



KINGFISHER



MAY/JUNE 2013

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 62 No. 3

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has recommended the nomination of Jim Sharpsteen for a position for the Board that expire in 2016. At this time two more of the three year terms need to be nominated for the positions that expire in 2016. 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 Jerry Bahls serve a one year term as President, John Arthur as Vice-President, Martha Allen as Secretary and Bob Dunn as Treasurer. The full Board will elect the slate of candidates at the April Board meeting on April 23rd.

May Issue

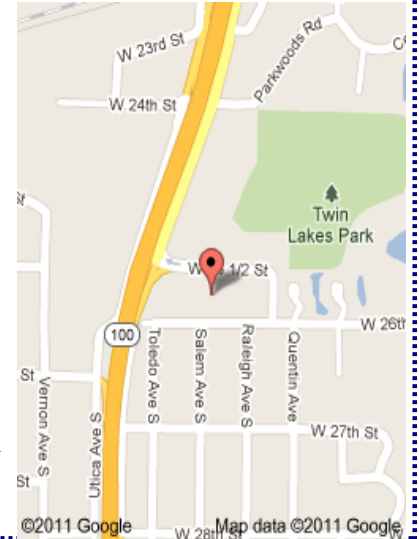
Tuesday, May 7:

Clay Christensen, "Nests"

Clay writes a column about birds and bird watching called "The Birdman of Lauderdale," for the *St. Anthony Park Bugle*. And he's writing a book of the same title, due out this October. His articles have appeared in *Minnesota Birding* and St. Paul Audubon's *Cardinal*. He blogs at www.BirdmanofLauderdale.com.

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.*



Seeking ACM Board Candidate!

The Chapter is seeking a candidate to serve on the ACM board for 3 years. Now this might sound like a bit of a challenge - well it is! What is required is the the joy of contributing to building worthwhile goals and participating in their accomplishment. A candidate does not need a degree in wildlife biology. But a desire to see that birds get their due attention is essential. Also our board meets monthly except Dec. and attendance at public monthly meetings is encouraged and desired. Many of us meet as many meetings as we can though other commitments allow tolerance for omissions.

So if this tickles your fancy, call Jerry Bahls (at 763.572.2333) or Bob Papke (at 763.545.8072). *Go for it!*

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Egge

What a great time of the year! Birders really get excited to get out looking for migrants that haven't been Minnesota residents for over half a year. But not all birders are after the same thing. Most birders watch birds just for the fun of it. Bird behavior is so fascinating that they can watch just a few birds and get immense enjoyment. If an unusual bird shows up that just adds to the excitement. I hope that even the most experienced never get too far past that basic love of watching birds.

But then there's the group that has to keep track of everything and write it down. Counts and tallies are the bailiwick of this group, which includes in their vocabulary, terms like "first county bird" and "lifer". Often this group (of which I am a member) isn't as concerned about behavior as it is about documentation. These birders have a passion for adding to their "lists". Now if a birder can find the right balance between the above 2 paragraphs, they may be the most satisfied birders and may rightly be referred to as "naturalists."

I haven't made my mind up yet about bird photographers. They are always lugging around heavy-looking stuff. I have all I can do just finding the bird, let alone getting it to sit still long enough to take a picture. But these folks have the joy of sorting through the results of their efforts and reliving the experience on a different level.

Whatever your passion, there are ways to multiply it by sharing it with others. I'm not the best birder around. But even though I don't know all the calls, and my eyesight isn't what it once was, I still get a kick out of birding in a group and seeing someone else get excited about the difference between a calling male and female oriole. Or someone hearing their first Canada warbler singing its head off. It's especially satisfying when those "someones" are kids learning to use binoculars.

I believe that as parents, grandparents, or friends, we find special attachments to that child that seems to delight in some of the same things that delight us. It's certainly worth the effort if we can pull kids away from their electronic world, and get them outdoors to enjoy nature. Many of the readers of this article practically grew up outdoors as a child. As kids we roamed the city of Willmar, MN and its environs, exploring for hours, while our parents didn't have a clue or worry about where we were.

