



KINGFISHER



MARCH 2006

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 55 No. 2

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

I hope you noticed that the names of the Nominating Committee of the chapter have been published in this newsletter. The Chapter President is required by the Bylaws to name a new Nominating Committee each January and the names must be published for the general membership. This is one of the most important tasks that the President does since it is the process that insures an orderly changeover of chapter leadership.

As most of you know, the bylaws allow only two successive one year terms for the President. In May, I will have finished my second term. This new Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates for all the officers (all serve one-year terms) and three Board members (three-year terms) whose terms expire in May. It is always helpful to have those whose terms are expiring to be candidates again. This ensures having a Board that knows the job. It is also helpful to have new members step forward to offer new perspectives and new energy for the organization.

Currently, we have two vacancies on the Board (terms expire in May 2007 and 2008) and it is unlikely that all those whose terms are expiring will be candidates for re-election. We need only five people to become members of our Board. You can help us most by becoming a Board member for three years, but if you are unsure about that long of a commitment, we do have two openings (a one-year and a two-year) that will give you an opportunity to help us for a limited time.

The Board meets every month except for July and August for about two hours on the second Tuesday of the month. Some of the Board members chair a committee. It is hoped that each Board member will help when needed to run a chapter activity. It is highly desirable for the Board member to attend the programs when they are able to. The time commitment is not large, but as with any organization if your favorite activity needs attention you will need to step forward and help make sure it happens.

If you need more information, please call me or any member of the Nominating Committee or Board. Please help by calling the Nominating Committee to say, "I want to help run Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis by becoming a Board member." Do it today!

—Jerry Bahls,
President

March Program

KID'S FAIR & TOM MOFFATT

Jot it down. March 7th is the night to bring the young outdoor enthusiasts to the Mayflower Church for Kid's Wildlife Fair. All kids 8th grade and under are special guests that night for a fun-filled time of games, hand-painting, learning and prizes. We will begin at 6:45 so kids will have time to play games, stay for the program with live birds, and still be home early on a school night.

This is our first Kid's Wildlife Fair so we'd like to see a good turnout. Parents bring your kids, kids bring your friends, and everybody bring your grandparents for the program to follow.

Tom Moffatt will be the speaker, presenting a program about hawks, owls and other raptors. He is Education Supervisor with Richardson Nature Center of the Three Rivers Park District. The program features live birds such as hawks and some great photography of other birds.

The regular program will start at 7:00 and Tom Moffatt will start around 7:20. Kids will be able to take part in the fair, see Tom Moffatt's presentation, and be done by 8-8:15.

Tuesday, March 7

Mayflower Church

6:45 P.M.



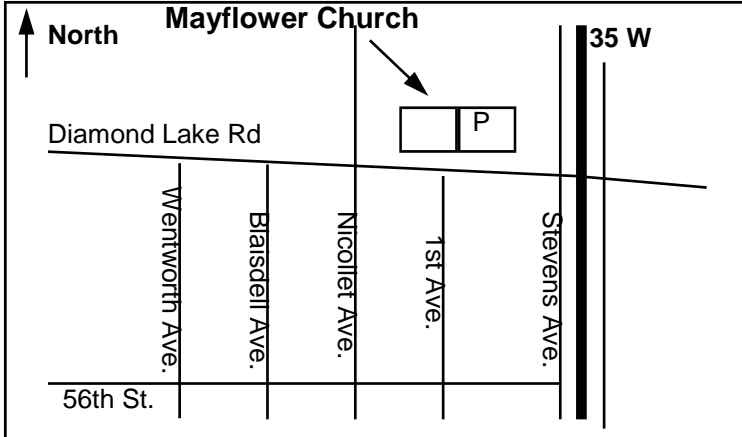
Correction to February Kingfisher:
The Falkland Islands are in the Atlantic Ocean, not the Pacific.

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, March 7
Kid's Fair and Tom Moffat

TIME: Fair begins at 6:45 pm
Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond
Lake Road—map below



Nominating 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 Jim Egge to chair the Nominating Committee. Member appointees are Ed Thom, Trudi Poquette, Paul Fusco and Louise Cameron. Please help them in any way you can to find suitable nominees. Jim can be contacted at 612 827-7629. **ASK TO HELP!**

Electronic Kingfisher

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ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

Field Trip Chair

Mary Ellen Vetter has informed President Jerry Bahls that she will be stepping down as chair of the Field Trip Committee in May. The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to thank Mary Ellen for her exemplary service as the chair of this important committee. If anyone is interested in succeeding Mary Ellen please contact Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu

BOOKS FOR SALE

Did you know, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis sells books and other merchandise at its program meetings?

