



KINGFISHER



MAY/JUNE 2012

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 61 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

Garlic Mustard Pulls

Garlic mustard pulls this Spring at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and William Berry Woods

Garlic mustard is easy to recognize and easy to pull. No experience necessary. Children under 12 must be supervised by an adult.

Dates and times for RBS:

Sunday, May 6 2 pm - 4 pm
Sunday, May 13 2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday, May 26 11 am - 1 pm
Sunday, June 3 11 am - 1 pm

Dates and times for WBW:

Saturday, April 28 2 pm - 4 pm
Saturday, May 19 2 pm - 4 pm

More dates may be added for both locations. For more information, visit our chapter website!

May Issue

Upcoming Program

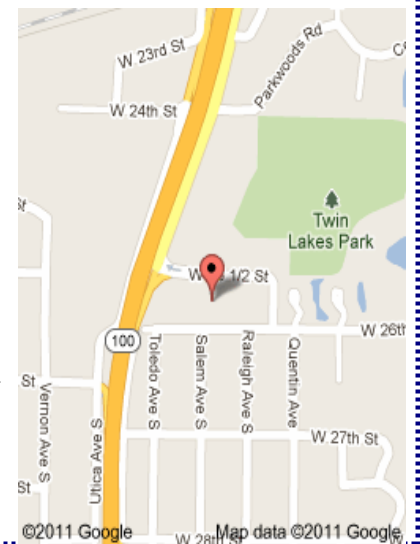
May 1st:

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.



Help Out at Palmer Lake Park

Palmer Lake Park, which is located between Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, now has a Friends organization to help improve conditions around the lake for birds and other wildlife. On Saturday, April 21, the Friends of Palmer Lake are holding a clean-up event. For more information about the event and Palmer Lake, check out www.palmerlakepark.blogspot.com or email palmerlakeguy@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Egge

America has been the leader on environmental research and policy development since WW II, when the world could get down to serious thinking about how to preserve some of the ecosystems and resources that were left. We also have often led the world in consumption of resources, and sadly, sometimes the environmental destruction that accompanies it. Access to resources is at the very core of America's economic surge during the 20th century. We had, or could trade for, or could find virtually every needed commodity to produce a life-style for even the average American, that kings could envy.

To sustain the life-style never before seen on the planet, a Machiavellian lust for material goods probably contributed to WW II, and to the multiplicity of wars around the in the last half of the century. America had what the rest of the world wanted and there didn't seem to be enough to go around. So it appears to me that many of the global policies centered around each country's plan to obtain new resources and preserve its own. Many countries embarked on a plan that didn't include land and ecosystem preservation, sustainability, or the health of its citizens. Unfortunately some of America's planning was profit-based and not welfare-based.

But we were learning from our plentiful mistakes and developed environmental policies that could be copied throughout the world. Other countries were also learning these lessons and in some cases outclassed us in application. U.S. and European environment and health organizations honeycombed the globe, and have helped countries raise their standard of living while learning to develop sustainably.

Continued on following page

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

~*~ Member Poetry Corner ~*~

DUET

Have you noticed
how birds sometimes
sing to the setting sun?

When I see a bird
facing west
on a high clear perch

head lifted
breast aglow
in reflected gold

voice raised in
exuberant rhapsody

like an Ancient
worshiping the Sun God

then
my heart leaps
and joins
in joyous praise.

~Diane Mundt

GIVING PAUSE

Fresh cottonwood leaves,
newly emerged along Rice Creek –

released to the whims of
riverside breezes.

They are as companions
finding a voice for

who might pause
to listen.

~Clem Nagel

President's Note—continued

The decade from 1997 to 2007 set a standard of development that America and the world embraced. The last 4 years have shown us that unbridled development has a price. What concerns me is that we may hold on to the attitude that somehow we can get back to “normal” and resume our consumptive habits. I could be wrong, but I think we are going to have to get used to a new normal. The next 30 years will be a time of learning efficient resource use. We are going to pay back some terrible debts that will be a burden for years. I think we will rediscover some ways to have a good life-style without so many material goods.

I can see the beginnings of this now. Gardening, for example, has increased dramatically. A family walk in the park may replace an expensive drive or a trip to a pricey amusement park. I can see an increased need for natural areas, woods, parks, lakeshore, etc. Cars may continue to shrink and use less fuel. Perhaps families will do what my family did often in the 1950's; camp and picnic often with other families. Individuals will likely benefit greatly from education about the world close to home. Bird watchers have enjoyed this world and their numbers are growing strong.

