call. This is distinct from the “chickadee-dee-dee” song that is heard later in the spring. The flock of house sparrows that nightly roosts in my blue spruce, chirps noisily like a group of 1<sup>st</sup> graders on a playground. Are they telling each other about their day, or just enjoying each others’ company?

Passerines are birds that perch, and belong to the order Passeriformes under the class Aves. Over half of all birds make up this order, which is then divided into families by their vocalizations. The two families are Oscines and Suboscines. In America, there are 18 Oscines, and only one Suboscine family, the flycatchers, kingbirds, etc. Oscines are known to us as “songbirds”, and mostly have highly developed, beautiful songs.

If you look up the towhee in the bird guide, you will find the characteristic song listed as “drink your tea” with the 2<sup>nd</sup> note much lower than the other 2. On our bird train trip this spring, I spent considerable time chasing down songs that I didn’t recognize as towhees. Evidently they don’t all care if we finish our tea or not.

**...Continued on Page 6**





Conservation Article Cont'd



BEAUTIFUL AND MYSTERIOUS

- Part II, Cont'd from page 5

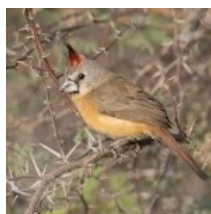
I have been fascinated by the different songs by the cardinals in my neighborhood. The usual song is the typical "weet, weet, weet," - followed by a descending "teuw, teuw, teuw, teuw". But some cardinal songs are just a loud hammering, which may be the same or a different bird.

My favorite song of the cardinal is the one I call the "bubbling cardinal". The last half of its song sounds like the bubble pipes we had from Woolworth's when I was a kid. If you're lucky enough to have one of these performers in your neighborhood you will quickly recognize that cardinal when he shows. But this year I've had a new arrival which begins its song with a striking "snapping" sequence much like the baseball card in the bicycle spokes.

We recognize each of our own species not by what people say, but by their voice quality. There is usually a recognizable quality to an orioles' song, no matter what the bird is saying. Birds identify each other in the same way within their species. They seem to know the individual voices, which to us may sound the same. I came to this conclusion one time on Leech Lake while researching the songs of the song sparrow. Our group soon learned to recognize 4 different birds whose songs were similar, but their voices were distinctive.

When we learn to identify birds by their songs or call that can open up a new realm of bird watching. With the vast assortment of new bird-centered technology, just think of the advantages the younger birders have today to add to their enjoyment.

Credit given to "The Birder's Handbook", 1988 by Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye.



## Conservation Article

### Do We Really Love Our Children?

By Don Arnosti

This time of year I reflect on the “great work of the people” done by the public servants we elect to Saint Paul. Taking a small and narrow focus, you might hear of funding for an early education program you favor, or a tax credit you might receive.

As an environmental advocate, I will tell you that more than \$150 million has been invested in excellent research projects, clean water efforts and habitat through constitutionally-dedicated accounts authorized by We, The People, in recent years. Hooray for us! And, the legislature (in an election year) refrained from most of their environmental rollbacks, which caused the Governor at our request, to veto several bills at session-end last year. Whoopee!

But, are you satisfied we’re doing enough? I’m not!

I just returned from five days of R&R in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. I’ve gone in the springtime for most of the past 25 years.. The mosquitos and black flies are still there, and I was delighted to see a cow moose and her twin newborns wobble out of the brush on an island just down from my campsite on Winchell Lake.

*However*, the forest was very thinly populated with birdsong, even compared to recent years past. There was a White-throated sparrow, and then another, but it was easy to pick out individuals singing in widely separated territories. One Barred owl called to me. A few Yellow-rumps and a handful of other warblers were visible or audible. Eagles and vultures soared overhead, and loons were visible on the lakes. What was missing was not individual species, but the *abundance of individuals*.

Scientists can and will debate the ultimate causes, but we know that wetlands have been drained, water polluted, tropical forests decimated, and we continue to pump heat-retaining gasses into the atmosphere at a rate that is super-charging our changing climate.

Is this the legacy we want for our children and grandchildren?

Join me in demanding more from our natural resource agencies with a narrow vision locked on their budget. Join me in demanding more from our elected officials with a laser vision locked on the eyes of the special interest delivering a campaign check.\* Join me in saying, I’m sick and tired of a complacent America that does not even love it’s own children and grandchildren.

*We must demand clean water, restored and protected habitats and a fossil fuel-free energy system to provide our children and grandchildren the chance to enjoy this earth in the manner to which we’ve become accustomed.*

\*PS I can tell you true stories of special interests (Koch Refining, Keetac mining, the NRA, Big Tobacco) getting their way in the Minnesota legislature this year.

Don Arnosti is the Conservation Program Director of the Izaak Walton League of America – Minnesota Division. Don is a long-time conservation advocate who has worked with the Izaak Walton League, Audubon and many other grassroots groups over the past three decades to protect our environment.

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July/August, 2016

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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**

July **Tuesday, July 26, 2016 7:00 p.m.–** Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park Lee Lewis - Enbridge Pipeline Update.

August 23 **North Metro Summer Joint Program 7:30 p.m.-** Breckenridge Chapter House located at – 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park.– Speaker TBA.

*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)

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