



# KINGFISHER



May/June 2014

Vol. 63 No. 3

## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

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### Upcoming Programs

All **Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Program meetings** are held at 7:00 PM at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park 55416 (unless otherwise noted\*)

**Tuesday, May 6, 2014: "Butterflies"** - Dean Hanson, photographer and local leader of North American Butterfly Association counts, will talk about his photographs.



### 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 on **June 24th, July 22nd and August 26th at 7:30 pm**. The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at – 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park. Please circle these dates on your calendar. Watch for announcements of speakers this summer. Tell a friend and bring a friend.

### Tiffany Bottoms Train Trip

Saturday, May 3rd 2014– 1:00-5:00

There are still spaces left for this wonderful open-air train adventure in beautiful Wisconsin. Cost is \$15 members \$20 non-members. Check website for more details or contact Ginny at [ginnymay@comcast.net](mailto:ginnymay@comcast.net) or (612) 377-0146

### Bird Quiz - By Jim Egge

1. What famous cuisine comes "under glass"?
2. What bird is found on a British farthing?
3. "An \_\_\_\_\_ around the neck refers to an impediment"
4. A famous warplane was called "The ruptured \_\_\_\_\_"
5. Which bird is on the MN tax check-off?

**Quiz Answers are on Page 3.**

### Minneapolis Audubon May Meeting

Friday, May 9, 2014



The Minneapolis Audubon Society will meet Friday, May 9 at 1 p.m. at the Bryant Square Neighborhood Center. Nature photographer Nadav Cassuto will present "Photographing with the Birds" – a study of bird migration. The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, 3101 Bryant Ave. S, Mpls, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes. Please join us for the program and refreshments! For more information call 763-533-8381.

CONTACT: Barbara Franklin Minneapolis Audubon Society  
763-657-1907 [bbfrankli@gmail.com](mailto:bbfrankli@gmail.com)



## From the President

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) is well into revamping our newsletter, website and display boards. We greatly desire your feedback on what we've done. Send any comments to Cathy Bailly, Bob Papke or Jerry Bahls. We have shut off the Comments area on the website because of the many non-relevant comments that we get. Send your comments directly to us. Check out and post on our Facebook page. "Like" us also, so that you can get last minute updates on programs, field trips and other activities. Please, also let us know if ACM should open a Twitter site.

ACM received a \$1000 Collaborative Grant from the National Audubon Society to study the effectiveness of window treatments to prevent bird collisions. We are in the process of selecting home owners to participate in the study. To find out how you may participate, please see related article on page 5.

On the financial side, ACM will be approving a new Financial Investment Policy, which will provide the Board with a set of guidelines to use to invest our assets in these very low-interest times.

This is also the time when the chapter needs to find members interested in serving on our Board. Each year we have three positions open for 3-year terms. This year Madeleine Linck and Kit Healy terms as Board members will expire. We thank them for their great service. We currently also have one position open whose term will expire in May 2015. The good news is Judy Hamm has agreed to be our Treasurer. She has excellent credentials, currently working as a Controller. See article on Board Member job description. Finally we really need a Conservation Chair to direct our many Conservation activities, such as work at Roberts Bird Sanctuary, Advocacy work at the Capitol, the bird-window study and others as they arise.

To better serve our northern membership, ACM will again be holding joint programs this June, July and August with the Breckenridge Chapter of the Isaac Walton League. Watch for program information on our website and in this and future *Kingfishers*.

We are still looking for members to write articles for the *Kingfisher* on "Birding Sites in Metro Area", "Feeding Birds" and "Conservation Advocacy". If you are interested in becoming a columnist for the *Kingfisher*, contact Cathy Bailly at (612) 267-9098 or by e-mail at [eaglessoar1964@gmail.com](mailto:eaglessoar1964@gmail.com). Feedback on the newsletter changes can be made to Cathy or to me at 763 572-2333 or [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net). Thanks for your help and Good Birding!

Jerry Bahls, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the Audubon Chapter is to inform and educate our members and the public about birds and other wildlife and the demands that a large metropolitan center puts on their habitat, to engage in advocacy to preserve, protect and improve existing habitat and to develop and maintain new bird and wildlife sanctuaries, including backyards, to enhance the human experience.

## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2013-2014 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	(763) 572-2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Vice President	John Arthur		jarthur@visi.com
Treasurer New!	Judy Hamm		judybirds@att.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Cathy Bailly	(612) 267-9098	eaglessoar1964@gmail.com
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		<b>MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890</b>
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

## Volunteers

### Volunteers Needed

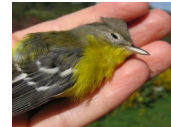
**Board Members** - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking qualified persons to serve on its Board. The three new Board members would serve 3-year terms expiring in May 2017. It is estimated that the time required would be about 4-hours/month. The Board meets every month except in December and July.

**Conservation Committee Chair** - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking a person to chair our Conservation Committee. The Chair guides the chapter Conservation Committee on environmental issues and projects. An example is the continuing support of the Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Some critical issues with Roberts will be coming up in the near future in connection with the sewer work that will take place there in the winter of 2014 – 15. Time required is about 4 – 6 hours/month.

