



KINGFISHER



Summer 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 4a

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the Past-President

During the interim period since the last *Kingfisher*, some good news has happened. Jim Egge at our May Board meeting graciously agreed to be the President of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis for the coming year. As the Past-President, I know Jim will do a good job based on the tremendous support he gave me. I know all of you wish him well. To insure a productive term, he will need your help.

This past year Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis continued and expanded some of its programs. Most notably in our mentoring program, led by Jim Egge, we were able to continue our program with the Harvest School, an African American charter school. We sponsored an outing for the school on a paddle boat on the St. Croix River to view eagles.

With the success with the Harvest School, we were able to recruit more volunteers to expand the mentoring program to another school, Assumption School, a predominately Hispanic American school.

Last fall Kit Healy volunteered to chair the Conservation Committee. Under her leadership we were able to co-sponsor an event with the major sponsor, Audubon Neighborhood Association, and the Northeast Middle School. The event, the "Spring WindDing", celebrated nature in the city. Look for this to be an annual event. The chapter hopes to be able to help the Audubon Neighborhood Association realize their vision of transforming Audubon Park in northeast Minneapolis into a much more bird and nature friendly city park as well as providing some needed spring flood mitigation.

Kit also set up Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis to help the Friends of Eloise Butler do a garlic mustard pull at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird sanctuary. She also arranged to get some help for the Wild Ones with their weeding of the gardens at Nokomis Lake.

All of these programs were helped by having adequate funds to help with these programs. The other huge ingredient is the increase in the number of volunteers Jim and Kit have been able to recruit. Volunteers are the key to successful programs, please continue to help us!

Become an Audubon Volunteer!!

Call Jim Egge at 612 827-7629

July Joint Program

"Landscaping for Sustainability"

Marie Digatono - M.S., Horticulture & Landscape Design, Master Gardener, Hennepin County, July 28th, 7:30 pm at Breckenridge Chapter House at 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park.

Marie is a landscape designer who specializes in native, bird and butterfly attracting gardens for sustainability, reduced maintenance, and design unity. She encourages the inclusion of rain water run-off gardens, rain barrels, compost bins, habitat restoration, lawn reduction, and reduction or elimination of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Having managed the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden for almost two decades, she also has expertise in incorporating garden sculpture. Marie will provide you with a TOP TEN plant favorites to draw birds and other wildlife to your yard.

Marie is also an EcoTour leader who has taken small groups of avi-tourists to South Texas and NE Mexico for the past 15 years. Her groups delight to see many incredible species, and even experienced birders often add several dozen species to their life lists.

August Joint Program

Gene Merriam, President, The Freshwater Society, Water related topic TBA, August 22nd, 7:30 pm

Gene Merriam, currently the President of The Freshwater Society and formerly the Commissioner of the Minnesota DNR, will tell us about the Society and tell us about fresh water issues in the state.

In an article in the Star Tribune, reporter Laurie Blake quoted Gene Merriam - "Most of us think of water like oxygen -- it's just there. We consume fresh water every day for everything from drinking water to washing our cars. But it is not an infinite resource. We would like to get to the point where every time a citizen uses water, they do so thoughtfully."

In the same article Merriam also said, The Freshwater Society's goal is to bring state scientists, policymakers and residents into agreement about how to keep Minnesota's water clean, pure and abundant.

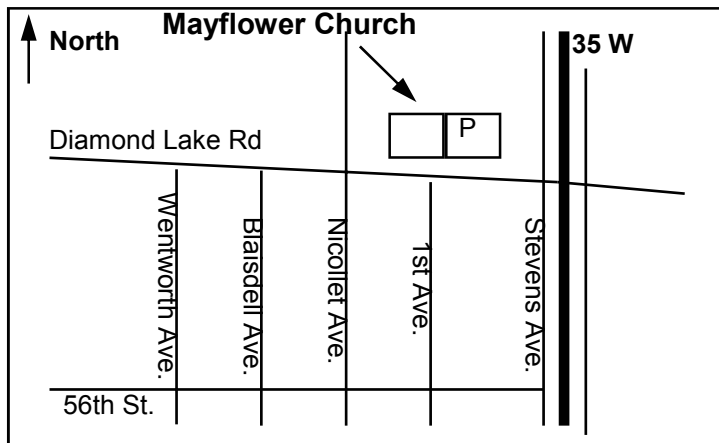
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 1, 2009

TBA

TIME: Program at 7:00 PM

AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



6th Annual Wood Duck Jump

The Wood Duck Jump was again a resounding success. About 25 viewers lined the windows at Jerry Bahls' house on May 9th and were again treated to a spectacular event. The hatch occurred the day before. There were about 21 eggs in the box. Viewing the nest with a camera in the box revealed there were some hooded mergansers in the box with the wood ducks. Jerry informed the audience that there were 3 hooded merganser eggs in the box and it appeared that all had hatched. At about 8:18, the hen flew down to the ground and called the young out. Ten wood ducks and three mergansers jumped out of the box, led by a merganser. An inspection of the box showed there were still nine unhatched eggs. All were not viable.