Maybe there is an upside to a poor economy. My parents said that their families often were close and had many simpler pleasures during the 1930's. We must do all we can to see that the next generation has this world to enjoy.

Annual Wood Duck Jump!

Jerry Bahls will again host a special field trip to his home to view the annual jump after a brief recess of the baby wood ducks. The trip (jump) will occur some time 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) after. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

Urban Birding Festival

Saturday June 16th and Sunday June 17th

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is a proud sponsor of the Urban Bird Festival, which include family friendly bird activities at 5 locations (including Springbrook Nature Center, Como Park Zoo, Theodore Wirth Park), throughout Minneapolis St. Paul area.

For more information visit: www.urbanbirdingfestival.org

Board Member Biography

Ernie Gunderson – Treasurer

I grew up on a small farm in East Central Minnesota, a nature lover from the beginning, but I did not identify myself as a birder until later in life. As a youngster, I owned neither binoculars nor guidebooks. Camping, canoeing, and hunting were my favorite pastimes. Then I earned a degree in engineering and moved to Minneapolis.

At the age of 30, I went on my first birding walk with friend. Afterward he gave me an Uncle Foggy audio tape on birdsongs. From then on, I was hooked. I bought more bird tapes and listened to them while driving. I bought binoculars and started looking at birds. In 1995, I went to my first Audubon meeting. In 2005 I became the treasurer of Minneapolis Chapter. In 2008 I became involved in the red headed woodpecker recovery survey at Cedar Creek. I continue to enjoy that project and continue to hone my birding-by-ear skills.

Providing homes for birds in your backyard

Many of us who enjoy watching birds become interested in providing nesting opportunities for the birds around our home. Perhaps a friend has given a gift of a birdhouse. But a wrong type of nesting box placed in the wrong location can actually do more harm than good! It is important to become educated about the species you hope to attract. Before settlers cleared the land for farming and timber, there were many dead trees available with abundant woodpecker holes to provide the necessary real-estate for cavity nesting birds such as Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds. Today, these birds can benefit greatly from artificial nesting boxes, but only if done correctly.

There are plenty of would be Purple Martin houses near where I live, but the majority of them are located in poor habitat and will never attract martins. Martins are colonial nesters, but all too often one sees these condo style houses surrounded by trees, leaning over in disrepair or filled with chirping non-native House Sparrows. These largest of North American swallows are aerial insect hunters that prefer their nest boxes to be at least 60 feet from trees. Being close to a wetland is an added attraction. To be a Purple Martin "Land Lord", it helps to be retired! For a Martin colony to be successful, management is key, including monitoring the nest boxes weekly. It means being able to lower the house easily to check each nesting cavity. Martins are very used to living near us humans – in fact, they prefer being close to human dwellings and activity and tolerate our management. It is important to check for dead nestlings, signs of predation or invasion by aggressive sparrows or starlings. Visit purplemartin.org or Minnesota's own Purple Martin working Group at mnmartn.org to learn a great deal about attracting and managing a martin colony. You will find martin enthusiasts ready to answer your questions. But, the bottom line: don't give a martin house as a gift to yourself or a friend unless you are committed to seeing that the colony will be located correctly and be given the proper attention. Minnesota does not need more nesting House Sparrows! A successful martin colony is a wonderful site to see and hear and very worth the extra effort.

Houses meant for Eastern Bluebirds are often hidden back in shrubs or perched on wooden fence posts or grouped together in great numbers. A shrub or tree line will more likely attract House Wrens than Eastern Bluebirds. A wooden fence post without a predator guard will attract a hungry raccoon looking for a meal of eggs or nestlings. And, finally, more is definitely not better. Bluebirds are territorial and will never nest close to each other. They will tolerate a Tree Swallow pair in a nearby nest box, but not another bluebird. More boxes could mean more House Sparrows. Once again, consider the right habitat. Bluebirds prefer open grassy areas with a nearby post or occasional tree for perching. Minnesota's Bluebird Recovery Program (bbrp.org) is a wonderful very up-to-date resource on how to do right by bluebirds. BBRP recommends mounting all nesting boxes on ½ inch conduit pipe to eliminate predation. All boxes should be cleaned out at the end of the nesting season and checked for needed repairs or replacement. Boxes should be checked weekly during the nesting season.

