



KINGFISHER



MAY/JUNE 2011

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 60 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

I'm often amazed to read or hear stories of common folks who make astonishing impacts on our world. Such was the story on PBS's *Independent Lens* called "Taking Root". Wangari Maathai is a Kenyan woman, educated in America, who returned to Kenya to bring her knowledge to bear on African society. She saw the destruction of forests as an impoverishing activity for her people, so she set out to do something about it.

Wangari mobilized the women where she lived to begin planting trees to rebuild the forests, and to educate the people about erosion. The movement grew into a nationwide program to safeguard the environment and ultimately to defend human rights. She states, "I started planting trees and found myself in the forefront of fighting for the restoration of democracy in my country."

Women in Kenya become impoverished without firewood and clean water. The women's movement gave them a source of pride and accomplishment. They began protests to the government for human rights and against corruption. Wangari was the first woman to earn a doctorate in East Africa and the first woman elected to Parliament. In 2004 she won the Nobel Peace Prize. To read more, search – Independent Lens, "Taking Root".

Continued on page 2

May Issue

Monticello Swans

Article & Photos By Allison Cook

The Trumpeter Swan, our largest native waterfowl species, was hunted almost to extinction. From 1884 - 1966 they were not found in Minnesota. In 1932 there were less than 70 swans in the country. Hennepin Parks, now Three Rivers Park District, began to restore east central Minnesota with slow success in the 1960's. Using the funds from the Non-Game Check Off tax program, the DNR started a recovery program in 1982 to repopulate the Trumpeter Swans in the United States. It was a dream of Steve Kittelson, the DNR's restoration coordinator, to return Swans to Minnesota. When a few breeding pairs were found in Alaska, Kittelson made 3 annual trips bringing back 150 eggs to be raised and released here. Their efforts helped release 215 Swans by 1994. Today there are over 2900 birds in our state, about half of the interior population (the interior includes: South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and Ontario). Over 1200 of these magnificent creatures winter right here in Monticello, Minnesota.

This special section of the Mississippi River stays open all year round due to the power plant upstream. Shallow sloped banks make a perfect place for the Swans to wade, lounge, eat and find a mate. The first pair showed up in 1986.

Continued on Page 6

8th Annual Wood Duck Jump

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 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.

(President's Note continued)

150 years ago, Christopher Columbus Andrews was a St. Cloud lawyer, elected to the Minnesota Senate. He enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 and rose to the rank of brevet major general. He served with the 3rd infantry during the siege of Vicksburg. After the Civil War he became a U.S. diplomat to Sweden where he learned Swedish practices in sustainable timber harvest. He prevailed on the legislature to create the Minnesota Forestry Department. Among his accomplishments were, organizing the first network of fire wardens, establishing the first two state forests, and introducing refor-

estation to Minnesota.

On Saturday, March 26, PBS ran a special on Cousteau's research of the destruction of the rain forest in Brazil. The program grapples with all the intricate problems confronting forest preservation. But rather than leaving the viewer frustrated, the program deals out a large measure of hope that the government has changed its course. The viewer is also left with the feeling that environmental education of small landowners is taking root and is a big part of the solution.

Audubon was one of the first organizations to speak up for sustainable preservation of our environmental heritage. Now

across America and the world, there is a chorus of common folks who together make a huge difference for our future. We still need many more folks to act on their vision and impact as many people as possible. It's fun to show children, for example, the joys of viewing and caring for wildlife. It's been said that the next generation may not attain the monetary wealth that their parents had, but they can enjoy the riches of being a part of a spectacular natural world.

~ Jim Egge

Please speak out to protect Roberts Bird Sanctuary!

