



# KINGFISHER



Mar/Apr. 2016

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*Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis*

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

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### Upcoming Programs

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

**Program meetings are held at 7:00 PM at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park 55416 (unless otherwise noted\*). All Program meetings are free and open to the public.**

#### **Tuesday, March 1, 2016 – Birding Basics**

**Clay Christensen, “The Birdman of Lauderdale”** will teach Birding Basics.

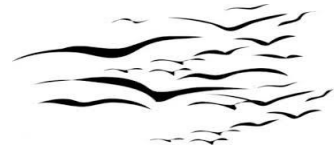
**\*Tuesday, April 5, 2016 - Note:** The **April** program will be held at **the Brookdale Library**, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.

**Bird Conservation and Management– Gerald Niemi**, Senior Research Associate and UMD Professor, will address the program meeting on Bird Conservation Management in Minnesota and the Great Lakes Region.



### **Minneapolis Audubon Society**

CONTACT: Sylvia Winkleman  
763-533-8381  
[sparrowsister2@comcast.net](mailto:sparrowsister2@comcast.net)



Please join the Minneapolis Audubon Society for refreshments and fun at our Chapter programs held at the Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, 31st & Bryant Avenue S, just one block south of Lake Street. It is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes! For more information call 763-533-8381.

#### **Friday, March 11th, 2016 at 1 p.m.**

Brian Wood of the Northwoods Audubon Center will discuss the various programs and short courses offered to people of all ages at their camp. He will also bring one of their educational wild creatures.

#### **Friday, April 8th, 2016 at 1 p.m.**

Film feature- “*Sand Country Wildlife*”, made by Walter J. Breckenridge, former Audubon lecturer and director of the Bell Museum.

## From the President

Mar/Apr 2016



Once again our membership has responded with a very generous result for our Fall Appeal. Because of you, we are in a very good position financially. Below I'm going to begin another Appeal. But before I do that I want to pay tribute to Madeleine Linck. Madeleine Linck will be retiring from her job at Three Rivers Park District and is moving to Massachusetts to be near family. Madeleine has been a pillar on the Board. She has assisted in the scheduling of our program speakers, led field trips, passionate advocate for Bird Safe glass as well as helping with many public events. We will miss her devotion and passion for birds and other wildlife, especially the turtles. Good luck in Massachusetts!!

Back to my other Appeal, financially we are sound, but that is not the case concerning our manpower. As stated above we are losing Madeleine and as you saw in the last *Kingfisher* we have lost Elise Morton. In May we will be electing three Board members to replace the three whose terms are expiring. Some of these may agree to run again, we sure hope so, but there is the potential of losing all three. If you include the one vacancy that we currently have, that is a total of six positions that we may have to fill. That is half of our Board. It is very difficult to run an organization with this kind of turnover. So I am appealing to those of you who have about 4 hours a month of free time that you can devote to your Chapter. You can contact me (Jerry Bahls, 763 572-2333 or [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)) or members of our Nomination Committee – Diane Hofstede and Judy Hamm, if you have interest in serving on our Board.

In addition to the Board positions, we also need a Conservation Committee Chair because of the departure of Elise Morton. If you have about 4 – 6 hours/month to help our efforts in restoring habitat, insuring sound environmental legislation and practices, please contact me (at above).

Please note we are again offering the Tiffany Bottoms trip. This is an interesting trip even if we don't see unusual birds. The trip takes you along an abandoned railway owned and maintained by railway enthusiasts. The route takes you through bottom land forests in a Wisconsin park. The fees help support their railway passion. See page 5 for details.

With the Viking Stadium being near completion, we will be shifting our efforts toward monitoring for dead birds around the stadium and seeking methods to insure that there is some compensation for their deaths to the State and Country. In order to continue our efforts and expand the scope of the bird-window collision efforts, we are beginning work to enlist Minneapolis in the Bird City program through Audubon Minnesota. They are currently engaged in a pilot process with the cities of St. Paul and Hastings. We hope to piggy back on these efforts. Our current work with the City of Minneapolis on revision of the skyway ordinances to require bird safe glass in all future skyway construction fits nicely into the Bird City program.

To continue my mantra on the need for volunteers, our organization currently is limited only by our need for volunteers to run programs like Bird City. We currently have an active Conservation Committee, but lack a leader. We need both the leader and more members of the Committee and for the Board to drive these efforts. Please volunteer to help!!