We offer many of the most popular Field Guides for sale!
We have Bluebird Recovery items for sale!

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

All items are at *discount* prices.

This month's featured book is:

Bluebird Trails
Edited by
Dorene Scriven

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2005-2006 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
Audubon Minnesota 651-739-9332
National Audubon Society
MOU Rare Bird Alert 763-780-8890

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html
www.audubon.org

MARCH FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 4
Roseville -- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
2530 Dale St. N., Roseville
(a few blocks north of County Road B2)
1:00 to 2:30 pm

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic 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 8000 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.

NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

Saturday, March 18
Bell Museum of Natural History
SE corner - 17th Ave./University Ave, Minneapolis
10:00am 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 artistic construction and scientific significance of the life-size window exhibits.

Museum admission: Adults \$5
Students/Seniors \$3
Members free

Parking: Nolte Garage, or campus ramps within 1 block
GROUP LIMITED TO 15, REGISTRATION NECESSARY

For more information or to register, contact Mary Ellen at 763.561.1761 or mevetter@mninter.net

A Symposium on Northern Owls **University of Minnesota-Duluth** **March 17-19, 2006**

Exploring the natural history and what we have learned about the thousands of Great Gray, Northern Hawk, Snowy, and Boreal Owls that move south in the winter.

This symposium is an opportunity for researchers, educators, birders, and owl enthusiasts to exchange information and learn more about these mysterious creatures.

Details and registration at: www.hawkridge.org or from Julie O'Connor at 218.348.2291

A 15-Mile-Wide Thank You to Terry

A circle 15 miles across contains our Chapter's Christmas Bird Count area. For the past ten years, the count has been organized and officially recorded by CBC Chair Terry Brashear.

Terry is resigning and moving on to other bird business and we all express our thanks to him for a job well done. We are pleased that Terry has found us a new Chair. We welcome Siah St. Clair, Director of Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley, to continue facilitating our participation in National Audubon's annual unique and historic event.

This year's counters on Dec. 17 were a hardy bunch, braving a temperature of 3 degrees at start time and 10 degrees at the finish. The birds seemed to be scarce and although everyone worked very hard, our count was only 33 species for the day, with two more species added later. We are used to having species counts in the mid-to-upper forties.

Thanks to all our counters and to Siah and his staff at Springbrook for serving as our headquarters.



Prairie Enthusiasts **Annual Conference**

March 11, 2006

at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
Lanesboro, Minnesota

This exciting event is open to the public. Its purpose is to bring lay people and experts together to share land management techniques for protecting and preserving native prairie and savanna in the upper Midwest.

The conference will feature practical information on prairie restoration and management; invasive species; and prairie and savanna critters.

Author Eric Metzler will be our featured speaker and will speak about Prairie Obligate Butterflies and Moths in the Midwest.

Come join us as we learn more about preserving native prairie and savanna in the upper Midwest. Information is available on the web at:

www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/conference

Audubon Legislative Priorities for 2006

Based on member votes at the Fall Legislative Issue Festival in November, Audubon Minnesota and the chapters will focus on three legislative issues this year:

1 Appropriate Sufficient Bonding for Natural Resource Programs: We support the DNR's Sesquicentennial Bonding Request that finances land acquisition and protects bird habitat. Audubon also supports bonding for the Springbrook Nature Center and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

2 Save State Forests from Unmanaged Motorized Use: The Legislature needs to go back to the 2003 compromise that closed all trails in state forests unless the trails are posted open. The "closed unless posted open" policy will aid enforcement officers and preserve bird and other wildlife habitat.

3 Close Loopholes in the Wetland Conservation Act: Audubon worked hard at getting the Wetland Conservation Act passed in the early 90's. We want to make sure it's protecting wetlands and that loopholes or eminent domain don't diminish the goals of the act: avoid any impact on wetland, minimize impacts by limiting the activity, and restoring or replacing the damaged wetland.



Wood Lake Bird Festival

Circle your calendar for the first Wood Lake Bird Festival to be held on May 13th at the Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield. Festivities will begin with an early morning bird walk, followed by family activities, bird information, nature film and other interesting features. Watch for more information in next month's Kingfisher.

Minneapolis Audubon Society

Friday, March 10 at 1 P.M.

Bryant Square Park Community Building
31st Street and Bryant Avenue

Ted Galambos will speak and show slides.