There are many other types of bird boxes – from Wood Ducks to House Wrens. Check out Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program's Carrol Henderson's book *Woodworking for Wildlife* for ideas and building plans.

But, first, consider habitat, location and your willingness to make a commitment to monitor.

Thanks to Madeleine Linck for this piece!

Eloise Butler Friends' Invasive Plant Action Group Volunteer Program

A trained volunteer leads volunteer crews on evenings or weekends to assist with removing invasive plants from areas just outside of the Wildflower Garden.

This program is a great way to stay connected to the Garden and to give back a little energy when time permits. Events are scheduled throughout the Garden season. You'll get to meet others who are interested in the natural world, while helping to promote the health of the Garden and Wirth Park, one weed at a time.

Saturday April 21st: 2:00—4:00

Sunday April 29th: 2:00—4:00

Saturday May 5th: 2:00—4:00

Saturday May 12th: 10:00—12:00

Sunday May 20th: 2:00—4:00

Sunday June 3rd: 2:00—4:00

To check if a pull has been canceled due to inclement weather, call the Shelter at (612) 370-4903. Via Jim Proctor, Liz Anderson, Ellen Lipschultz, Invasives Co-chairs (invasives@friendsofeloisebutler.org)

Board Member Biography

Madeleine Linck

I moved to Minnesota from my native Massachusetts in 1985. I have a masters degree in biology having spent several years studying the nesting ecology of the Blanding's Turtle. I have worked for Three Rivers Park District since 1990 where my duties include work for The Trumpeter Swan Society, conducting breeding bird surveys, management of Purple Martin colonies and the Park District's reptiles and amphibian populations. I have been an avid birder since college with a strong interest in habitat protection.

Minneapolis Audubon Society

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 31st & Bryant Avenue S for the program and refreshments!

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

Field Trips

Tiffany Bottoms, Wisconsin

Saturday, May 12, 2012, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

May 12th 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 (or 612-729-1566).

Warbler Day Field Trip with Jerry Bahls

Tuesday May 15th, 2012 , 7AM

Some of you are interested in observing the Spring Warbler Migration, but feel inadequate in searching for them or being able to identify them. Here is an opportunity for you. Let them come to you. Warblers love to take a bath shortly after finishing their daily night flight. I have a water feature that draws them to it. I would like to invite you to observe them in my backyard on May 15th beginning at 7:00 am. Please call me at 763 572-2333 to get directions to my house.

UPDATE: Minneapolis Audubon Bird Watching Trips to Ecuador Filling Fast!

Hundreds of new species can be seen by first time South American birders, including 70 to 85 beautiful tanagers and nearly 40 hummingbird species. Plus up to eight Antpitta species, seven Trogons and Quetzals, numerous Toucan species, Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Torrent Duck and much more. Most trip participants see 300 to 400 species. The key to seeing a large number of species in Ecuador is the ease of moving to different habitats around the Andes going to the northwest and then the east. The main trip covers the key sites of Yanacocha Reserve, Bellavista Reserve, Tandayapa's hummingbird feeders, Refugio Paz de Las Aves, Rio Silanche, Milpe Reserve, Papallacta Pass, Guango Lodge, San Isidro, Guacamayos Trail, and the Antisana and Sumaco National Parks. A 5 day extension is available to the Amazonian rainforest, and it will add another 200 species. One of our two October trips is nearly sold out with the second needling just a few more participants. January 2013 trip has room for a few more as well. All lodging, meals and guiding and transport services included for just over \$200 per day. Please call Sue Tertell of Minneapolis Audubon at 612-729-1566 or our partner, Charles Thornton-Kolbe at the Partnership for International Birding at 1-888-203-7464, extension 912, today. More info: <http://www.pibird.com/EcuadorNWPlusBitEast-Main-1.html>

Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has recommended the nomination of John Arthur and Robert Papke for two positions for the Board that expire in 2015. At this time one more of the three year terms need to be nominated for the positions that expire in 2015. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board please call Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333. The names of the recommended candidates will be placed in nomination at the May Special Meeting at the Program Meeting on May 7th and the general membership present will vote on the nominees for election to the Chapter Board.

The Nominating Committee has recommended that Jim Egge serve another year as President, Susan Tertell as Vice-President, Martha Allen as Secretary and Ernie Gunderson as Treasurer. The full Board will elect the slate of candidates at the April Board meeting on April 24th.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis, MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
May/June 2012



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

April

24: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM @ Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center

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

June

26: 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

Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net