Jerry Bahls, President

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Audubon Chapter is to inform and educate our members and the public about birds and other wildlife and the demands that a large metropolitan center puts on their habitat, to engage in advocacy to preserve, protect and improve existing habitat and to develop and maintain new bird and wildlife sanctuaries, including backyards, to enhance the human experience.

## Fall Appeal Thanks, Volunteers Needed, Contacts

### Final Fall Appeal Thanks!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to thank the additional donors to our annual 2015 Fall Appeal. We are having a successful appeal, receiving to date \$5108. This has been one of the best Fall Appeals we have ever had. The Board of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to recognize those additional supporters who contributed. Thanks to the following additional contributors –

Cornell J Anderson	G. William Endersen	David Martin	Kathleen J. Sekhon
Ellen T. Baker	Jane Galbraith	Michael McGuire	Timothy Siegrist
Virginia K Blackburn	Brian A. Grivna	Carole M. Megarry	Paul & Erika Sitz
Joseph R. Carroll	Lynda A. Gully	Michael T. Osterholm	M. Suhr
Beverly Conerton	Marie C Hauser	Elizabeth A. Peterson	Elizabeth K. Weir
Mary K. Ellingen	Miriam Karmel	Keith Relyea	Ardis Wexler
John Elward	Claudia Kauma	Kathleen M. Roer	Michael & Martha Willett

### Volunteers Needed!

**Board Members** - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) is seeking qualified persons to serve on its Board. Each year three positions are elected to the ACM Board. The term of service is 3 a year term. It is estimated that the time required would be about 4 hr/month. The Board meets every month except December and July. New Board members are needed to continue the work on Bird-Window Collisions and other bird habitat concerns. The Chapter is facing a potential of six vacancies on the Board with the expiration of three terms, two moving out of state, and a previous vacancy.

**Conservation Committee Chair** - The ACM is seeking a person to chair our Conservation Committee. The Chair guides the chapter Conservation Committee on environmental issues and projects. An example is the continuing work on reducing Bird-Window Collisions. Some new building projects will be coming up in the near future and we would like to insure they are built complying with Bird Safe Guidelines. Time required is about 4 – 6 hours/month.

**Webmaster** - The The ACM is seeking a qualified person to be it's webmaster. The webmaster would manage all electronic communications. Including updating and posting new material on the Website and Facebook pages.

If you are newly retired, or just want to help out, please contact Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net), or contact any ACM Board member. Thanks for helping us.

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2016 - 2017 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	(763) 572-2333	<a href="mailto:jobaud@comcast.net">jobaud@comcast.net</a>
Vice President	John Arthur		<a href="mailto:jdragonflyarthur@gmail.com">jdragonflyarthur@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Judy Hamm		<a href="mailto:judybirds@att.net">judybirds@att.net</a>
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Cathy Bailly	(612) 267-9098	<a href="mailto:eaglessoar1964@gmail.com">eaglessoar1964@gmail.com</a>
Conservation Chair (open)			
Audubon Center of the North Woods	<a href="http://www.audubon-center.org">www.audubon-center.org</a>		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	<a href="http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org">www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org</a>		
Audubon Minnesota	<a href="http://www.mn.audubon.org">www.mn.audubon.org</a>		

## Bird Hikes and Bluebird Recovery Program Expo

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

#### Bird Hikes - Spring 2016

Come join in our chapter bird hikes set for this spring. **All hikes will begin at 8 AM and will last about 90 minutes.** It is a good idea to bring Binoculars and to wear boots, as the trails could be muddy. We would like to limit each hike to 15 people, so please pre-register by calling Siah St. Clair at 763-234-6146 or email: [stclairs@comcast.net](mailto:stclairs@comcast.net)

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 - 8:00 AM -Springbrook Nature Center:** 100 85<sup>th</sup> Ave NW , Fridley.

Wetland edges, open water in ponds and creeks, prairie, forest, oak savannah. Bird sightings may include migrating waterfowl and warblers, American Woodcock, Bluebirds, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls, White-throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Red-bellied Woodpeckers and other permanent resident birds. Meet in the parking lot of the main entrance.

**Saturday, May 14, 2016 - 8:00 AM -Baker Park Reserve:** County Road 24, Medina.

Wooded hiking trail along a shallow marsh provides habitat for migrating and resident warblers (Common Yellow-throat, Yellow and American Redstart), resident Swamp Sparrows, Trumpeter Swans, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Cooper Hawks are all potential sightings.