In February the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioners announced the formation of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) to identify a site for an off-leash dog park in the Sixth District of the Minneapolis park system. The commissioners presented the CAC with three sites. Two of the three proposed sites are located adjacent to Roberts Bird Sanctuary. The CAC meetings have begun and will continue into May. However, the commissioners are fast-tracking this issue - they want the dog park completed by August 2011. If you are opposed to putting a dog park next to the Sanctuary, please contact the CAC and commissioners NOW. You do not have to live in Minneapolis to express your concern.

Leave an online comment for the CAC: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L7NQWH5>

Send a letter to the CAC (and commissioners): Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis MN 55411; attention: Jennifer Ringold. Find e-mail contact information for the commissioners: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=36>

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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		

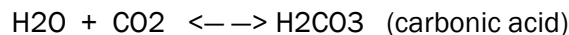
WARMING EFFECTS ON ARCTIC CHEMISTRY

By, Jim Egge

In the Arctic Ocean ice formation is a critical part of the sea's productivity. I had seen pictures of small fish and krill feeding on the ice and I wondered, "What could possibly be there to eat?" Arctic ice is itself a living platform on which a food web is sustained much as on land. Brine channels, networks of cracks and tubes, allow hundreds of bacteria, fungi, and small organisms to grow on nutrients and organic waste within the ice.

When daylight reemergence in Arctic spring triggers the bloom of algae, it grows like curtains under the ice. Algae convert the Sun's energy into food. Zooplankton thrive on the algae, and in turn feed krill, copapods, and pteropods. But ocean acidification is making it increasingly difficult for these shelled plankton to form their shells.

The chemical process works in a way you wouldn't expect. Scientists believe that ice acts like a giant pool cover which does two things. The ice reflects radiant heat keeping water cooler. Also the ice prevents CO₂ from being absorbed by the water. CO₂ acidifies water by the equilibrium:



The acid produced is the same acid that gives soda pop its tartness. As the oceans acidify, pteropods and other plankton find it difficult to grow their shells.

On the pH scale of 0 – 14 neutral is 7. 7 plus is alkaline and 0 – 7 is acid. Seawater is normally around 8, but if it drops to 7.80 or less, the water becomes undersaturated with a form of calcium carbonate called aragonite. If pteropods are placed in acidified seawater, their shells begin to dissolve. A French researcher tested pteropods in normal seawater, and a second group at 7.78 pH, which scientists predict will occur by 2029. In a 6 hour test, pteropods grew 28% more slowly in the acidic water.

Most scientists tend to be conservative in their predictions. Indeed Canadian scientists have already noticed mildly acidified seawater in the summer of 2008, at a level which is strong enough for concern for pteropods. Take out an important member of the food chain and the whole system collapses.

Read the full article from "On Earth" magazine, Spring 2011, published by NRDC. Writer Bruce Barcott is the author of "The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw"

Take a tour of Kotzebue, Alaska and hear Bruce Barcott discuss how climate change is affecting the culture at www.onearth.org/media

We're still looking for someone to chair the Conservation Committee and for committee members. Volunteering with this committee is a great way to support birds and the environment. The chair position could be shared by two people and does not have to start officially until the fall. Please visit the ACM website for more information:

www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org

Join us for bird walks at the Spring WingDing on Saturday, April 30 at 10 am and 11 am

Audubon Park at 29th Av NE & Buchanan St NE in Minneapolis is holding its third annual Spring WingDing on Saturday, April 30. The Audubon Neighborhood Association sponsors the festival, which honors urban ecology. The ACM has been involved with this family-friendly event since its beginnings and we are pleased to be leading bird walks through the park again this year. Jim Williams and Susan Anderson will lead walks at 10 am and 11 am. The walks will start at the park building.

After the walks, stay for the food, fun, and games for kids as well as other environmentally-themed activities. The Spring WingDing is from 11 am to 2 pm. For more information, visit <http://audubonneighborhood.org/WingDing>

BIRD LORE in the COMICS

Each of these characters was played in the comics or cartoons by a talented avian actor. See if you know the bird species or family each of these characters is from. If you get more than six you were probably born before 1970.

