



KINGFISHER



JULY/AUGUST 2011

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 60 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

It often happens that we read of disastrous declines in bird populations, or destruction of natural forest environments. They're cutting down irreplaceable mahogany in the Philippines or scarlet macaws are at risk in Costa Rica. But most of us would love to hear good environmental news from around the world. Well, there's plenty. Organizations we've never heard of are making a difference in many parts of the world, each with a different focus and expertise. The current trend is to work with indigenous people to optimize their needs and help them produce sustainable results.

For example, World Wildlife Fund has partnered with Mozambique's Ministry of Fisheries to provide guidance in fisheries certification. They've done by-catch assessment to support an ecosystem-based approach to ensure long-term success. In Mexico scientists have established the Monarch Butterfly Reserve to halt illegal logging by 97%, and employ 150 people in reforestation projects for local communities. The Monarch's future looks bright.

The high demand for palm oil in everything from soap to crackers, has caused deforestation in Southeast Asia where critical habitat for orangutans and other wildlife is diminishing. Environmental groups have worked to create community standards to minimize forest cutting.

Continued on page 2

July Issue

Upcoming Program:

Avian Art History with Don Luce

On Tuesday, June 28, as a part of the Second Annual Nature and Wildlife Art Show at the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, Don Luce, Bell Museum Curator of Exhibits, will speak on "Avian Art History." Don will discuss the Bell Museum's art collection and exhibitions, and then trace the evolution of bird art through time with emphasis on European and American traditions and artists. In particular he will examine the intersection between art and science in the discovery, exploration and conservation of biological diversity. This will be art history from the perspective of a naturalist and will cover various artists and art trends as they relate to developments in science and conservation, up to more contemporary artists who may have a very different take on birds.

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting on at 7:30 p.m. at the Breckenridge Chapter House of the Izaak Walton League of America.

Address: 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. For more information call 763-421-6781.

North Metro Summer Joint Programs

Again this summer as part of our outreach to our northern membership, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League – Breckenridge Chapter will hold joint meetings over the summer on June 28th, July 26th and August 23rd at 7:30 pm. The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House.

June 28: Don Luce, Bell Museum Curator of Exhibits, "Avian Art History" (See more detailed information above)

July 26: TBA

August 23: TBA

Please circle these dates on your calendar. Watch for announcements of other speakers this summer!

(President's Note continued)

Partnerships with companies like Kraft and Cargill have changed the way palm oil is grown and distributed. Similar efforts for soy, cotton, and beef have produced new ways to use less land, energy and water in their production.

U.S. agencies like the Agency for International Development (USAID) provide support for developing countries to grow their economies and improve the lives of their people, and still safeguard their natural heritage. WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network has identified at least 300 companies whose policies affect threatened forests, helping them implement manageable practices for wood and paper products. The Forest Stewardship Council promotes certification, that follows the pipeline from forest to market, so sellers know where their supplies are coming from. Hewlett Packard has a goal of 40% of its paper sales from FSC-certified sources.

Williams-Sonoma and Pottery Barn have a goal of 60-70% of products credibly certified by 2014. MacDonald's has a policy of not buying beef from recently deforested lands.

The Marine Stewardship Council is a strong organization which has now moved to provide standards for aquaculture. This is such a growing business worldwide that it threatens to get out of control. Consumers can exert great influence on this market by being informed. For example, Chilean sea bass isn't bass at all, but an endangered, slow-growing toothfish, harvested with destructive trawling by Japanese, Russian, and Norwegian Ships. Orange roughy, and mahi-mahi populations have plummeted so drastically that the fisheries no longer are viable. Part of the answer is to buy tilapia instead from a responsible company like Regal Springs which has adopted rigid new standards.

Golden-winged warblers are in decline across much of their range. But I was

encouraged to read of researchers who are making great strides in tracking these birds on their wintering grounds. It turns out that perhaps 50% of golden-wings winter in the mountains of Nicaragua. Sustainable coffee plantations seem to provide great habitat for warblers. What has happened is that coffee growers have developed "sun coffee" which has high yields, but requires total destruction of forests where coffee grew originally. With market help, certified coffee growers are on the increase to grow plants in the shade of forests and leave the habitat for warblers, etc. We can help by insisting on shade-grown coffee. Everything else requires a chain saw to produce.