Field Trips

- Aug. 5 Old Cedar Ave Bridge, MVNWR, George Skinner, 952 936-0811, MRVAC
- Aug. 9 Bird Banding, Springbrook Nature Center, 6:30 am
- Aug. 15 Louisville Swamp Unit, MVNWR, George Skinner, 952 936-0811, MRVAC
- Aug. 23 Miesville Ravine, Steve Weston, 612 978-3993, MRVAC
- Aug. 29 Itasca and/or Koochiching County, Shawn Conrad, dingermcduff@hotmail.com, MOU
- Aug. 30 Bird Banding, Springbrook Nature Center, 7:00 am

If you are interested in these Field Trips, contact the trip leader to get more details.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Field Trip Chair Needed

In June, Betsy Bush moved to the Washington DC area leaving a vacancy at Field Trip Chair. Thus the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is looking for a volunteer to be its Field Trip Chair. The Field Trip Chair plans field trips in the Chapter area, arranges for a competent field trip leaders, arranges for gathering time and transportation mode to the trip site and prepares field trip information to be published in the KINGFISHER and other area media before the trip and a brief report after the trip. It is the goal of the Chapter to have at least one Field Trip each month. This will require about 2 - 4 hours/month.

If you are interested in helping us, please contact Jim Egge, (612 827-7629) or any member of the Board to express your interest. We thank Betsy for the great job that she did during her tenure as Field Trip Chair.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2009-2010 Contacts

| | | | |
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| Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis | www.geocities.com/audubon.geo | | |
| Audubon Minnesota | http://mn.audubon.org | | |

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

The following items were gleaned from the Audubon Minnesota Newsletter written by Audubon Minnesota Policy Director John Curry.

North American Duck Populations Soar - Minnesota Populations Dive

Earlier this month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife released its 2009 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey at http://audubonaction.org/ct/PdeC_b41vRcj/. The total estimated number of ducks was 42 million, which is 13 percent greater than last year's estimate and 25 percent greater than the 1955-2008 average.

Unfortunately, the same time period shows a continued decline for Minnesota's waterfowl. The 2009 State Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey at http://audubonaction.org/ct/97eC_b41vRce/ saw duck numbers drop 31% from 2008 and 32% below the ten-year average. Whether this difference is attributable to dry weather patterns, poor quality wetlands or some combination of factors remains to be seen.

Audubon Minnesota Sponsors The Chimney Swift Sit

August 7-9 and September 11-13, 2009

Help count chimney swifts - a declining species. Volunteers are needed throughout the state to participate in Audubon Minnesota's Chimney Swift Sit for an hour on any day from August 7-9 and/or September 11-13, 2009 to help us get a better idea of the distribution of Chimney Swifts in Minnesota. Information provided by participants will help us identify structures used by these birds and will help us in our efforts to preserve Chimney Swift roosting sites. For more information on participating in the Chimney Swift Sit, please visit mn.audubon.org or contact Ron Windingstad at rwindingstad@audubon.org.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES)

Several weeks ago the House of Representatives passed a landmark bill that will transform our energy economy and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80%. As bird and wildlife advocates know, the number one threat to North American species is climate change, and for that reason Audubon has played a major role in seeking ACES's passage. But there are plenty of other reasons to celebrate this bill as well. It calls for energy efficiencies both within the energy generation sector and within our homes that will save consumers money; it generates funding through a market-based cap and trade approach that rewards businesses for going green, and it will create millions of "green-collar" jobs. The Senate will take up the bill this fall where Audubon Minnesota expects support from Senators Klobuchar and Franken. Here's a quick list of the Minnesota House delegation and how they voted. Click to say "thanks" or express your disappointment to your member of Congress. Go to http://audubonaction.org/ct/k1eC_b41vRcN/ to find out who your Representative is.

Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference

C/o Anne Straight
606 S 5th Ave
Forrester, IL 61030

September 18-20, 2009

Chestnut Mountain Resort
Galena, Illinois

Sponsored by

The Audubon Council of Illinois

Co-Sponsor: National Audubon Society

Conference Registration Form

(One person per registration form, please.)

Registration Deadline: September 4

Name _____

Chapter or other affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Reduced Conference Fee - \$75 _____

Regular Conference Fee - \$85 _____

Please complete field trip choices on back and, if desired, register for writer's workshop.

Make checks payable to ACI.

Please check all that apply: I would like

_____ vegetarian options for meals

_____ to share my contact information with Auduboners interested in carpooling

_____ information about additional lodging options

_____ information on handicapped accessibility for

Chestnut Mountain Resort

**You are invited to join us at the
"Hope, Action and a
Sense of Place"**

Chestnut Mountain

Sept. 18-20, 2009

Registration received by August 1

Registration received by Sept 4

Mississippi Backwaters

Pontoon Boat Trip \$25 _____

Send registration form and check to:

Anne Straight

606 S 5th Ave

Forrester, IL 61030

astraight@worldnet.att.net

**Upper Midwest Regional Audubon
Conference**

Total Due _____

Volunteers needed for Conservation Committee.
Call Kit Healy at 612 789-1375 (heal0055@umn.edu)

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
Summer 2009



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

JULY

28 Joint Meeting with "Ikes", Marie Digatono,
"Landscaping for Sustainability"

AUGUST

25 Joint Meeting with "Ikes", Gene Merriam, TBA

SEPTEMBER

1 1st Fall Program at Mayflower Church (TBA)

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 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 Jim Egge or Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May. An electronic version is published in July.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net