- 1) Woodstock
- 2) Uncle Scrooge
- 3) Chilly Willy
- 4) Woody (species)
- 5) Howland
- 6) Spy vs. Spy
- 7) Foghorn
- 8) Tweety
- 9) Beaky
- 10) Baby Huey
- 11) Wiley's anticipated lunch (Velocitous incredbilous)
- 12) Daffy

Answers listed on Page 7!

Continued from Page 2

Call 6th District Commissioner Brad Bourn: 612-230-6443 ext 6 and President John Erwin (Commissioner At Large): 612-230-6443 ext 7. Some things to consider about the dog park issue:

The ACM is not opposed to dog parks in general. We just believe they should not be put next to a bird sanctuary or the Peace Garden (which is next to Roberts Bird Sanctuary). There are many places to put a dog park that are not located next to one of only two bird sanctuaries and the only Peace Garden in Minneapolis.

The conditions at Roberts Bird Sanctuary are not ideal; however, this is not a reason to add to the existing stressors placed on birds at the Sanctuary by putting a dog park next to the Sanctuary. We're making progress enhancing the Sanctuary through the Roberts Revitalization Project, a joint project with the MPRB and two neighborhood organizations. Please speak out now to prevent this progress from taking a giant step backwards.

The three proposed sites are not the only suitable sites for a dog park in the 6th District; the MPRB can and should expand the search for a site to additional areas.

For more information about the dog park issue and for updates, please visit the ACM website:

www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org

~*Come to Our Next Program*~

An Idiosyncratic Selection of Bird Photographs – Jim Williams, Minneapolis StarTribune

From the files of Jim Williams, who photographs birds and writes about them for the Minneapolis StarTribune. You can read his blog at www.startribune.com/blogs/wingnut. Jim Williams has been watching birds and writing about their antics since before "Gilligan's Island" went into reruns. Join him on his blog for his unique insights, his everyday adventures and an open conversation about the birds in your back yard and beyond.

May 3, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Mayflower Church, Minneapolis

Upcoming Minneapolis Audubon Society Program

Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)

Friday, May 13, 2011 1 p.m.

Stephen Saupe, professor of biology at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University will whet our appetites with "The Natural History of Edible Wild Plants." Please join us for the program and refreshments. All are welcome. For more information call [952-926-4205](tel:952-926-4205).

CONTACT: Barbara Franklin

Minneapolis Audubon Society

[763-657-1907](tel:763-657-1907) bbfrankli@gmail.com



Come help pull garlic mustard this spring! Garlic mustard is easy to pull and beginners are welcome. We provide all the supplies including gloves. With your help, we may be able to clear enough garlic mustard from some of the pull sites to do some planting with native plants and/or seeds. If you'd like to bring a group to either site to pull on a date that is not listed, please contact Michelle Kellogg at the MPRB at 612.313.7778.

Roberts Bird Sanctuary (north side of Lake Harriet):

- April 23 Saturday 1 - 3:30 p.m.
- May 4 Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- May 28 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- June 5 Sunday 1 - 3:30 p.m.

William Berry Woods (west of William Berry Parkway & south of Richfield Road between lakes Harriet and Calhoun):

- April 30 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- May 7 Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- May 11 Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- May 25 Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Help Write the Book on MN Breeding Birds!

It's spring at last! For participants in the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (MNBBA) this is the long awaited harbinger of the new season of field surveys. There are lots of species that nest in the spring and we want to know who and where they are as a warm-up to the major breeding season in June and July.

If you have signed-up to survey a block, now is the time to look for early breeders (like owls, geese and woodpeckers, oh my!) with the goal to wrap up your block this year. Ready for more metro birding? There are still a few blocks left in the western metro that need to be adopted.

If you are not ready to adopt a block, but want to contribute critical observations to the Atlas, you can make visits to metro blocks that are already partially done. Contact Lee Pfanmuller (leefann@msn.com) for local blocks that need some help.

