



KINGFISHER



May 2005

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 54 No.4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

The migration is underway. What many of us live for will be in full swing and gone before we know it. So get out there and enjoy! Look for that one you need for your Minnesota life list. Join a chapter field trip. Make notes where the best spots are. Make notes where the worst spots are. Make notes of where the best spot used to be and try to figure out why they are no longer the best spots! Then contact the local government unit and let them know the problem and how it might be fixed. Let your state representatives know also so they can put it into a bigger picture. Seeing improving habitat or degrading habitat and reporting it helps our natural resources managers know what is working and where work is needed.

As the summer unfolds, our time will be sucked away by the need to make a living and some unpleasant household chores. So utilize the free time to lessen these burdens by incorporating wildlife-restoring habitat in our backyards, by incorporating native prairie areas and rain gardens and adding trees to our yards and recreation areas. Volunteer at your local nature center to help restore areas that have degraded due to invasives and to give you another place to find that inner peace we all seek. Just the act of knowing we are doing the right thing makes it very rewarding.

If you have a bird house, don't neglect it. Maintain it so that undesirable species aren't being propagated. This is one of my joys of the summer. Seeing that rebirth is so rewarding! So remember, if you aren't going to maintain it, remove it!

The recent problem with finches and salmonella is a reminder to clean our feeders at a minimum of annually (actually semi-annually is better). Don't let that debris build up in and around your feeders. If you can, move them to different areas every couple of months.

Finally, keep in touch with Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. This will be our last publication until the September issue. However we will try to keep in touch with you via our website at <http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/>. Visit the site often for news and opportunities. Have an enjoyable summer!

—Jerry Bahls, President

May Program

Achin' to See Aitkin

If you've been to Aitkin, met Warren Nelson, and caught his intense interest and enthusiasm, you truly are "achin' to see Aitkin" again.

This winter, you stopped in the Aitkin store for Warren's guidance in sighting owls. In February some Minneapolis Auduboners went to the store but left disappointed—Warren's day off. Their disappointment turned to satisfaction when they found him on County Road 18 leading a group of birders.

He welcomes all during the Aitkin Bird Festivals as he leads you to hard-to-find birds. Quiet determination takes him over dry land; or if he is looking for the black rail, in and through the swamps.

Warren's photographs attest to his desire to be in the right place at the right time. His repeated appearances at the same site produces a sequence picturing first the building of the nest, then the eggs, then the chicks, fledglings and finally the mature birds.

It is 20 degrees outside and Warren knows the owl is on its nest, but for a picture the moon is not quite right. For that perfect picture, he waits. Slowly the moon moves into the desired position. Only then is it click time.

Be uplifted by a beautiful slide show presented by Aitkin's Warren Nelson. Come.

**Tuesday, May 3
7:00 pm
Mayflower Church**

Don't miss the annual Spring Raptor Release at Battle Creek Regional Park on Saturday, May 21....

Sponsored by the Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota in conjunction with the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department, and presented by the 3M Foundation, participants can learn about raptors and in particular, the Great Grey Owl invasion and the Center's role in caring and rehabilitating more than 90 of these raptors this winter. The events run all day, culminating in the release of three rehabilitated raptors!

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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

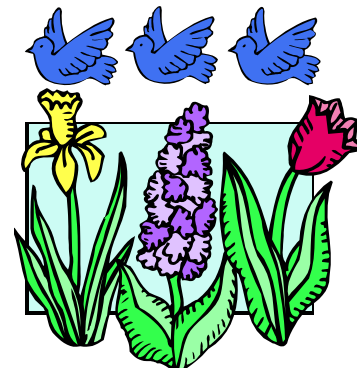
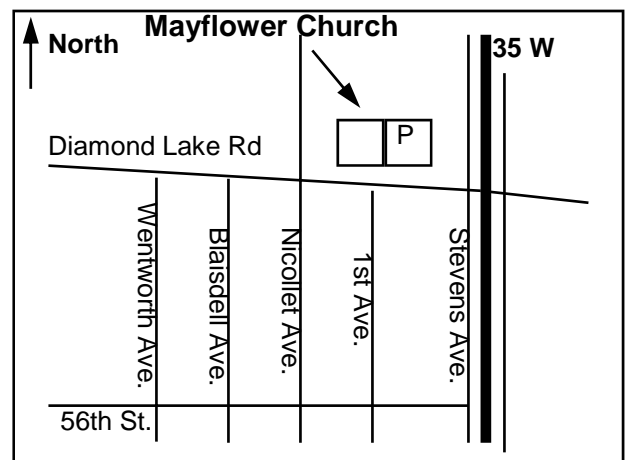
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, May 3
"Achin' to See Aitkin,"
a slide presentation by Warren Nelson

TIME: Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, map below



Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

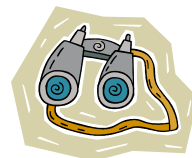
Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu

Beginning Birding Classes

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

When: 2 Saturdays—April 30th & May 7th both at 10:00 am

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



There are a few slots open for the class at the Westwood Hills Nature Center. Bring a field guide and your binoculars to both sessions. Prepare 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. One child between the ages 8 and 18 attending with a registered adult is free of charge. 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 call now!