Continued on following page

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

ACM ANNOUNCEMENTS

--Coffee Drinkers – Give our migrants a break by drinking bird-safe coffee. Coffee that is not shade-grown uses pesticides which kill many birds such as dickcissels. When they make coffee plantations, they destroy valuable wildlife habitat by cutting down forest cover. I have stopped buying coffee in restaurants. I ask if their coffee is certified shade-grown, just to let them know that they should make it available on their menu.

Buy Peace Coffee from our local chapter, and help the birds, help ACM education programs, and drink the best coffee available. Jim 612-827-7629 Price - \$10.50 per 12 oz pack.

--Wanted – Coordinator/Leader for bird trips. You need not be an expert birder as there are usually good birders who will go along on trips. Time involved is whatever suits you and how many trips are lined up.

--Would you like to have a T-shirt to show your pride in Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis? We have designed and received a handsome 5-color print, tan shirt showing 4 birds representative of the chapter; Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Bluebird, and Chimney Swift. Price is \$15.00 for a limited quantity of M, L, and XL.

--We are looking for some writers from our membership to submit articles or stories of birds and related topics. Stories of unusual sightings, bird behavior, or wildlife experiences are welcome. Email submissions to aubullet2@yahoo.com or jobaud@comcast.net

Remembering Dorothy Brindle

Dorothy Brindle passed away about a month ago. Dorothy was a long time member of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and was a mainstay at all the programs for many, many years. She served as the Mailing Chair for many years in the 1980's and early '90's. She enjoyed field trips and traveling to see birds. As with others recently, we will miss her. Good birding, Dorothy!

President's Note—continued

How many kids get to grow up like that today? That was real freedom. We would go down to the creek, leave our bikes in the grass and catch sticklebacks with our bare hands. Those experiences have affected everything I've done in my life since. But even though our world has changed, thanks to visionaries like Lowry and Roberts, we have beautiful natural areas close by with abundant wildlife.

Paul Fusco recently did 4 presentations at Cornelia Elementary on Ducks and I helped out. I believe that if we just went to the school and showed a few pictures, the kids could produce the rest of the program. Every kid has stories to tell and would love to share them with the whole class. Adults willing to listen and reciprocate can fuel a passion in kids that will last into adulthood.

I spend a great deal of time thinking about ways that we at Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis can have a greater positive impact on our community. What ideas and talents do you have that can benefit our natural world in the Minneapolis area. We want to hear them and possibly put them into action. But to have a vibrant organization we need people and their willingness to put in time and enthusiasm to help our community flourish.

Loon Magic

Last summer I had such a fabulous day on my favorite lake, I thought I should share it with you.

I have been going to this particular lake once or twice a year for the past twenty years. My favorite part is seeing and sometimes hearing the loons. It is a good sized, beautifully clear, spring fed lake that, at times, has been known to have as many as eight pairs of nesting loons. I am usually there each year in early June for a picnic, and we spend some of that time cruising the lake on a friend's pontoon appreciating the scenery and wildlife. Since the loons are abundant on this lake, most times we are able to spot the adults along with their young ones. They're used to boat traffic so it's not unusual for them to get quite close to us. This year I did see parents with their young, but the water was so choppy it was impossible to get good photos.

I was determined to get some good photos of these loons. So I asked another friend if I could come out to her cabin early some morning and we could go pontooning in search of the loon families. On the agreed-upon date, I got up before sunrise so I could get there by early light. When I arrived Judy told me it was the first time in all the years they have had their cabin that they didn't hear the loons calling during the night or that morning. I was a bit disheartened to hear this but said, let's go see what we can find.