~ **Jim Egge**

Did You Know?

Did you know that chipping sparrows love to use human hair in their nests? If you find a chipping sparrow nest in the city, it will often have human hair woven into it—they must be very adept at searching it out! For your spring haircut next year, especially if you are getting a lot taken off, think of saving it and putting it out for the chippies to use. Chipping sparrows often nest low in landscape shrubbery near buildings. These cute little guys are common even in populated areas, and can be identified by their rusty caps over a white eyebrow. Their song is a long, dry, trill—almost like an insect. They are almost an inch smaller than our other common sparrow, the house sparrow.

Thanks to Susan Tertell for this piece!

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

An Appeal to “Snow Birds”

Each winter the Chapter receives returned *Kingfisher*'s from our “Snow Bird” members. This deprives the member of important news and information and costs the Chapter \$0.44 for each one returned. The March/April issue had 68 returned as “Temporarily Away”. This costs the Chapter the initial mailing postage of \$0.112, the return postage of \$0.44 and the cost of printing of \$0.247 or a total of \$0.799 for each returned *Kingfisher*. Thus for the March/April mailing the total cost with absolutely no benefit to anyone was \$54.33.

We understand that not all of those “Temporarily Away” are “Snow Birds”, but many of you are. Those of you who will be “Temporarily Away” can help the Chapter by switching to the electronic *Kingfisher* on a permanent basis, thereby not missing any of the news and information and saving the Chapter about \$0.80 each issue. Another option is to send a note to Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net or call 763 572-2333 at the same time you inform the post office and let him know you'll be “Temporarily Away” and the duration and your *Kingfisher* can be sent to you electronically or temporarily stopped. The Chapter would greatly appreciate your cooperation on this.



Photograph courtesy of Shannon Huebscher

For anyone looking for information about binoculars, here is a free website that has done much of the research for you.

www.allbestbinoculars.com



Urban Wildland Half Marathon & 5K Race

Participate in the Urban Wildland Half Marathon & 5K racing event that benefits the Wood Lake Nature Center's environmental education program with the Richfield Public Schools.

An interesting aspect of this race is that it is a “green race”, which means that all materials used for the event are either recyclable, reusable, or compostable. The food served is mostly organic, and all aspects of the race are executed in order to leave a small footprint on the environment.

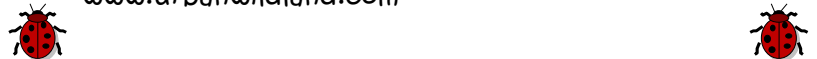
See event details below:

What: Half Marathon & 5K Race

When: Saturday August 6, 2011 @ 7AM (Half Marathon), 7:15AM (5K)

Where: Veterans Park, 636 E 66th Street Richfield

For more information, visit:
www.urbanwildland.com



FLYCATCHER CALLS

Match the letter of the call with the flycatcher. If you want to hear the actual calls, go to the Cornell Ornithology site and look for the bird guide.

Willow flycatcher	___
Yellow-bellied FC	___
Acadian FC	___
Olive-sided FC	___
Phoebe	___
Eastern wood pewee	___
Alder FC	___
Least FC	___
Great-crested FC	___

Match these with the birds to the left!

- A) Pee-yer-eee 2nd note lower
- B) Wheep or prrreet
- C) Pee-wee emphasis 1st syllable
- D) Quick-three beers 2nd note higher
- E) Peet (soft) - peet-sa (louder)
- F) Fee-beo falling, buzzy
- G) A sneezy fitz-bew
- H) Che-bek
- I) Per-wee rising slightly

Answers in next issue!

~*~Chimney Swifts~*~

Some readers are likely to live in an area where chimney swifts are chittering around looking for bugs. Dubbed the “flying cigar” by Roger Tory Peterson, these little guys have the longest wings compared to body size of any bird. Since they do build their nests in chimneys, they may have trouble finding nesting and roosting places when many chimneys are capped. More people are becoming aware of the need for nesting habitat, and Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has been one organization involved in erecting “towers” in various Twin Cities locations for them to use.