THE SUMMER ADVENTURES ARE BACK!!

Audubon Center of the North Wood's unique outdoor experiences for young people offers a chance to meet new friends, have fun and experience new outdoor challenges.

WILD CAREERS

June 12-18, 2005 * Ages 14-16 * \$490

Work with wildlife at the Great Lakes Zoo, go behind the scenes of The Raptor Center. Sleep outdoors with wolves at the Wildlife Science Center. Learn skills needed to rehabilitate sick and injured animals. An amazing week of wildlife adventures!

ABSOLUTELY AWESOME ADVENTURES

June 25-July 1, 2005 * Ages 10-13 * \$425

Challenge yourself on our high-ropes course and climbing wall, canoe beautiful Grindstone Lake. Build outdoor survival shelters and learn wilderness navigation skills. Pitch your tent for a sleep-out. Develop abilities, push your limits, and make new friends while exploring the beauty of North Woods.

For information: 1-888 404-7743 (toll free) or
www.audubon-center.com

GRADUATE & TEACHER TRAINING COURSES

SUMMER 2005

North Woods and the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University have joined together to offer both a Master's Degree and a Master's Level Certificate in Environmental Education. All courses are taught at the North Woods Audubon Center, (Sandstone, MN).

Course work is geared towards teachers, naturalists, environmental educators or nature center volunteers interested in environment and natural history.

Course Registration:

Hamline University, St. Paul, 651.523.3000 or
1.800.888.2182

Audit Registration:

Audubon Center of the North Woods 1.888.404.7743

For more information: www.audubon-center.org/graduate



CALLING ALL OWLERS...

The MOU Conservation Committee is surveying the economic impact that this past winter's owl eruption has had on Minnesota tourism.

If you traveled to see the birds between October 1 and February 28, please do a breakdown of your travel expenses into the categories of transportation, lodging, and meals and send to:

Randy Frederickson
416 19th Street N.W.
Willmar, MN 56201

Or e-mail Frederickson@wilmar.k12.mn.us

When Nature made the blue-bird she wished to propitiate both the sky and the earth, so she gave him the color of the one on his back and the hue of the other on his breast.

~John Burroughs

Second Annual Wood Duck Jump

There will again be a special field trip to Jerry Bahls' home to view the annual jump of the baby wood ducks.

The trip (jump) will probably occur some time in May between 7:00 and 11:00 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 participate. Wood ducks hatch and the next day, they jump. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies before the jump and then review the video (instant replay) after.

Coffee and cookies will be provided.

Reminder:

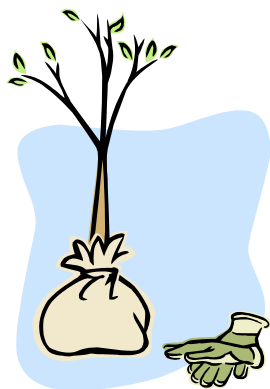
2005 Living Green Expo

April 30 – May 1, 2005

Minnesota State Fair Grounds

The Expo will feature more than 200 exhibitors who will be showcasing environmentally-sound products, services, and practices all day long.

Free workshops will feature everything from how to compost and reduce toxicity in your home to using the latest energy-saving technology.



Nominations for Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee has presented:

* **Marianne Tiller**

* **Paul Fusco**

for election to the Board of Directors.

The Board is looking for a secretary.

Any volunteers?

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:

A Bluebird's First Summer

May Field Trips

Every Tuesday: 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Join the Minneapolis Audubon Society at Roberts Sanctuary, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis. Meet: East Gate, north side of the lake. Afternoon birding location will be announced. Bring a lunch and enjoy a whole day of birding.

Every Saturday: 7:30 am. Join a Minneapolis Park Naturalist at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, Theodore Wirth Park. Highway 55 to Wirth Parkway, south ½ mi., cross Glenwood, entrance is on left. \$2 fee.

Chapter Trips in May

(Please register directly with the trip's leader)

May 7

Stearns County/Clearwater West, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. To form car pools, meet at the Park & Ride on Brooklyn Blvd. and 65th Ave. N. Expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, forest and prairie birds. Bring a lunch. Leader: Sylvia Winkelman, 763.533.8381, sparrowssister1@att.net

May 7

Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds, Bloomington, 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Exit I-494 east at 24th Ave. S., south 1 mile to 86th St., left on 86th St. to dead end. See spring migrants, especially warblers. Leader: Tom Mahan, 763.588.5440, mahan-mail@att.net

May 8

Butler Wildflower Gardens, Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Hwy 55 to Wirth Parkway, south ½ mile, cross Glenwood, entrance on left. Wildflowers and migrating birds. Leader: Tom Mahan, 763.588.5440 mahan-mail@att.net

May 14

Rice Creek Park, Fridley, 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Call for directions. Walking trails cross Rice Creek; see migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers, etc. Leader: Terry Brashear, 612.929.1976, birdnird@yahoo.net

Minneapolis Parks Trips in May

\$2 PARK FEE NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY

MAY 5: Minnehaha Park, 6:00-8:00 am.

