



# KINGFISHER



MARCH/APRIL 2012

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 61 No. 2

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

## *Member Poetry Corner*

### The Big Dry

The terra firma shouts out  
for rain to shower  
growing things.

Creatures of winter  
seek moisture.

Roots search cracks  
for life-giving fluid.

Hoping against hope,  
a question is asked –

When will  
the sky weep?

~ Clem Nagel

*Editors Note: If you are interested in submitting a poem or article, email us at [kingfishereditor@gmail.com](mailto:kingfishereditor@gmail.com)*



## March Issue

### Upcoming Programs

#### March 6th:

*Mike Link & Kate Crowley, "Walk Around Lake Superior"*

#### April 3rd \*\*:

*Laura Erickson, "Twelve Owls"*

#### May 1st:

*Carrol Henderson, "Birds of Kuwait"*

All programs are free and open to the public. Programs start at 7 p.m. and end by 9 p.m.

Program meetings are held at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park. Please note: we are no longer meeting at Mayflower Church.

\*\* Program held at Brookdale Library (6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center)



## Wood Lake Nature Center Book Club

March 6 - *The Earth Moved* by Amy Stewart

April 10 - *Owls Aren't Wise & Bats Aren't Blind* by Warner Shedd

May 8 - *The Bear Guardian* by Peter Leschak

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00PM—Free for Members, \$5 for Non-Members

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Egge

Those of you who are reading this Kingfisher are likely part of a membership that numbers over 3200 in the Minneapolis area. This is an increase of more than 30% just in the last 3 or 4 years. ACM's budget for 2011-12 is \$13,300 and represents a healthy financial situation, thanks to generous members committed to the chapter's goals. I thought it important to review for you what that budget translates into for the enjoyment and education of the community at large.

During 2011 ACM has undergone a few changes that have given more exposure and availability to those we serve. The move to Beth El Synagogue gives us comfortable facilities with ample parking, and hopefully a central location for members in the west and north of our region to attend programs. We are trying to have one program each spring at Brookdale Library which is close for the North Hennepin population. In addition we would like to encourage members to visit the Izaak Walton lodge on the Mississippi River for 2 combined summer programs. In 2011 ACM featured programs with Richard Crossley, Carroll Henderson, Stan Teikela, Don Arnosti, Val Cunningham, Gopi Sundar, and others. The Kingfisher now has publications every other month with expanded articles and information.

ACM is also a member of MOU and Minnesota Environmental Partnership. Your money supports the Urban Bird Festival, Living Green Expo, and the Wild Ones Conference. Members also contribute their time to these ventures, as well as the Monarch Festival and the MOU State Fair booth. ACM also contributed volunteers to Audubon Park in North Minneapolis for plantings of native species.

A major ongoing project has been to develop a revitalization plan for Roberts Bird Sanctuary, working with the Minneapolis Park Board. Members have contributed hundreds of hours pulling buckthorn and garlic mustard. As part of the overall plan to plant native species, a detailed tree survey has been nearly completed. Members successfully fought a plan to build a dog park next to Roberts, which could have been a big disruption to wildlife efforts. New signs have been put up at the fenced in feeders indicating that as a part of ACM. Buckthorn and mustard pullers will be needed as ongoing to keep ahead of the problem as Roberts improves as a great place for citizens to watch birds. U of M students have helped design displays which will be at the visitors entrance perhaps this summer. Hundreds of interested birders got to see up close a pair of great horned owls this summer, successfully fledge 2 young right along Bossen Lane.

2011 saw the advent of now 5 chimney swift towers, monitored by students and community members in the west metro. The goal is to have 5 more up with occupying swifts by the end of this summer. The Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Program has seen an increase of nesting pairs at Cedar Creek from 23 to 41 in 2011. It wasn't as good a year for bluebirds however, as the cold, wet weather reduced nesting success.

*Continued on following page*

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2011-2012 Contacts

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<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Shannon Huebscher		kingfishereditor@gmail.com
Audubon Center of the North Woods	Www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		<b>MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890</b>
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

## Volunteers Needed!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is in a very favorable financial position right now thanks to the continuing generosity of our members. As an environmental educational organization, we are critically dependent upon our volunteers. We find ourselves short of these volunteers! We currently have four vacancies on our Board and have been without a Conservation Chair for over a year. We do not have a Field Trip and Social Chairs and have an acting Chair for our Education Committee. Our Programs Chair is stepping down in May. None of our Committees have actual members that meet to plan and execute projects, with the exceptions of the Mailing Team, Bluebird Recovery Program and the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery.

Volunteering is very rewarding and most of the time quite enjoyable. It does require some commitment of your time. Fortunately you can choose how much. Problems arise when only a few people are available to do the tasks required to run the Chapter, thus they are required to spend far more time than they would like to and consequently become overburdened.