As we started out on that beautiful quiet morning we actually heard some loons calling, but couldn't pinpoint where they were. Suddenly we saw them. Flying overhead..... a dozen or more of them. Then we saw four more trailing behind. But they were flying away from the lake! It was amazing, as neither of us had ever before seen that many loons flying together. Were they all leaving? No, I spotted one in the water ahead of us. It dove, and the search was on. We proceeded to check out other bays but were not having a lot of luck. We needed to find them because the day was beautiful and the early morning light was perfect.

Then I spotted another adult in the water ahead. It was very close to us and all of a sudden it started to wail, which is a call they use to locate young ones or their mate. I have never been so close to a loon when they were calling. Goosebumps everywhere! It was absolutely amazing and I will never forget how it made me feel. We slowly and cautiously followed the adult into another bay, where she caught up with her chick – all the while, the two of them calling back and forth. She then proceeded to teach the chick how to fish. The adult dives down, catches a fish and stuns it. Then they drop it back into the water, making the chick dive down after it. I got good shots of all of this. How excited was I? On top of all that I got several shots where the lighting was just right to show off the beautiful red eyes of the adults.

After we came back to the cabin to enjoy the rest of our perfect morning, two adult loons came up close to the lakeside deck where we were sitting. This opportunity was definitely about the glory of the journey and to top it off, I got some great photos.

Judy lent me a great book on loons called "The Loon, Voice of the Wilderness" by Joan Dunning. I highly recommend it. It will teach you when you should not be approaching the loons and what their different calls mean along with many other fascinating facts.

By Sher Curry

North Metro Summer Joint Programs

Again this summer as part of our outreach to our northern membership, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League – Breckenridge Chapter will hold joint meetings over the summer on June 25th, July 23rd and August 27th at 7:30 pm. The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at – 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park. Go to www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org later this month for scheduled speakers or check the July/August 2013 *Kingfisher* that will be delivered in late June. For more information call 763 572-2333.

Are you interested in birding outside the U. S.?

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, working with Partnership for International Birding (pibird.com), is planning some international birding trips for 2014 and 2015. Below are some of the trips we are considering. We would like to hear from our membership what sounds most interesting. Is there a place you would love to go that isn't listed? Please let us know by e-mailing audubonminneapolis@gmail.com.

Costa Rica: This 9-day trip will be priced at about \$2,000, excluding airfare of about \$600. Costa Rica has many different ecosystems to explore, including dry land forest, rain forest, mangrove swamps, and cloud forest. For a complete list of birds, see the PIB website, but of course the scarlet macaws, resplendent quetzals, and large variety of parrots, trogons, parakeets, and many lesser-known species is remarkable.

Panama: A 10-day trip for approximately \$2,200 excluding airfare. A possibility of 350 species, including spectacled owls, blue-crowned marmots, toucans, several kingfisher species, blue-billed herons, many hummingbirds, and much more.

Brazil's Atlantic forest: A 9-day trip for about \$2,700. This area is rich in endemics. Most trips find 260 to 280 species, including 95 Atlantic forest specialties.

Ecuador: This trip was offered in 2012, and the participants were very pleased with the number of birds found. Ecuador is sometimes called the "birdiest country", and you will find that true on this trip. Cost is about \$2,000 for ten days. Up to 40 hummingbird species and 80 tanager species and many others.

Gambia/Senegal: This 10-day trip, with 9 full days of birding, is a real bargain at about \$2,700. The species diversity is high, with resident birds, trans-African migrants, and European migrants at certain times of the year. Key species include Egyptian plover, bearded barbet, red-throated bee-eater, blue-breasted kingfisher, Abyssinian ground hornbill, Sudan golden sparrow, Savile's bustard, pied-winged swallow, violet turaco, and more.

Eastern Africa (Kenya, Uganda): A highlight of this trip, other than the wonderful array of birds, is the viewing of other African wildlife, especially the large mammals. A two-week trip allows viewing of many bird species – see the PIB website for more information. This would be a two-week trip and many itineraries are possible. The cost would be approximately \$3,800.

