



# KINGFISHER



May 2010

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 59 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

**What can the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis do for you?** Help us to help meet our members' interests by filling out this quick survey! Please mail your survey to: Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, PO Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403, or go to our website, [www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org](http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org), and complete the survey online.

**Please complete the survey by May 7, 2010. Thank you.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of Audubon: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Which Chapter? \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information on membership \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check activities that interest you:**

- Attend birding field trips
- Lead birding field trips
- Join the Board
- Write or illustrate for the newsletter, website, or blog
- Christmas Bird Count
- Backyard Bird Count
- Committees (program \_\_\_\_\_, membership, \_\_\_\_\_ conversation, \_\_\_\_\_, communication \_\_\_\_\_, education \_\_\_\_\_)
- Bird-a-Thon
- Advocacy
- Table at local events
- Social activities
- Pulling invasive plants/planting plants
- Work with other conservation-minded organizations on projects



Select your preferred method of receiving our newsletter:  Email  U.S. Mail

What do you like about being a member of Audubon?

Is the location and time of members' monthly meetings convenient? (Mayflower Church, 35-W & Diamond Lake Road, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., first Tuesday of the month)

Do you have any ideas for speakers, topics or chapter activities?

Other comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

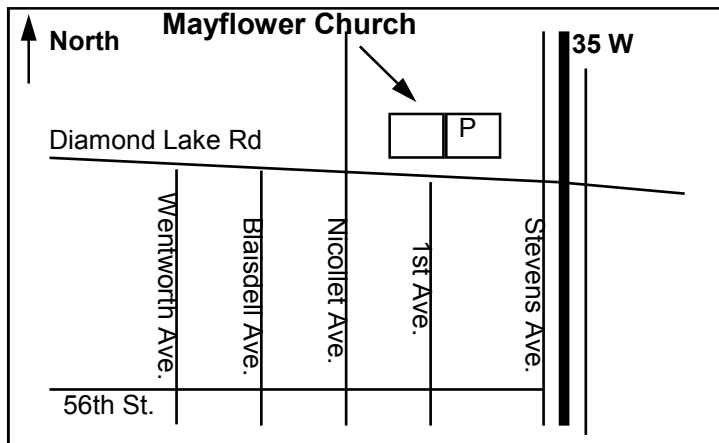
## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 4

“Saving Our Wetlands and Bird Habitats”  
with Tom Cooper

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 PM

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



## Mailing Team – THANKS!!

For eight months during the year, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis members receive the *Kingfisher*. This happens because a group of dedicated volunteers give up the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month for eight months to insert, fold, tape and label the *Kingfishers* so they can be mailed. I would like to thank the following for this valuable service: Bill Caverly, Donna Bahls, Lois Dick, Judy Dupre, Dave Martin, Darlene & Don Olson, Marianna Tiller, Mary Ellen Vetter, Lynn Johnson, Larry Johnson and Virginia May. When you see them let them know you appreciate their work. **Thank you, team!**

—Jerry Bahls, Mailing Chair

## The 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count

During the four-day event in February, more than 97,200 bird checklists were submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteer bird watchers from across the United States and Canada.

The GBBC is a joint project of the [National Audubon Society](#) and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) with Canadian partner [Bird Studies Canada](#). The results provided a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species. For example, this year participants recorded more American Robins than any other bird species—primarily because of a massive roost in St. Petersburg, Florida.

One of the most dramatic results from this year's count was the absence of winter finches such as Pine Siskins and redpolls. Pine Siskins moved south in such great numbers last year that they burst onto the GBBC Top10 list of most numerous birds for the first time ever. This year, they presumably didn't need to travel as far south to find enough food.

Tree Swallows showed dramatic increases in numbers reported compared to years past. Whether this is a result of warmer temperatures and earlier migration is not yet clear.

“GBBC data become more and more valuable with each passing year,” said Dick Cannings, program director for Bird Studies Canada. “Over time, we'll be better able to see significant changes that may occur in the numbers and distributions of birds which may be tied to climate change, habitat loss, disease, or other factors.”

**Media Note:** Visit the “Explore the Results” pages on the GBBC web site at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) to find the list of “Top 10 Birds” reported in your state, province, or city.

### Minneapolis Audubon Society

Bryant Square (31<sup>st</sup> & Bryant Avenue S)

Friday, May 14, 2010 1 p.m.