~ Susan Tertell

**Program Update!**

The Board is hard at work on planning many fun events for this fall, so please check back with our next issue for more information on what is to come!



Thank You

It takes a lot of people to volunteer to run a successful organization. I'm grateful to the following folks who give their time and talents and resources in support of the activities of ACM during the past 12 months.

Kit Healy - Conservation, Roberts Bird Sanctuary revitalization, dog park input

Constance Pepin - Conservation, Roberts Bird Sanctuary, dog park input

Steve Greenfield -CAC committee on dog parks

Paul Fusco - Education for youth

Carol Nulsen - Youth education

Bruce Adams - Youth education

Jerry Bahls - Legislative action, community events, Kingfisher, Red-headed WP prog., many activities

Susan Anderson - Membership, nominating chair, ACM board

Susan Tertell - Website updates, field trips, ACM board

Shannon Huebscher - Kingfisher editor

Ernie Gunderson - Treasurer, ACM board

Betty Edlund - Program refreshments

Dorothy Kuether - Program refreshments

Jack Hauser - Program refreshments, prothonotary warbler monitor

Dick Eide - Bluebird houses

Joanne Parsons - Program refreshments

Diane Chynoweth - Program refreshments

Judy Layzell - Program refreshments

Dorene Scriven - Program refreshments

Marji Miller - Programs, ACM board

Bill Porteous - Programs, ACM board

Martha Allen - Secretary, ACM board

Bob Papke - ACM board, chimney swift program

Many others have contributed in various ways such as addressing the Kingfisher for mailing, fall appeal donations, etc, and are too numerous to mention here, but appreciated.

Many thanks, Jim Egge

~*~Member Poetry Corner~*~

GOLDFINCH

Sun sets low

over

fall flower garden.

In hammock comfort,

without glasses,

my eyes nearly closed -

garden shapes blend with

Monet-like blurriness.

Yellow abounds. Cicadas call.

Aglow in gold,

a tall garden plant is

sunflower tipped.

Then -

one flies

away!

-Clem J. Nagel

Audubon Minnesota's Third Annual Chimney Swift Sit

Once again, volunteers throughout the state are needed to participate in Audubon Minnesota's Second Annual Chimney Swift Sit for an hour on any day during July 29-August 1, or August 26-29.

Chimney Swift populations have declined 54 percent over the past 40 years. This species is important to the environment, as each day Chimney Swifts consume one-third of their weight in flying insects, such as mosquitoes and flies, making them a natural insect control. The data that volunteers collect will help us better understand the distribution of migrating Chimney Swifts in Minnesota.

Here's how the Sit works: Participants "sit" at a chimney they know have swifts, or suspects there are swifts, for about an hour any day between July 29-August 1, or August 26-29 and count/estimate the number of chimney swifts as they enter a nighttime roosting place, and record the data on their Sit participation form. Volunteers can count on one night or on several nights during the designated period.

For more information about the Sit and to download a participation form, go to <http://mn.audubon.org>. If you cannot participate in the Sit but know of places where Chimney Swifts are roosting, please contact Ron Windingstad at 651-739-9332 ext 14 or rwindingstad@audubon.org.

In addition to the Sit, Audubon Minnesota is promoting Chimney Swift conservation efforts by educating chimney owners about the habitat needs of Chimney Swifts and facilitating the building of new structures specifically for use by these birds as nest and roost sites. The Chimney Swift was just declared an endangered species in Nova Scotia this past year and we hope our efforts through research and education will help halt the decline here in Minnesota.

For more information about Chimney Swift conservation, visit <http://mn.audubon.org>

Update on Roberts Bird Sanctuary

At its April 25 meeting, the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) voted to remove the two sites next to Roberts Bird Sanctuary from consideration as potential dog park sites. Thank you to everyone who acted on behalf of the Sanctuary! All the letters, calls, and emails to the CAC and Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners in opposition to the sites made a difference.