Meet at Minnehaha Park Pavilion.

MAY 7: Mississippi River Gorge, 7:00-9:00 am.

Meet at the 36th St. parking lot off West River Road.

MAY 12: Mississippi River Gorge, 6:00-8:00 am.

Meet at the 36th St. parking lot off West River Road.

MAY 19: Roberts Bird Sanctuary, 6:00-8:00 am.

Meet at east end of Roberts Sanctuary off Roseway Blvd.

MAY 26: Diamond Lake, 6:00-8:00 am.

Meet at the Pearl Park parking lot.

Minneapolis Parks info: Jamie McBride 612.313.7725

For information, contact: Mary Ellen Vetter 763.561.1761 or at mevetter@mninter.net

Bird of the Month

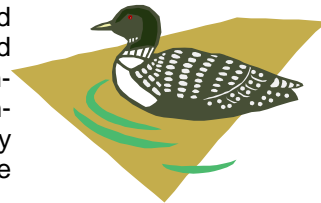
Presented by –Tom Mahan

The May Bird of the Month will be the Auks.

Learn about this exciting bird at our May 3rd Meeting...

Loon Survey in Wisconsin

Project LoonWatch is an ongoing initiative of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute. This year's survey will take place on July 16 between 5:00 am and 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed to help record the numbers of loons, loon nests and loon chicks on 258 lakes across central and northern Wisconsin. Volunteers may choose the lake(s) they wish to survey and register online through our web site at: http://www.northland.edu/soei/loon_population.asp.



Each volunteer will receive a survey information packet in June, which will contain instructions for surveying each lake, reporting survey data and maps of each lake.

WARBLER-WATCHING AND BUCKTHORN REMOVAL THE ST. CROIX GREENWAY

You could be part of an early-morning warbler hike! (7:00 am—9:00 am) on May 21. Part of this time will involve a demonstration on mist-netting and bird-banding. This activity is led by staff at the Warner Nature Center in beautiful St. Croix Valley.

To register for the bird-watching, contact Steve Budas at: 651.665.9500, extension 11, or sbudas@greatrivergreening.org.

We have to limit the size to 80 people, so sign up early. This is a great event for groups and families (young children must be supervised).

Get a backyard buckthorn busting lesson, too! We hope that you would also join us for some buckthorn removal afterwards. (Registration is separate and online at www.greatrivergreening.org.)

We will provide tools, training, food and beverages.



Introducing Mark Peterson

Please join us in welcoming Mark Peterson as the new Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota. Over a conservation career spanning more than 25 years, Mark has made a difference wherever he has been. He possesses an impressive blend of deep commitment, formal training and work experience that will serve him well as our leader in Minnesota.

Mark holds degrees in environmental education (B.S.), environmental journalism (M.S.), and wildland management (Ph.D.). He especially enjoys the human dimensions of conservation—working with people from various backgrounds, institutions and of differing values to achieve conservation goals. This knowledge was applied in his dissertation that focused on protecting habitat for whooping cranes and other migratory species along the Platte River.

Mark has extensive experience in the non-profit sector, most recently with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) where he served since 1996 in several capacities from their field office in Fort Collins, Colorado. There he developed several imaginative, self-sustaining and successful programs. One example is the "State of the Parks" program that he founded and directed for NPCA, which brought much needed national attention to the status and threats to resources of our national parks system.

Audubon's work to preserve natural habitats parallels Mark's personal goals and life-long commitment. He and his family are welcoming a return to the upper Midwest where he grew up and led environmental advocacy efforts in the Lake Superior bioregion to advance the legacy of Minnesota's foremost conservationist, Sigurd F. Olson, as Executive Director of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College.

Working with our talented Minnesota staff, state board, chapters, partners and funders, Mark is exceptionally well positioned to advance Audubon's Minnesota agenda of bird conservation, science, education and grassroots advocacy. Mark will be a tremendous asset to Audubon in Minnesota, and we are delighted to have him as a member of our team. Mark begins his duties as Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota on April 4. He may be contacted at the Audubon Minnesota State Office in Woodbury, at 651.739.9332 or via email at mpeterson@audubon.org.

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.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
May 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

APRIL

- 30 – May 1** Living Green Expo
30 & May 7 Beginning Birding Class

MAY

- 3** Chapter Program 7:00 p.m.
7 Stearns County Field Trip
7 Cedar Bridge Field Trip
8 Butler Wildflower Garden
14 Rice Creek Park

Chapter Field Trips Every Tuesday in May

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.

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.