AUDUBON MINNESOTA

Annual Minnesota Environmental Partnership Forum

Please attend the 10th Annual Minnesota Environmental Partnership Legislative Forum at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 1 at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Leaders from the House, the Senate, and the Governor's office sit in the "hot seat" while the environmental community asks questions. This is a great opportunity to meet Minnesota's environmental leaders and learn about the important environmental issues that are expected to arise this legislative session. Bring your staff, spouse, friends and members – all are welcome and encouraged to attend. This year, MEP is charging \$20 to attend – this is money well spent since it will help to support MEP and keep this partnership alive and kicking.

To register for the event, go to www.mepartnership.org/mep_calendar.asp or call Susan Solterman at 651.260.7040

Audubon/Minnesota Environmental Partnership Lobby Day March 14

Visit your State Senator and Representative and voice your opinions. The day will start with a morning training session on the issues at the Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners Union Hall, 700 Olive Street, St. Paul.

From there, shuttle buses will take participants to the State Capitol for a rally in the rotunda, followed by meetings with legislators.

Go to www.mepartnership.org/protectourwater to register for the event or call Susan Solterman (Audubon Minnesota's Policy Director) at 651.260.7040.

If you register early, Susan will mail an information packet to you.



Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for volunteers for the Northwest Sportshow from Tuesday March 28th to Sunday April 2nd at the Minneapolis Convention Center. All volunteers receive a free admission ticket to the Show.

Contact: Jenny Vitale 651.739.9332

More Notes from the Yard

By John Arthur & Pamela Deerwood

In the last few issues of this newsletter, we have been writing about observations from our yard. Previously, we mentioned photos. Journaling, or what might be called in 21st Century terms "blogging," would be a good alternative to photos. (Of course, there is the old saying about a picture being worth...)

This time, we would like to talk about documenting those observations. Writing down experiences and observations is an excellent method of recording same. Whether writing on a computer or a notebook, the idea is to record what we see, what we feel and how we react.

The entries could be as simple as: "I saw a chickadee, a cardinal, house finches and a blue jay at the feeder today." Or a more expressive version such as:

Feeder Observations

"DeeeDeeDee, DeeeDeeDee, DeeeDeeDee Beeerp"
The House Finches call. . . .

"Watcheer, Watcheer, fwweep, fwweep"
A male Cardinal announces its presence.

In some long forgotten age, did we understand? . . .

Is there a universal language that we ceased to speak?

"Chickadeedeede, Chickadeedeede"
A pair of Chickadees interrupt my thoughts.

They are more interested in each other as they hop from branch to branch. . . .

To the feeder,

Grab a seed,

Back to the branch,. . .

"Jeeeer"

A Blue Jay chases all the little birds away

Size matters



The above is from a class that Pamela & I took at Hamline University called "Earth Journaling" taught by John Caddy.

It is an excellent introduction to writing about nature and observing in general. The course is being offered again this spring starting in April. For information, go to: www.cgee.hamline.edu and look under the Graduate Education tab, then use the Search Courses button for John Caddy and Spring 2006. (Shameless plug for John's class.) Caddy also publishes a daily Earth Journal entry that he e-mails to a large distribution list. See the web site: www.morningearth.org for information.

Writing or typing about an event helps us remember later. Sometimes just sharing it with someone else can keep the memory alive. Pamela & I frequently share memories of

nature events with each other with just a few words. If we want to share our experiences with a larger audience, then writing or photos come into play.

If permanently recording an event is the choice, then sharing it with others might be the next step. Or maybe not.

If space allows, this newsletter could become a venue for sharing your observations. Use the **Contact Us** link on the Chapter web site to submit.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Beginning Birding Classes



Where: Westwood Hills Nature Center, 8300 West Franklin Ave., St. Louis Park

When: Thursday, April 20, 7:00 – 8:30 pm & Saturday April 22 at 9:00 am

Fee: \$5, one child free with paying adult

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will be offering a two-session "Beginning Birding Class" this spring at the **Westwood Hills Nature Center**. Parents bring your children! This is a lifelong activity that you can enjoy with them.

The preparation of this class has been partially funded by a grant from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The class will provide a basic knowledge of birds and 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-recognized birds. With a little study time, they will also be well on their way to be able to identify 25 common Minnesota birds. Finally, they will have the tools and knowledge on how to identify many of the migratory birds that pass through the area.

The class will include a field trip on Saturday 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. The field trip will be held rain or shine! Anyone over the age of eight is encouraged to sign up for the class.

One child (between the ages eight and 18) attending with a registered adult is free. 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 10th. 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!

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
MARCH 2006

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 Legislative Forum**
- 4 Roseville Clinic**
- 7 Kids' Fair**
- 14 Audubon Lobby Day**
- 17-19 Owls Symposium**
- 18 Bell Museum Tour**

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 Vetter 763 561-1761.

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 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 President Jerry Bahls for details!