For the more adventurous, or if you want to go birding in new landscapes, check out available blocks (go to mnbba.org) and visit areas in Greater Minnesota. You may be surprised what you will find and there is great birding habitat everywhere in the state. Other adventures in store for this season include weekend block-busting events, 1-day block blitzes, and in June, the Cheesehead Challenge. Unfortunately, MNBBA funding is currently uncertain, so details are yet to be confirmed; stay tuned! More information will be available on the website as we get closer to summer. Questions? Contact Lee or Bonnie Sample (bsample@audubon.org).

LANDLUBBER "SHOREBIRDS"

- 1) What predominantly land dwelling "shorebird" fakes a broken wing in its distraction display? Its call falsely claims to be a buck hunter.
- 2) This bird builds nests in medium grass prairie sometimes with a "roof" over the nest. Its figure 8 displays are unique, and whistles in flight. It will hover over anything that comes close to a nest. Its name implies holy origin.
- 3) This bird's landing resembles a falling leaf. It eats earthworms and also insects. Outer primaries produce a whistling flight. Its name tells you where to find it.
- 4) Cinnamon underwing linings differentiate this bird from the whimbrel. Now likely extinct.
- 5) In flight, tailfeathers produce a woo woo woo sound reminiscent of a screech owl. Flexible bill makes up 1/3 of total length. Futile hunts during initiations, carried out for these birds.
- 6) This bird flies to Argentina in winter. Its song is a yodeling whistle often while flying or landing. This long-necked bird became a target after the demise of the Passenger Pigeon.
- 7) This bird has not been recently recorded in MN. It nests in short grass prairie and medium elevations, belying its name. Winter and breeding plumages almost the same, unmottled throughout.

Continued from Page 1 Swans are in greatest numbers from November thru February. They stay in their family groups until early spring when they spread throughout Minnesota to nest and raise their young. The Adults are pure white and the young or cygnets are gray for the first year.

Sheila and Jim Lawrence have been feeding the wintering swans for over 20 years. They can be found next to the Swan Park where you can overlook the wintering swans. Sheila goes out every morning around 9:30-10 to feed the birds some 1500 pounds of corn. That's \$112-\$114 a day! The Lawrence's pay for remaining costs that donations do not cover, about \$9,500 a season. There is no reimbursement from Monticello, the Chamber of commerce, the state, DNR, or the Chickadee Check Off. Sheila is an invaluable resource for these Swans, not only does she give them the food resources they need to winter in Monticello, she has been keeping excellent records of tagged birds seen and numbers of young.

Donations can be sent to:

The Swan Lady
117 Mississippi Drive
Monticello, MN 55362

[EDITOR'S NOTE: On April 2nd, 2011, Sheila Lawrence passed away due to a battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Monticello Trumpeter Swan Fund, US Bank Monticello Office, 307 Pine St, Monticello, MN 55362]



Nature and Wildlife Art Show

Join the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America for their Nature and Wildlife Art show at the Breckenridge Chapter House (8816 West River Road Brooklyn Park, MN). Members of the chapter, friends, and the public are invited to attend this free art show and are also invited to submit works of art. You may submit framed nature and wildlife paintings, photographs, and sculptures. Cost to enter into the show: \$10 for each work of art submitted. For more information contact: John @ (763) 202-3346 or imgahn2u@yahoo.com

Friday June 24 6:00PM—10:00PM Opening Reception, Refreshments, Music, Art/Craft Booths

Saturday June 25 11:00AM—8:00PM Kids Activities, Nature Crafts, Music, Art/Craft Booths

Sunday June 26 11:00AM—5:00PM Kids Activities, Nature Crafts, Music, Art/Craft Booths

Tuesday June 28 6:00PM—10:00PM Awards at 7, Presentation by Don Luce 7:30PM

AUDUBON LENDING LIBRARY - A REMINDER!