The top of the volunteer commitment falls to our Officers and Board. They are our leaders and are expected to put in the most time, usually about 4 – 6 hours/month. They are critical providing the Committees' leadership. Next is the Committee membership that provides the support for the Committees and takes about 1 – 2 hours/month. Finally the lowest level of time commitment are those who can volunteer for one time or annual events like the Bird of the Month or Living Green

Expo, which requires only 1 – 4 hours/year.

Because we are in a reasonably good financial situation we would like to take advantage of it to do more. Board members (three year term) are our highest priority and can have the biggest impact because they are the leaders. The second biggest impact would be having a Conservation Committee Chair. We have a fairly good base of volunteers for the committee (although we can always use more), but need someone to guide us in our projects at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and elsewhere. Please call Jim Egge (612 827-7629), Jerry Bahls (763 572-2333) or Madeleine Linck to get more information.

### *President's Note—continued*

Members are welcome to bring ideas to board meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at Roosevelt High School. We also want increased use of our Facebook page, especially for young and beginner birders. Log on and contribute your sightings or exchange other bird information appropriate. ACM sponsors Audubon Adventures materials to 9 elementary schools in our district, as well as bird presentations in several 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. Please consider helping with these visits and bird walks this spring as a volunteer. Another way to volunteer is to bring cookies or bars to monthly programs. Call me if you would like to help in this way.

70 people had a wonderful time on the Tiffany Bottoms bird train this year. This will be continuing this May as well as a number of beginner bird walks at Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Check the website for trips offered, including upcoming trips to Ecuador and the Pacific Northwest.

Needs for 2012 include a volunteer coordinator and action-oriented board members. If you know such a person, invite them to our programs. Let's fill the room at Beth El with newcomers and young people enthusiastic about birds.

## Final Fall Appeal Results

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis again would like to thank the donors to our annual 2011 Fall Appeal. Our final total for the 2011 Fall Appeal was \$7815.05. The Board of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to recognize these additional individuals that contributed. Thanks to the following contributors –

Susan Anderson  
Richard P. Brown  
Joseph R. Carroll  
Paul Bane Crockett  
Miriam R. Hazzard  
Phyllis B. Hurley

Katherine Iverson  
Virginia Pear  
Martin D. Peyer  
Susan J. Specker  
Clara M. Ueland

Bill & Judy Walter  
Beverly J. Weddle  
Barbara G. Weingarden  
Elizabeth V. Weir  
Gary Winter



### Board Member Biography

*Jim Egge ~ President*

My birding experience began in Junior High, when my grandmother gave me some very simple bird books in the early 50's. Our family always hunted pheasants on my uncle's farm, and Boy Scouts exposed me to wilderness camping and fishing. So I have long since felt a kinship with nature. I still have little drawings of birds I made in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

I got a BS in Chemistry in Arizona, and a BA in Biology at Bethel U to enable me to teach science at Roseville HS for 35 years. While working on a MS in Education at Bemidji, I took a bird class from Lou Oring, camping on an island on Leech Lake in 1985, netting, banding, and studying bird behavior. This was the beginning of intense birding and record keeping. I joined Audubon the following year and went to the West Regional Conference in Arizona. I found my love for birds fit perfectly with my desire to travel, as well as communicate that passion to kids.

## SPECIES THAT SHOULD BE SEEN IN MINNESOTA

There are a number of birds that ought to be seen occasionally in our state but perhaps could be missed because we don't expect or look for them. For example, if I'm in an area where I might see an orchard oriole, and I start watching for them, I'll pick one up now and then. 12 years ago I didn't have one on my list likely because I may have dismissed a distant sighting thinking it was some other bird. Recognizing calls can often open up many new possibilities. I enjoy leading bird walks because there are more eyes to search and sometimes better call identifiers than I for a particular species. I think it would be easy for me to miss a California gull even though I did a "Bird of the Month" last year on the gull.

A few years ago In Houston County I saw a Junco fly by at close range. It landed on an exposed branch, sat there a bit and then flew back to perch on a fence post about 60' away. It sat so upright and seemed so unJunco-like, that it finally clicked in my head that maybe it wasn't a Junco. I'm about 78% sure that what I was seeing was a black phoebe or a possible hybrid, since the color didn't appear as dark as those I've seen in Arizona. I would have given \$100 to have had Kim Eckert drive up to verify. I had a mockingbird sit and call right above me for several minutes in the same part of Houston County, before I finally realized it wasn't a catbird. Birds can be humbling to almost any birder.

Birds that I personally would like to find in Minnesota comprise a growing rather than a dwindling list. In writing about them I get a chance to sharpen my alertness for my next time afield. So here are 5 birds that might be more often seen if more people were watching for them.