Jerry Bahls will update us on the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Program.

Please join us for the program and refreshments.  
All are welcome.

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

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

## A Note from the President

The issue of climate change has become a culture war like few topics ever have in my lifetime. Winning an argument should never trump rightness of an issue, nor the direction that society moves as a response to solve the problem. At the heart of the climate debate is, of course, what the cost will be (human and dollar), whether we attack the problem or ignore it. It should never become a personal battle nor a political football. Weighing on the whole process is the role that science plays in driving our decisions regarding what steps to take, if any.

To begin with, science is not a field of study. It is more importantly a way of thinking and approaching a problem. Science is used to solve problems in every field of endeavor, so we should all consider ourselves scientists to some degree. Think of the observation, hypothesis, information collection, analysis, and conclusion that you do when you see a car coming at you in your lane. If any one of these science processes breaks down, the result may be a collision. It often seems to me that what science is, and what it is not, might be poorly understood by the average person, and even those in the "sciences."

I have been teaching about the evidence of global warming since the 70's. Back then, most people dismissed it as unfounded, but the evidence was piling up. By the nineties, most people seemed to believe that something significant was happening to our weather patterns, but rejected the notion that it was caused by human activity. Now, if anyone tells you that they "know" that our Earth is warming by a certain number of degrees, you probably shouldn't listen to them. If anyone tells you that they "know" that the Earth is not warming, you probably shouldn't listen to them, either. Science doesn't work that way; science considers to what degree of certainty we can draw conclusions. It ponders the probability of a predicted outcome and how that outcome might be changed.

The individual must first be as informed about all aspects of the climate change as they can. Too often people get powerful opinions based on incomplete information. I used to tell my students that their opinion about something wasn't too important—what they knew about all sides of an issue was important. We're too infatuated with opinion polls, and in a democracy that has an impact. But it is far more important to pursue knowledge that bears on an issue. Very few people reserve opinions until they have done exhaustive study. When someone voices a strong sentiment about global warming, my reaction is to find out if they really understand the available information; this goes for talk show hosts as well. I have delivered a large number of e-mails and letters on environmental issues.

In his noteworthy book *The Essential Engineer*, Henry Petroski states that Americans expect too much from technology to solve our problems. He says that technology is not going to give us an endless means to cope with risk.

*President's Note, continued on page 4...*

## May Program

### Saving Our Wetlands and Bird Habitats

Tom Cooper, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Tom Cooper will be sharing information on what we can do to make sure our wetlands and bird habitats are protected.

Among the most important ecosystems on Earth, the wet ecosystems of bogs, freshwater marshes, prairie potholes, forested swamps, and salt-water estuaries provide critical nesting, rearing, feeding, and stop-over habitat for bird and other wildlife populations in watersheds across the nation. Wetlands are essential to estuary, river, and watershed health, trapping sediments and cleaning polluted waters, preventing floods, recharging groundwater aquifers, and protecting shorelines. Wetland health is intimately tied to human health.

Wetlands began disappearing soon after permanent European colonization of the United States. More than half of the [215 million acres of wetlands](#) that existed at the time of settlement have been destroyed. Throughout much of our nation's history, wetlands were viewed as obstacles to development that should be eliminated. Federal laws provided incentives for draining and destroying wetlands.

Only in the last twenty-five years have public and government understanding of the importance of wetlands grown enough to begin to change some incentives to protecting and restoring wetlands

Up to one-half of North American bird species nest, feed, or rest in wetlands. As our wetlands have been destroyed, bird populations have slowly declined. In the last fifteen years alone, for example, the continental duck breeding population fell from 45 million to 31 million birds, a decline of 31 percent. Between 1978 and 1987, seventy-five percent of forest-dwelling neo-tropical migrants, many of which rely on coastal wetland habitats during their arduous migrations, declined in numbers. The number of birds migrating over the Gulf of Mexico, which rely on coastal wetlands as staging areas in Louisiana and Mississippi especially, has decreased by one-half since the mid-1960's.