India: This two-week trip allows viewing of many Asian birds. India has a large variety of ecosystems, from the western semi-deserts to the irrigated lowlands to the foothills of the Himalayas and forest interspersed with savannah grasslands. About \$3,100.

Galapagos: There are 28 endemic species in the Galapagos, and you have a good chance of seeing most of them including the Charles Mockingbird, Galápagos Martin, and all the Darwin finches -including the super rare Mangrove Finch.

Prices this far ahead of time are approximate, since itinerary and local costs can vary. For all of these trips, the groups are small to allow every participant to see as much as possible. The guides will be the top-rated ones for the country, and lodging will be in 4-star hotels and eco-lodges.

Again, let us know where you are interested in birding!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis co-sponsors these trips as a fund-raising tool for the programs the chapter offers, such as educational programs with local schools, local events in which we have a presence such as the Monarch Festival, the Wild Ones conference, and other conferences and meetings where we sponsor a table, chimney swift towers, and other important educational efforts.

2013 Urban Birding Festival at Theodore Wirth Park

All activities welcome walk ups at the start of the program unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, June 8th

- 7:30am to 9am** **Early Birders** at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
Meet at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden parking lot
Walk ups welcome
- 10:30am to 12pm** **Birding at the Quaking Bog**
Meet at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden parking lot
Walk ups welcome
- 10:30am to 12pm** **Birding by Canoe for Families*** *pre-registration required*
Meet at the Wirth Boat Launch
Walk ups welcome if space available
- 11am to 12pm** **Birding Basics** at Wirth Park
Meet at Wirth Beach parking lot
Walk ups welcome
- 8:45pm to 9:45pm** **New Moon Creatures of the Night Walk**
Meet at Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden parking lot
Walk ups welcome
Fee: \$5/person; \$10/family

Sunday, June 9th

- 9:30am to 11am** **Watching Birds with Your Ears**
Meet at the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter
Walk ups welcome
- 11am to 12pm** **Birding Basics** at Wirth Park
Meet at Wirth Beach parking lot
Walk ups welcome
- 1pm to 2pm** **Feeding Birds in the City*** *pre-registration required*
Meet at the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter
Walk ups welcome if space available
- 1pm to 2pm** **Birding Basics** at Wirth Park
Meet at the Martha Crone Visitors Shelter
Walk ups welcome

On Going Weekend Events:

- Binoculars to borrow at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
Self Guided Bird Game Trail at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
Volunteer Master Naturalist docents

Wood Lake Nature Center Events!

Environmental Book Club

Join other adults to discuss some wonderful environmental and outdoor recreation based books. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! Books are available at local libraries and/or are available for the lowest price through addall.com

May 7th: *The Eternity of Eagles* by Stephen Bodio

Please call to register [612-861-9365](tel:612-861-9365)

6:30pm-8pm, \$5/person, Free for members

Operation Buckthorn!

Roll up your sleeves and use your muscles to help in a park-wide buckthorn pull. Refreshments will be served following the event. Please bring work gloves if you have them. All ages and groups are encouraged to help!

Sunday, May 5

1-4pm

FREE

~*~Spring Bird Hikes at Silverwood Park~*~

In spring, every week a different wave of migrating birds visits Silverwood to rest up on their way back north. Enjoy an evening seeking out these colorful spring visitors as they pass through Silverwood Park! Binoculars available for loan. Walk-ins welcome.

Wednesday 4/17: 6:00—7:30PM

Wednesday 4/24: 6:00—7:30PM

Wednesday 5/1: 6:00—7:30PM

Wednesday 5/8: 6:00—7:30PM

Wednesday 5/15: 6:00—7:30PM

Location of Silverwood Park: 2500 County Rd. E St. Anthony, MN 55421

For more information call: (763) 694-7707

Restricted to participants age 16 and older. SW Public Programs: \$5.00 fee.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
May/June 2013

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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.

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

23: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

May

7: Program: Clay Christensen, *Nests*, 7-9PM @ Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

28: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

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

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net