



KINGFISHER



March 2005

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 54 No.2

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Last month, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis received an unsolicited donation from a member. The donation was badly needed. Our expenses keep us on a very tight budget. After making a few calls to try and line up a volunteer to fill out our Nominating Committee, I reflected on which has the higher value, the donation or someone saying "Yes, I'll do it." While one cannot belittle the value of the donation, hearing that "Yes" won hands down!

For anyone leading an all-volunteer organization, the time and energy and often, the financial resources spent in finding people to help is beyond value. Volunteers are vital! Our organization does not function without them!

We all need to thank Fran Duritsa for her wonderful lineup of programs. We need to thank Mary Ellen Vetter for the great field trips. We need to thank Helen Weides for the great treats and coffee at our meetings. We need to thank Jim Egge for his work with the Science Museum of Minnesota and our Birding Classes project. We need to thank Dorene Scriven for her leadership of the Bluebird Recovery Program. We need to thank Trudi Poquette for her State Fair work. We need to thank Phyllis Mahan for the outstanding job she done as our Treasurer. We need to thank John Arthur, Kim Halek and Marcia Marshall for help with the Kingfisher. We need to thank Tom Mahan for filling in as our temporary Board Secretary and as a Field Trip leader. We need to thank Terry Brashear for the Christmas Bird Count. I could go on, but space doesn't allow. Other formal thank you's will be made in a separate article in a later Kingfisher.

The point is: many have stepped up in the past. Now others have to come forward and take over. That is how an organization maintains its drive and vitality. People with fresh ideas and energy come in to replace some of us who have given too long and are tired! Many of us will stay, giving that thread of continuity. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has three Board Director terms expiring this May. A couple of the Directors have said they would prefer not to continue. Our Treasurer has decided to step down after this term. We need those new faces to say, "Yes, I'll do it."

Ed Thom has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee. It has been difficult in the past decade to get to know our members as well as we did in the past. Ed will need help in

March Program

"SEABIRD MORTALITY AND OUR OCEAN LEGACY"

The March program speaker, Pam Blackledge, is the Great Lakes Regional Organizer for a national campaign focusing on overfishing, habitat destruction, and bycatch in our oceans. She is working with a national environmental group called National Environmental Trust (www.net.org).

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy recently released its report on the state of America's oceans and its recommendations for improving federal ocean management. This report reinforces what many in the fishing and conservation communities have known for some time—our oceans are in serious trouble. Overfishing, pollution, coastal development, and other problems have severely eroded our vital marine and coastal ecosystems. Our current governance structures are unable to adequately and effectively manage and protect these national treasures. The report's conclusions are clear: "major changes are urgently needed."

Lobbying efforts supporting the Fisheries Management Reform Act of 2004, HR4706, have begun. This much needed legislation will improve how we manage our ocean resources but even more is needed. Bird groups are becoming more involved in the fate of our oceans because of habitat destruction and migration issues, but even more because a very destructive fishing technique, called long-lining, is one of the greatest causes of sea bird mortality.

identifying the members who might be interested in filling the potential vacant positions on the Board. This is where you come in. Call Ed at 612 866-6667 or me at 763 572-2333 or e-mail me at bahls001@tc.umn.edu and say "Yes, I'll do it!"

—Jerry Bahls, President

NOTE: Speaker has cancelled for this program. The substitute will be our own Jim Egge presenting his program on "Birds of Israel."

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004-2005 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

Minnesota Audubon

www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

National Audubon Society

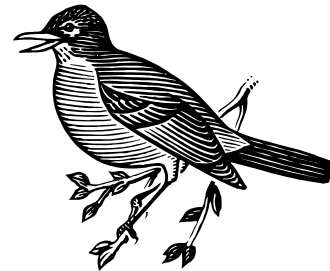
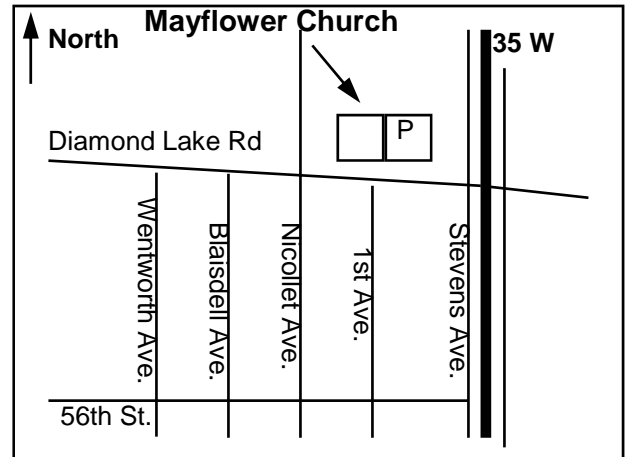
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, March 1
NOTE NEW SPEAKER: "Birds of Israel,"
by Jim Egge (thanks for stepping in, Jim!)