***We are starting to plan our programs for next year.  
If you have any suggestions, please let us know.***



**Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Mayflower Church**

## Field Trip to Tiffany Bottoms, Wisconsin

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is offering a wonderful chance to take a train ride to Tiffany Bottoms to look for spring birds. The date will be Sunday, May 23, 2010. Meeting time is 7:40 am for the 8:00 am train departure, and the cost is only \$5. The train ride through the Bottoms is six hours; there will be a stop by the river for lunch. Tiffany Bottoms is about 25 minutes south of Eau Claire.

If you are interested in this field trip, you can make a reservation by contacting Susan Tertell, [stertell@gmail.com](mailto:stertell@gmail.com), 612-729-1566; or Jim Egge, [aubullet2@yahoo.com](mailto:aubullet2@yahoo.com), 612-827-7629. A check for \$5 per person, made payable to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) can be sent to Susan Tertell, 2841 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN 55406. Please include the names and addresses of people attending, plus e-mail and telephone numbers. There is a limit of 75 people, so please reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Please bring a bag lunch and beverages, plus normal gear you would take for birding in uncertain weather: hat, raincoat, sunscreen, or whatever you think you may need. There will not be a local guide on the trip, but there will be many experienced birders to help us all locate and identify the birds.

The trains depart from the upper DNR parking area south of Durand on Wisconsin State Highway 25, about 2-½ miles from where it intersects with Thibodeau Road. (If you are using Mapquest or Google Map you can search the intersection of Hwy 25 and Thibodeau Rd. in Durand to get directions from the Twin Cities.)

Parking is on the east (left) side of Hwy 25, and there will be someone there to direct drivers. There will be a porti-potty attached to the end of the train. If you need further directions, please ask when you register.

Here are a couple of links for further information on Tiffany Bottoms and the Chippewa Valley Motor Car Association that provides the train rides.

<http://www.chippewavalleymotorcarassociation.ellawisc.com/index.html>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/45268892.html>

### Pollination

Springtime.  
Wild ginger  
blossom opens.  
Hugs the dirt.  
A beetle  
rumbles  
through it.

—Clem Nagel



*President's Note, continued from page 3...*

American politics and culture prepare citizens for a fantasy world in which science eliminates all uncertainty and predicts a future perfectly, untainted by money and politics.

It is difficult to separate truth from agenda, good data from skewed, and accurate analysis from whim. But it has been my experience that most of the researchers working on climate study are very careful about what their data tells them. If all the predictions about the seriousness of the climate changes being studied turned out to be false, I believe that the changes that we do to reduce our fossil fuel use would still produce mostly positive results to our economy and worldwide health. Our emissions of sulfur, nitrogen oxides, and mercury, etc would be reduced. We would spend billions fewer dollars for importing oil and gas. We would extend the time line to convert to other energy sources, and may even avoid a war over dwindling supplies of fuels. The dollars we now spend for fossil fuel that maybe could be conserved, should be spent for research and infrastructure development.

I don't know if all the glaciers are going to disappear, but researchers tell us that none are expanding. I don't know if the oceans are going to rise several feet, but I do know that if they do, the sacrifices we make now are miniscule to the problems that would cause.

—Jim

## Red-Headed Wood- pecker Day at Cedar Creek Science Reserve



Come spend an afternoon observing the Cedar Creek Red-Headed Woodpeckers on Saturday, May 8, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

Members of the Redhead Recovery Organization will guide you on a walk into Cedar Creek's interior to view the birds as they feed and prepare for nesting.

Come and hear the different calls used by these birds, understand the special habitat the birds require, see the brilliant red head and the flash of black-and-white as they fly, learn to identify them by sight and sound, and enjoy a hour or two outdoors.

The event is suitable for families, special interest groups, and the general public. We ask that if your group is larger than five people to please call in advance and let us know. Binoculars and cameras are encouraged. Expect an easy walk on sand paths to the sites. A van is provided to transport up to six people requiring assistance to the bird locations. Please call ahead to request this service.

Meet at the Lindeman Research and Discovery Center at 1:00 on May 8. From there, we will carpool to the sites. For information, please call Mary Spivey or LuAnn Marotte at 763-434-5131.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is located at 2660 Fawn Lake Drive, East Bethel, MN. Website: [www.cedarcreek.umn.edu](http://www.cedarcreek.umn.edu).