Meet at the gravel parking lot, north side of County Rd. 24, just east of County Rd 19 at the entrance sign for Marshview Group Camp.

#### Bluebird Recovery Program Expo 2016



Would you like to be inspired, informed and entertained, while enjoying the company and conversation of other bird and environmental enthusiasts? Mark your calendar to save **Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 9AM to 4PM** to attend the BBRP Expo.

**Registration is \$8 before April 1<sup>st</sup> and \$10 at the door. There will be a luncheon provided for \$10.50 but it must be ordered before April 1<sup>st</sup>.** It will be held in **Byron, MN** west of Rochester at the **Byron Middle School- 601 4<sup>th</sup> Street NW**. You may obtain a registration form at our website at: [www.bbrp.org](http://www.bbrp.org) or e-mail or call Jeanie Mortenson at [jeanieandcarl@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanieandcarl@hotmail.com) - 507-332-7003.

The Expo Committee has been busy firming up plans and we are excited about our speakers for the day. Jake Langleslag will show us how goats have proven effective in ridding property of invasive species. We will hear from the Owl Lady, and Ray Simon will talk about bats and how to attract them with appropriate bat houses. Expert Keith Radel is our bluebird speaker and Al Batt, our ever popular humorist, will get us laughing. Finally, Brittany Larson will bring a wealth of information on the Red-headed Woodpecker. As you can see, there will be a great variety of fine speakers!

Everyone looks forward to the SILENT AUCTION and RAFFLE for the bluebird items generously donated by our supporters. Funds generated support our outreach throughout the year. As usual, our COOKIE ladies will be ready with delicious treats to serve at our morning and afternoon coffee breaks!

VENDOR tables are always exciting as we look for the tools and items needed for a successful birding season. We are thrilled to be able to offer MILKWEED SEEDS collected by one of our committee members. Seeds will be handed out to those who have a suitable place to plant them to help the butterflies!

It is all about the bluebirds, but anyone who loves to support nature and our environment will find plenty to enjoy. Mark YOUR calendar and join us at the 2016 Bluebird Recovery Program EXPO!!

## More Events and Activities

### **Tiffany Bottoms NWA Train Trip: Saturday, May 14th, 2016 from 1:00 to 5:00 PM**



**Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis** is pleased to be sponsoring a field trip to Tiffany Bottoms National Wildlife Area in Wisconsin again this spring. The field trip includes a ride on a narrow-gauge train through the Bottoms with several stops to walk in the area and look for birds. **The train leaves at 1:00 pm** so plan to arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of time. Tiffany Bottoms NWA is located about five miles south of Durand, WI about 90 miles from the Twin Cities

Beginning birders are welcome. Please note there will be no official guide or trip leader on the train but there will be friendly experienced birders on hand to help you focus your binoculars or identify a bird. The train is open air and goes rain or shine. What to bring: a hat, rain gear, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, a snack, binoculars, field guides and a spotting scope if you have one. Please register as soon as possible since the trip tends to fill up. The cost is \$15 for Audubon members; \$20 for non-members and \$10 for children 12 and under. Make out your check to: Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and mail it to Susan Tertell, 2841 40th Ave. S, Minneapolis MN 55406-1852. For questions about reservations, please contact Susan at [stertell@gmail.com](mailto:stertell@gmail.com) (preferred) or 612.729.1566. Sorry, we can't give refunds for this trip after April 29, 2016. **Directions:** Head east on I-94. Merge onto **US-10 E/US-61 S** via **EXIT 244**. Continue to **follow US-10 E until you reach Durand, WI**. In Durand, turn right on East Main Street, and take the first left onto 3rd Avenue E., then take the 3rd right onto E Prospect St. Prospect St turns into Wisconsin Highway 25. Stay on WI-25 for 3 miles. The parking area for the train will be on the left side of the road and there will be someone directing traffic.

If you wish to stay in the area, two places offer 20% discounts to those taking the train ride: Morsbach Farms Vacation Homes, 715-285-5182 and Cobblestone Inn & Suites, 715-672-5055

### **Isaac Walton League of America- Breckenridge Chapter**

8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444 - 763-561-5364 - [www.breckenridgeikes.org](http://www.breckenridgeikes.org)

### **Social/Ed Meeting - March 22, 7:30 PM- Copper Mining and the Boundary Waters**

The speaker will be Becky Rom, Board member of the Wilderness Society and past Exec. Director of the Friends Of The Boundary Waters. She will speak on the Federal Lands aspect of the Sulfide-Ore mining controversy and the opportunity to protect significant portions of the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters from harm that would be caused by proposed Copper mining. She is an excellent speaker.