TIME: Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, map below



The first day of spring is March 20—
when will you see your first returning
migrant friends?

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu

BEGINNING BIRDING CLASSES

WHERE?

SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA OR WESTWOOD HILLS NATURE CENTER

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will be offering a two-session Beginning Birding Class this spring at the *Science Museum of Minnesota*. The preparation of this class has been funded by a grant from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The two session class will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00 am.

The class is a comprehensive guide for people who are interested in learning how to identify birds. The class will provide students with a basic knowledge of birds and methods for observing a bird, and help them identify it with the aid of a field guide. Basic instructions on the use of binoculars and field guides will be included. At the end of the class, it will be expected that the student will be able to identify 10 easily recognizable birds. With a little study, they will be well on their way to being able to identify 25 common Minnesota birds. Finally, they will have the tools and knowledge for identifying many of the migratory birds that pass through the area.

The class will include a local field trip to apply what has been learned in the classroom. Students are asked to bring a field guide and binoculars to both sessions (a limited number of binoculars and field guides will be supplied). Be prepared for the weather because the field trip will be held rain or shine! Anyone over the age of eight is encouraged to sign up for the class. A fee to be paid to the Science Museum of Minnesota will be charged for this class. Call the Science Museum of Minnesota or 763.572.2333 for registration details.

This class will also be offered at the *Westwood Hills Nature Center* on April 30th and May 7th at 9:30 am. Parents, bring your children! This is a lifelong activity that you can enjoy together. Students are asked to bring a field guide and binoculars to both sessions. Be prepared for the weather because the field trip will be held rain or shine! The fee for this class is \$5.00. Anyone over the age of eight is encouraged to sign up for the class, and one child between the ages 8 and 18 attending with a registered adult is free of charge.

Please send your name, phone number and address along with your registration fee to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, P.O. Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Deadline for mail-in registration is April 23rd. Call 763.572.2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu for more information or late registration. This class will be limited to 25 students, so please register early!

Conservation Committee Report

Anyone interested in helping with the Living Green Expo booth buckthorn project or other projects, please come to our next meeting, which will be held on March 2nd at 7:00 pm at the Panera Bread at 3024 Hennepin Ave. in Minneapolis just south of Lake St. in the Uptown area. Call Jerry Bahls for other project information.

Nomination Committee Appointed

By the end of January each year, the President of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is required by the chapter bylaws to appoint a Nomination Committee whose task is to submit nominees for the chapter officers and for the Board members whose terms expire in May. The board must approve the nominees. The President is also required to make the names of those appointed to the committee known to the members. President Jerry Bahls has appointed Ed Thom to chair the Nominating Committee. Member appointees are Dorothy Kuether and Louise Cameron. Please help them in any way you can to find suitable nominees. Ed Thom can be contacted at 612.866.6667. **ASK TO HELP!**

BOOKS FOR SALE

Did you know, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis offers books and other merchandise for sale at its Program meetings?

We offer many of the most popular Field Guides for Sale!

We offer Bluebird Recovery items for Sale!

We offer Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis patches and pins as well as National Audubon Society pins.

All items are offered at *discount* prices!

This month's featured book is –

Kim Eckert's

A Birders Guide to Minnesota



A Memorable Birding Experience

Please send your memorable birding experience to bahls001@tc.umn.edu and we will share it with everyone. Half the joy of the experience is sharing it with others. Try to limit it to a couple of short paragraphs telling us where, when and what the experience was. The following article is much longer, but it was too good to cut!

January 2, 2005

She was close. Mash the brakes and slide to a stop close. Even though this was exactly why we were cruising the bogs of McDivitt Road, we almost missed her. A Great Grey Owl on a weathered fence post, right along the road. The result was simply a post that seemed a few feet taller than its neighbors, until you really looked at it.

She didn't mind our presence. Our visitor was more intent on what she'd come south for, tracking down a meal. Her head spun like a turret, moving quickly from the roadside to our car to the field. Focusing immediately on any small sound. The tiny pop of settling ice, grains of sand blowing in the road, ticks from our cooling auto. She easily filled half our binoculars. At this range we could see wonderful detail - black lining around her white 'bow tie' field mark, the smooth crown of feathers around her head.



Then she shuffled, hunched and flew, but only to the snowbank across the road. Listening and looking again. She hopped to the plowed roadside and looked at a spot a foot from her. To us, it was obviously a cleared shoulder, bits of gravel poked through the snow. No place for a rodent to hide. But she's surely a stranger to snowplows, cars and roads. And she was hearing something.

She flew again, closer. Still looking for voles in the gravel. Now filling 2/3's of the field glasses. Her small beak was hidden in soft, insulating feathers, but her claws were clearly evident, curving out from her leg feathers to grip the ground. They looked surprisingly large for something that lives on mice and voles. The only color was that of her fierce yellow irises. When she spun to look at our car—our blind—you could feel the intensity of her search.