# Wood Lake Nature Center's

## Breeding Bird-a-thon in Richfield, Minnesota

Supporting FOWL (Friends of Wood Lake) and celebration of 39 years of bird data collection

Join us for the first annual Breeding Bird-a-thon at Wood Lake Nature Center. Spend three days birding in bottomland hardwood forest, restored prairie, and marsh habitats, and have a chance to win great prizes! All data collected during this event will be used to help the City of Richfield's nature center record accurate and up-to-date information about breeding bird populations. All participants should be able to recognize common Minnesota birds by sight and will use the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas's coding for data collection. This is a great event to improve bird watching skills while meeting other local birders.

**The event will occur on three consecutive Saturdays in June: 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>**

Birders can attend one, two, or all of the dates, may begin birding anytime after 6:30 am and finish anytime before 10:30 pm. Registered birders are invited to join Wood Lake for:

- Kick-off continental breakfast on June 12<sup>th</sup> with presentation by Audubon Minnesota's Ron Windingstad (coordinator of Audubon At Home) from 8:00 to 9:00 am
- "Birding by Canoe" led by Naturalist Karen Shragg on June 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:30 pm
- FREE bird-friendly coffee and snacks available throughout the day
- CHANCE TO WIN and EARN GREAT PRIZES!!!

**All registered birders will be eligible to win our GRAND PRIZE DRAWING for a LAND PACKAGE in BELIZE (VALUE OF \$725.00), sponsored by Blue Tang Inn (pick-up and drop off at the San Pedro airport)!!**

Registered birders will also be eligible to win prizes from **REI, The Wild Bird Store, Borders Books of Richfield, Country Ways, and MORE!**

Registration costs (free for those who sign up to volunteer five or more hours during the event):

**\$50.00** and covers all three days of fundraiser

**\$40.00** for members of any Audubon Minnesota chapter, MOU, Wild Bird Stores, Frequent Flyer Program or Friends of Wood Lake (FOWL)

**\$35.00** for members of two or more sponsor organizations (FOWL & MOU, etc.)

**To register or for more information call Wood Lake at (612)861-9365 or visit our website at [www.woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.woodlakenaturecenter.org)**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Wood Duck Jump

## Conservation Events in William Berry Woods

The Environment Committee of the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC) has adopted a small urban forest in southwest Minneapolis near Lake Harriet (south of William Berry Parkway between Richfield Road and 40<sup>th</sup> Street W.), through the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Adopt-A-Park program.

This lovely wooded area is one of the few remaining native plant community remnants in the Minneapolis park system. It's also a resting and feeding place for migrating birds.

Two events are planned this spring. Volunteers are needed to help remove garlic mustard on Saturday, May 1, from 9:30 am to noon.

Everyone is also welcome to enjoy the woods during a Wildflower Interpretive Tour on Saturday, May 8, from 10 am to 11 am. For more information, contact Connie Pepin at 612-922-1253 or [cpepin@bitstream.net](mailto:cpepin@bitstream.net)

Jerry Bahls will again host a special field trip to his home to view the annual jump of the baby wood ducks. The trip (jump) will occur sometime in May between 7:00 and 11:30 AM, depending upon the hatch date. If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry at 763 572-2333 to get on his call list.

Since there is a video camera in the box, a one day's notice will be given to those who want to see this magic moment. Wood ducks hatch and the next day, they jump. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies in the box before the jump and then review the video (instant replay) afterwards. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

**For Sale:** Two excellent pairs of Bushnell binoculars, 7X50. Price: \$35 each. Great for lower light, especially car or backyard birding.

Shade-grown coffee, several great blends. Locally and freshly roasted Peace Coffee. Pick up at May program or 4108 Aldrich S. Proceeds to local chapter. Price: \$9.95 for a full pound. Contact Jim Egge 612-827-7629.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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**KINGFISHER**  
May 2010



**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**

**MAY**

- 1 William Berry Woods Work Day
- 6 Chapter Program at 7:00 pm
- 8 Red-Headed Woodpecker Day (see p. 4)
- 8 William Berry Woods Tour
- 23 Tiffany Bottoms Field Trip

**JUNE**

- 12 Wood Lake Nature Center Bird-a-Thon
- 19 Wood Lake Nature Center Bird-a-Thon
- 26 Wood Lake Nature Center Bird-a-Thon

Board meetings are held every month on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May.

**Electronic Kingfisher**

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!**  
Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)