### **Audubon Center of the North Woods**

**54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN**

**888-404-7743** or register online at [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org)

**Pre-registration for these activities is required :**



### **Food & Farms Weekend - April 15-17, 2016**

Grow it, Raise it, Preserve it, Prepare it! Get back to the basics and learn new skills with this all-inclusive weekend focused on the most elemental of our needs and pleasures: Food. Over the weekend, choose from a variety of expert led on-site workshops on gardening, cooking and food preservation. On-site accommodations include comfortable lodging, delicious from scratch meals and access to the Audubon Center's 535 acres and 7+ miles of trails.

### **Women's Wellness & Adventure Weekend - April 29 - May 1, 2016**

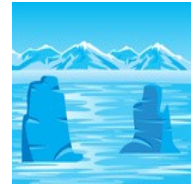
An all-inclusive holistic women's retreat. Spend this weekend with your friends or take the opportunity to get away by yourself, meet new people, and learn new skills. Choose from a variety of physical, mental, and spiritual activities, enjoy a complimentary massage or reiki session, or just relax and take in nature. This event is open to adult women over the age of 21 years and is offered every spring and fall – roughly the first weekend of May and the first weekend of October.

# Conservation



## ARCTIC – THE FUTURE OF WILDLIFE – Part I

(Part II will be published in the May/June Edition)



The January issue of Audubon chronicles some disturbing trends for the icepack in the Arctic, and the resulting affect on its wildlife. An astonishing prediction by climatologists and biologists states that walruses are likely to extinct by 2040. As with most wildlife, once populations drop below a certain breeding level, they cannot rebound. Their behavior is changing drastically because of competition for scarce ice floes. There may be short periods of ice expansion, but the long term trend is not promising. We cannot predict with 100% accuracy what climates will do, but most predictions in the past have been on the conservative side. The ice is melting faster than most scientists had expected.

By 2050, ships will go to the North Pole. The pole hasn't been ice free, according to some scientists, for 2.6 billion years. Not only are Arctic waters warming, but due to increased CO2 levels in the air, are becoming more acidic. This affects phytoplankton and others at the bottom of the food chain. Some birds are actually learning to adapt to open water in the Arctic, and they are feeding and breeding in 24 hour darkness. Arctic terns have decreased 92 % in Alaska since 1970. (See "Acid Levels in the Ocean", Nov 2009 Kingfisher)

Ivory gulls no longer winter on Greenland. They have moved to ice floes offshore due to melting, and are left to scavenge polar bear scraps. Polar bears will decrease by 30 % world-wide by 2030 to a population of 18,000. They will disappear completely from some areas. Also, brown bears are moving northward competing with polar bears for food sources.

In the absence of ice floes, which help calm the seas, wave action has increased with 20 foot waves near shore. Shorelines in the Chuckchi Sea, due to rising seawater and increasing waves, are eroding at the rate of a foot each year. The government has spent millions trying to save the Inupiat communities living on the coast, with tenuous success.

Shrubs such as willow and birch are taking over terrain that 50 years ago were tundra. Gyrfalcons and snowy owls may increasingly find hunting difficult with the changing cover. And in Nome, Alaska, grasshoppers have been seen. Natives had never before seen a grasshopper.

Additionally, Laysan Albatrosses and Short-tailed shearwaters that breed in summer in the southern hemisphere, now migrate north to the North Atlantic to winter in Alaska's summer.

Read the full article in the Jan-Feb 2016 issue of "Audubon". \*See related articles on Climate Change in the "Kingfisher", President's Column, May 2010, and Nov/Dec 2011

Jim Egge- ACM Board member

## BIRD SIMLARITIES QUIZ

In each group of 5 birds seen in Minnesota, 2 belong to the same family. Which two are they? Families today indicate a genetic similarity, rather than appearance or behavior.

1. Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Tufted Titmouse, Boreal Chickadee, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
2. Eastern Bluebird, Smith's Longspur, Red Crossbill, Sprague's Pipit, American Robin
3. Meadowlark, Catbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Brown Thrasher, Horned Lark
4. Parula Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Scarlet Tanager, Blue-headed Vireo, Phoebe
5. Nighthawk, Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will, Saw-whet Owl, Mourning Dove
6. Eared Grebe, Franklin's Gull, Kittiwake, Common Tern, Parasitic Jaeger  
American Avocet, Killdeer, Yellow Rail, Marbled Godwit, Sanderling

...Answers on Page 7

## Conservation

### Report on the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, North Minneapolis Christmas Bird Count

We had an excellent Christmas Bird Count this past December with a record number of volunteers (41) turning out to help. 12 groups in cars drove through different areas of our 15 mile diameter circle centered on Coon Rapids Dam. The 12 groups traveled 503 miles of roadways watching for birds, and hiked nearly 26 miles in parks and trails to find as many birds as possible. 45 species of birds were seen, with a total of 5,327 birds counted. In 2014 we saw 41 species and a total of 5,847 birds, so we saw more species of birds this year, but because of the warm weather the birds were more dispersed. We actually saw more common birds this year, since in 2014 we counted 2,800 Mallard Ducks, and this year we only counted 1,271.

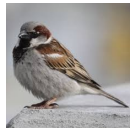
Here are the numbers for a few of the more common and uncommon birds we saw this year:



Canada Goose	1,043
Trumpeter Swan	49
Bald Eagle	29
Great Horned Owl	1
Downy Woodpecker	72
Pileated Woodpecker	6
Black Capped Chickadee	395
Robin	53
Brown Creeper	8
Northern Cardinal	85



Common Redpoll	12
American Goldfinch	102
House Sparrow	209
Red-tailed Hawk	37
Eastern Bluebird	7
Song Sparrow	1
White-throated Sparrow	1
Wild Turkey	126
Dark-eyed Junco	205
Green Heron	1



The Green Heron was the biggest surprise, since one had never been seen on a Christmas Bird Count in recorded history. It was seen at the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley.

Thanks to Three Rivers Park District (especially Patty Maher) for hosting us and our pot luck lunch at the West Coon Rapids Dam Visitor Center, which would normally be closed at this time of year. Thanks also to everyone who brought food for the pot luck lunch and to Donna Bahls for coordinating. A big thanks to all who came out to help count birds and make this year's count successful.

Siah St. Clair- North Minneapolis CBC count compiler and ACM Board member

### Fascinating world of Snowy Owls as told by Norman Smith

I recently read a fascinating description of snowy owl behavior written by Norman Smith, Director of the Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton, Massachusetts. Norman has trapped and banded 700+ Snowy Owls at Boston's Logan airport in a 35 year study. None of the owls have showed up emaciated. He and his assistants have observed them hunting and eating many species of seabirds, other owls including another snowy, great blue heron, Canada Goose, a Peregrine Falcon (!) as well as many mammals such as mink, domestic cats, skunk, dead seals, and opossum. By analyzing their pellets, they have found their varied diet includes many song birds and shorebirds. The owls tend to sleep by day and hunt at night at Logan. He also writes that accurate aging and sexing a Snowy Owl is very difficult unless the bird is examined in hand. Norman also believes that Snowy Owl irruptions in New England are not caused by lack of food in the Arctic but by an abundance of young owls when lemmings are plentiful during the breeding season. Mortality in his study includes such factors as rodenticide poisoning, collisions with aircraft, vehicles and electrocution. I highly recommend reading Norman's full article in *Massachusetts Wildlife* No.4, 2015. His satellite tracking findings are also fascinating!

Madeleine Linck - ACM Board member

### Answers – Bird Similarities Quiz -pg 6

1. Tufted Titmouse – Boreal Chickadee
2. Eastern Bluebird – American Robin
3. Catbird – Brown Thrasher
4. Eastern Kingbird – Phoebe
5. Nighthawk – Whip-poor-will
6. Franklin's Gull – Kittiwake
7. Marbled Godwit - Sanderling

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403



KINGFISHER  
Mar/Apr, 2016

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 90280

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**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.

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**

- Mar. 01 Program
- 22 Board Meeting -- Nominating Committee Report  
(submit April 01 for May Kingfisher publication),  
DUE: Committee budgets
- Apr. 01 Deadline for newsletter articles
- 05 Program
- 11 Newsletter Editor deadline
- 18 Newsletter Mailing
- 22-23 Field Trip- Salt Lake, Mn (MOU)
- 28 Board Meeting (Officer Elections) -- Annual Meeting  
prep., Board approves FY 2015 -2016 Budget

*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.*

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

**Electronic Kingfisher**

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!**

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