- |  |     |                    |
|--|-----|--------------------|
| 1) Carolina Chickadee                            | vs. | Black-capped       |
| -less olive on flanks                            |     |                    |
| -lacks white edges on wings                      |     |                    |
| -call is higher and faster                       |     |                    |
| 2) Bewick's Wren                                 | vs. | Carolina and House |
| -no narrow white wingbar                         |     |                    |
| -undertail like House wren, but white eye stripe |     |                    |
| -high thin buzz and warble                       |     |                    |
| 3) Western Bluebird                              | vs. | Eastern            |
| -blue throat                                     |     |                    |
| -call is short "few few fawee"                   |     |                    |
| 4) Lazuli Bunting                                | vs. | Indigo             |
| -male has white wingbar and white belly          |     |                    |
| -chest orange to buff                            |     |                    |
| 5) Cassin's Finch                                | vs. | Purple             |
| -throat and breast paler                         |     |                    |
| -streaked undertail                              |     |                    |
| -red cap ends abruptly, not blended              |     |                    |

Now we're not going remember all these distinctions, but just keeping it mind that the possibility exists, might produce a lifetime surprise for even an inexperienced birder.

*~ Thanks to Jim Egge for this piece!*



## 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 Jim Egge has appointed Jerry Bahls to chair the Nominating Committee. Member appointees are Bob Papke and Madeleine Linck. Please help by sending names of suitable nominees. Jerry Bahls can be contacted at 763 572-2333. **ASK TO HELP!**

### Board Member Biography

#### *Jerry Bahls—Past President*

Past-President 2009 – Present; President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004 – 2006, 2008 - 2009; Conservation Committee Chair, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2006 – 2008; Board Member, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 1997 – present; Founding Member of Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery; Life Member of Bluebird Recovery Program; Long time member of National Audubon Society, Wood Duck Society, Sierra Club and Fresh Energy. Retired Chemist, 3M. Biking, hiking, camping, fishing enthusiast and long time birder.

### Minneapolis Audubon Society

**March 9, 1PM:** Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits at the Bell Museum of Natural History, will show and discuss “Bird Art Through Time.”

**April 13, 1PM:** Warren Nelson will share “Wildlife Scenes from Aitkin County and Beyond.”

**May 11, 1PM:** Gerda Nordquist, Minnesota DNR Mammalogist, will discuss “The Year of the Bat: Minnesota Bats and the White-nose Threat,” a problem that concerns us all.

Located at the Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join the Minneapolis Audubon Society at 31<sup>st</sup> & Bryant Avenue S for the program and refreshments!

CONTACT: Barbara Franklin (763) 657-1907, [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)

## Field Trips

**Tiffany Bottoms, Wisconsin**

**Saturday, May 12, 2011, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

May 12<sup>th</sup> is International Migratory Bird Day, and what better way to celebrate than to look for birds while enjoying a 5 mile train ride on a narrow-gauge train operated by the Chippewa Valley Motor Car Association! There are still spots open for this trip, the cost is \$15. To register, or for more information, contact Susan Tertell at [stertell@gmail.com](mailto:stertell@gmail.com) (or 612-729-1566).

## **Birding in Ecuador with Partnership for International Birding**

**October or November, 2012**

Ecuador has been called by some the “birdiest” country in the world. Our chapter, in cooperation with PIB, is offering this trip to Ecuador, with an optional extension to the Amazonian rainforest. Cost for the main trip is \$2,290 exclusive of airfare. For more information, call Charles Thornton-Kolbe at 1-888-203-7464, ext. 912, or e-mail to [charles@pibird.com](mailto:charles@pibird.com).



### Federal Duck Stamps

Federal Duck Stamps are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight) cents out of every dollar generated by the sales of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Understandably, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America’s natural resources.

Birders and other frequenters of National Wildlife Refuges purchase a \$15 Federal Duck Stamp each year in order to gain free admission to refuges. Conservationists buy Federal Duck Stamps because they know that the stamps are, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make in the future of America’s wetlands.

Since 1934, the sales of Federal Duck Stamps have generated more than \$750 million, which has been used to help purchase or lease over 5.3 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the U.S. These lands are now protected in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System. Waterfowl are not the only wildlife to benefit from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps. Numerous other bird, mammal, fish, reptile, and amphibian species that rely on wetland habitats have prospered. Further, an estimated one-third of the Nation’s endangered and threatened species find food or shelter in refuges established using Federal Duck Stamp funds.

A Federal Duck Stamp may be purchased at most post offices, or is available for purchase online at [www.duckstamp.com](http://www.duckstamp.com). The cost is \$15, or \$5 for a Junior Duck Stamp.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

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**KINGFISHER**  
March/April 2012

Return Service Requested



**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**

**March**

6: Program: Mike Link & Kate Crowley, 7-9PM @ Beth-El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

27: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM @ Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave S, Mpls

**April**

3: Program: Laura Erickson, 7-9PM @ Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center

24: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM @ Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave S, Mpls

**May**

1: Program: Carrol Henderson. 7-9PM @ Beth-El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

22: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM @ Roosevelt High School, 4029 28th Ave S, Mpls

*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](http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org)*

**Electronic Kingfisher**

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Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)