She leaped to the air again. This time flapping straight toward the car. Immediately too large and too close for binoculars. Closing fast! She had planned to land on the side view mirror and just barely clasped it, her wing brushing the windshield. But our shocked consternation must've convinced her otherwise and she wheeled off to a nearby tree to continue her hunt.

Having no mice on hand, we thanked her for the show and moved on.

—Barb and Kurt Klussendorf
originally posted on MNBird

Bluebird Recovery Program

The 2005 Annual Conference of the Bluebird Recovery Program will be in Faribault April 16. It's a fun and informative all-day session with speakers, workshops, demonstrations, exhibits, sale items, silent auction and a field trip. The lectures are free and the public is welcome, but we request pre-registration and prepaid lunch reservations. Please call or email Dorene Scriven for more information, or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

BBRP

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Box 3801

Minneapolis, MN 55403

and we will send details and a short registrations form.

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 5

Roseville -- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

2530 Dale St. N, Roseville (a few blocks north of Cty Rd B2)
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center provides quality medical care and rehabilitation annually for about 170 different species of injured, sick or orphaned wild birds and animals. WRC is the largest clinic of its kind in the country, treating more than 8,000 animals each year. We'll go behind the scenes with Center Director Phil Jenni to see how the staff and volunteers give care and comfort in the intake area, treatment facility, operating rooms, recovery and exercise areas.

Note: We will be using a stairway; there is no handicapped alternative to the stairs.

Saturday, March 19

University of Minnesota

Bell Museum of Natural History

SE corner - 17th Ave./ University Ave., Minneapolis
10 a.m. to noon

Exhibits Curator Don Luce will give Chapter members a private tour of the museum's nationally acclaimed Minnesota Wildlife dioramas. He will present the history of the life size window exhibit's artistic construction and scientific significance.

Museum admission: Adults \$5

Students/Seniors \$3

Members free

Parking: Nolte Garage, Campus ramps within 1 block

GROUP LIMITED TO 15—REGISTRATION NECESSARY

**For more information or directions, call MARY ELLEN
763.561.1761 or mevetter@mninter.net.**

Russian Crane Researchers to Speak

Dr. Sergei Smirenski and Elena Smirenski will be speaking about their work with cranes in far Eastern Russia.

The presentation will be at the Minneapolis Campus of The College of St. Catherine. The talk will be on Monday, February 28, from 6-8 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, the presentation is free and open to the public. Please register in advance with Jennifer Otis at 651.690.6645 or 612.728.1657.



WANTED: ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has reserved a booth at the Living Green Expo and will exhibit art and crafts made from buckthorn wood. We are asking artists and craftsmen who have made items from buckthorn to exhibit them at the Expo or supply a good photo if the item is too large to exhibit. We ask that the exhibitor supply some form of handout (e.g. a business card) to identify themselves so people can contact them to possibly purchase or commission a piece. If the item is small, the item can be sold at the booth. If someone would like to produce a piece for the Expo, some buckthorn wood is available for them to use (contact Jerry Bahls). For more information, contact Jennifer Otis, 612.728.1657 or um-abica@mac.com; or Jerry Bahls.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS AND ADVENTURE WEEKEND



COMING OUT OF HIBERNATION

April 29-31, 2005



After the winter season, does your body and spirit need revitalization? This special event will provide physical, mental, and spiritual activities that leave you feeling like a new woman after just three days. Join us at the Audubon Center, where the beauty of nature is a balm for the soul and the setting for a complete, holistic adventure. Our Crosby Lodge offers comfortable, quiet rooms with private bathroom facilities. Our Chef will provide us with wholesome, creative meals. A mix of professionals in the fields of health, exercise, philosophy and art will fill our days with enlightening and renewing energy.

Choose your challenges on our high ropes course or our indoor climbing wall, learn the art of journal making, try your hand at watercolor painting, take a guided nature hike or wander our trails on your own, stretch your muscles and mind each morning through an introductory class on yoga, use the time to relax and reflect on all that is good in your life. Massage, manicures and pedicures will be available for an additional fee.

The cost for this three-day experience is \$195, based on double occupancy; extra charge of \$50 for single rooms. The maximum number of participants is 28, so don't hesitate to sign up. Bring a friend or come on your own, but start the spring season off with a renewed feeling of vigor and confidence.

Contact the Audubon Center at 888.404.7743 or go to our website www.audubon-center.org and click on Special Events.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
March 2005



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
Chapter Membership Data Center
PO Box 51001
Boulder, CO 80322-1001



LOCAL CHAPTER

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Chapter Code: **M02**
7XCHA

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 1 Chapter Program, 7:00 pm
- 2 Conservation Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
- 5 Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, 1:00 pm
- 19 Bell Museum Tour, 10:00 am

APRIL

- 16 BBRP Annual Conference
- 21-23 Beginning Birding Classes at Science Museum
- 29-31 Women's Wellness Weekend

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this issue or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761)

See you on the birding trails—
guests are *always* welcome!