"Going Birding -- Anywhere?" The Audubon Lending Library has a variety of field guides (and a few coffee table books) for loan. These are for specific countries and national locations. In addition, we need to update our list of willing lenders.

If you have a field guide that you would be willing to lend to a fellow Audubon-er, please call [612-922-4586](tel:612-922-4586) or email Dorene Scriven at (dhscriven@comcast.net) with the title and author, and your name, phone number and/or email.

Give a brief description, and specify a paperback, and approximate size. (We don't need more general books like Sibley, Peterson, National Geographic, etc. unless they are localized.)

Have a birding trip planned? Call (or, preferably, email) Dorene to see if one is available for your destination. All arrangements are made between the lender and the borrower.

Bylaw Changes

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has approved the following Bylaw changes and will put the changes before the Annual Membership Meeting on May 3rd for approval. The Board has made these recommendations because of problems recruiting candidates for President. Currently the President may serve for only two consecutive terms of one year (total of two years). The Bylaw change will allow a member to serve up to four consecutive terms.

The remaining changes are updating language to reflect current practices. The proposed changes are the following (line out is old language and underlined is new language) –

BYLAW 4 OFFICERS

Section 2. The president may hold office for not more than two (2) ~~four (4)~~ successive one-year terms. All other officers shall serve for one (1) year terms, and may be re-elected to successive terms.

BYLAW 5 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 2. (last sentence) ...shall be publicized in the May/~~June~~ KINGFISHER.

PARK FEEDERS COMMITTEE

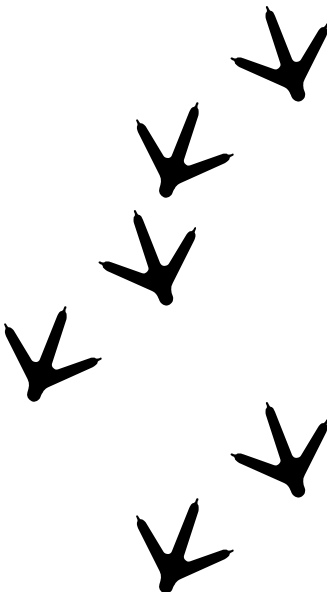
It shall be the duty of this committee to purchase bird feed, fill and maintain the bird feeders at Lake Nokomis, Wirth Park and Lake Harriet Roberts Bird Sanctuary.

BYLAW 8 BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM and RED-HEADED WOODPECKER RECOVERY

... chapter, the Bluebird Recovery Program (BBRP) and the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) shall be responsible for programs that benefit the long term survival of the bluebird, red-headed woodpecker and other cavity...

Answers from Page 4

- 1) Goldfinch or Canary
 - 2) Duck
 - 3) Penguin
 - 4) Woodpecker (prob. Redheaded or Pileated)
 - 5) Owl
 - 6) Crow
 - 7) Leghorn chicken
 - 8) Canary
 - 9) Buzzard (Vulture)
 - 10) Goose
 - 11) Roadrunner
 - 12) Blackduck
- Questions & answers courtesy of Jim Egge



Answers from Page 5

- 1) Killdeer
- 2) Marbled godwit
- 3) Woodcock
- 4) Eskimo curlew
- 5) Common snipe
- 6) Upland sandpiper
- 7) Mountain plover

Questions & answers courtesy of Jim Egge

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KINGFISHER
May/June 2011



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

26: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM, Uptown Lunds

30: Spring WingDing, 11AM-2PM, Audubon Park, Lincoln St & 29th Ave NE, Minneapolis

May

3: Program Meeting, "An Idiosyncratic Selection of Bird Photographs" with Jim Williams, 7-9PM, Mayflower Church

15: Field Trip to Tiffany Bottoms, 8AM-2PM

24: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM, Uptown Lunds

June

28: Board Meeting, 7-8:45PM, Uptown Lunds

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