Please help us keep the forward momentum going by reviewing the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM)'s recommendations for the Roberts long-term management plan. Late last year, we submitted a white paper to the MPRB. Our hope is that the priorities and recommendations in the paper will be incorporated into the MPRB plan for Roberts. MPRB staff is working on the draft now; it will be available for public comment in mid-to-late summer. We hope chapter members and other birders will make use of the ACM white paper when they comment on the draft. You can read the white paper by going to the ACM website and clicking on the Roberts Bird Sanctuary page.

Interested in Contributing to the next *Kingfisher* Newsletter?

We are always looking for ACM members to contribute to our newsletter! Do you have an idea for an article you'd like to write? Do you have a great eye for photography? Do you write poetry you'd like to share? We'd like to hear from you! Please contact the Editor, Shannon Huebscher, at: kingfishereditor@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you!!

Great Birders

Alexander Wilson together with John James Audubon really began the study of ornithology in America. Wilson came from Scotland in 1794, shooting a red-headed woodpecker his first day. That, of course was the practice for studying birds back then. He collected and studied birds, making detailed biological notes. He wrote the classic, nine volume “American Ornithology”, from his exhaustive field studies.

Who would have thought that Napoleon Bonaparte would have a brother who was an important person in North American Birding. Charles Lucien Bonaparte lived in America from 1823-1828. He compiled several volumes as a supplement to Wilson’s “American Ornithology”. For this he is called the father of systematic ornithology.

The American Museum of Natural History in New York as a center for ornithology, can be credited to Frank M. Chapman ((1864-1945). He wrote the best birding guide for the turn-of-the-century birder. He started the journal “Bird Lore” which later became “Audubon”. His lectures encouraged many young people to become birders and bird biologists. He did fine field work on ecology of birds, especially those of the tropics.

Waldo McAtee (1883-1962) became a professional ornithologist, as a result of lectures by Frank Chapman. He became the leading economic ornithologist in America, and an expert on food habits of birds, pioneering the technique of examining stomach contents. He published over 1200 books, articles and reviews in his life.

From “The Birder’s Handbook”, Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye, Simon and Schuster, pub. 1988.

- Jim Egge

For the second year in a row, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has sponsored a trip to the Tiffany Bottoms Natural Wildlife Area near Durand, WI. This year, 70 people met for a train ride through the bottoms on a narrow-gauge train operated by the Chippewa Valley Motor Car Association (CVMCA). During a six-hour trip covering a ten mile round trip, the participants, both novice and experienced, were able to observe a number of birds. This year we recorded 82 total species, and 22 species of warblers, a fine record for a cool and windy day – although the sun did shine! For those who were interested in nature that cannot fly away, we also observed a number of spring wildflowers in bloom. We are grateful to the CVMCA to offer us the opportunity again.

Next year’s trip will be on Sunday, May 20, 2012, so mark your calendars. More details will follow.

If you need information on any American bird, check out Dan Tallman’s blog. He also offers a free bird class on line.

<http://dantallmansbirdblog.blogspot.com>

When is it appropriate to use birdcall apps?

A recent Seattle Times article titled “Naturalists fear overuse of birdcall apps” discusses the use of birdcall applications, or apps. In this case, apps refer to software programs that can be used on smartphones and many other types of mobile devices. Basically, birdcall apps are highly portable, easy-to-use recorded birdcalls and their use to flush out species for better viewing and photography is growing. The article mentions some of the reasons people choose to use birdcall apps. It also discusses the possibility that using the apps may have negative consequences for birds. Read the article online at the Seattle Times website: <http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/home/index.html>

~ Kit Healy



Photo of Tiffany Bottoms Field Trip 2011

Courtesy Susan Tertell

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July/August 2011



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

June

28: Don Luce, Bell Museum Curator of Exhibits, "Avian Art History" 7:30PM @ Breckenridge Chapter House

* No board meeting this month

July

* No board meeting this month

August

6: Urban Wildland Half Marathon & 5K Race 7AM @ Veteran's Park, Richfield

23: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM, location TBD

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

Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net