**Webmaster** - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking a qualified person to be our webmaster. The webmaster would manage all our electronic communications sites. The webmaster would update and post new material on our Website and Facebook pages.

If you are a newly retired, empty nester or just want to help out, contact Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net). Or contact any Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board member. Thanks for helping us!

### BirdSafe Volunteers needed



Audubon Minnesota's Project BirdSafe is an effort to reduce bird-window collisions. Part of the project is made possible by a stellar team of volunteers who walk research routes in Minneapolis and St. Paul every morning during spring and fall migration. Any birds found, alive or dead, are collected and either released, taken to rehabilitation or logged into the University of Minnesota collections. Interested in learning more? Please contact Joanna Eckles at (651) 739-9332 x 11 or [jeckles@audubon.org](mailto:jeckles@audubon.org).

### Please join me in welcoming our new Treasurer, Judy Hamm!

Judy Hamm and her partner, Bill, live in Fridley with their two dogs. She graduated with a degree in Accounting, worked as a CPA for five years and has spent the last 27 years working as the Controller for a small manufacturing firm. Judy has also been an avid birder for 30 years, since she put out her first birdfeeder. Her vast talent and shared avian passion will truly be an asset to our organization! Judy, as Treasurer, is also our newest Board Officer. Welcome to the team Judy!  
Cathy Bailly

From Judy: "I am very honored to be chosen as Treasurer of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and am excited to give back to something so important as our birds, nature and life. Happy Birding Everyone! Judy Hamm

**Quiz Answers, from page 1:** 1. Pheasant 2. Wren 3. Albatross 4. Duck 5. Chickadee

## Education

### Angry Birds and Bees- Neonicotinoids

By Judy Chucker



The morning of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the north central Minnesota town, of Elbow Lake, promised a high of 75°. At first glance, the surrounding landscape still seemed dormant--brown and drab from the long winter. Nevertheless, the willows were flowering. Beekeeper Steve Ellis had placed his beehives in a holding area after returning from pollinating crops in California. It was warm enough that half of these bees were out foraging.

Ellis is still speaking out about what happened next. A quarter mile away, a farmer was planting corn using a pneumatic device that forcefully projected seed into the soil. The process kicked up a huge cloud of dust that drifted over the landscape. Immediately afterward, Ellis found some bees twitching in spasms on their backs, some already dead, some on willow branches dazed and unresponsive. By day's end, he had lost half of his bees from those hives.

What happened to Mr. Ellis' bees is the effect of "neonicotinoids", a class of systemic pesticides introduced in the 1990's. The corn kernels being planted had been coated with one of these pesticides. Thus, in the exhausted dust that floated over the landscape, the bees did not need to be actively pollinating pesticide-treated crops to receive a lethal dose.

The problem is much bigger than the plight of the honeybee, a complex issue that is not limited to pesticides. Had any bird the size of a Blue Jay grabbed just one coated corn kernel that would have been its last supper. While smaller treated seeds, such as wheat or canola may also kill a bird, it takes only 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a corn kernel to interfere with reproduction during the egg-laying season.

This information was released in the report: "[The Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticide on Birds](#)" by [The American Bird Conservancy \(ABC\) in March, 2013](#)". Co-authored by environmental toxicologist, Dr. Pierre Mineau and ABC's Cynthia Palmer, it is a scathing indictment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) procedure for determining neonicotinoid usage. It continues to permit registrations of this irreversibly-acting insecticide for ever greater numbers of agricultural and nonagricultural uses. Yet, the ABC study examined reports from the EPA's assessment phase and found that it had plenty of major risk concerns that appeared to have been ignored. Instead, despite early reports of wildlife toxicity and

contamination of aquatic systems, regulators have simply relied upon "precautionary labeling" as a measure against the tremendous risks. Also, in using the wrong bird species to base their findings, and not those at most risk of exposure, the toxicity ratings are greatly underestimated.

Due to neonicotinoids persistence and mobility, the risks extend to aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, killing the food upon which birds depend. Already, scientists worldwide are discovering surface and groundwater contamination at levels that exceed those necessary to kill many aquatic invertebrates.

How did such a toxic class of insecticides grow to become the one most widely used worldwide? The neonicotinoids replaced the organophosphates, a class of "contact" insecticides that were sprayed on the plants. While extremely toxic for 1-3 weeks, they did not persist in the environment. Also, flowers that opened after spraying did not contain the insecticide. Conversely, the application method of organophosphates created unwanted drift with non-targeted effects. Once it was determined those organophosphates affected the nervous systems of humans and other vertebrates, neonicotinoids rose in prominence to become the most widely used insecticide in the world.

University of Minnesota entomologist, Dr. Vera Krishchik, who helped develop this new type of pesticide, explained that its original appeal was being a systemic chemical. It could be applied as a seed coating, taken up by the plant's root system, and delivered throughout the plant where it remained. This reduced the need for frequent application and also, eliminated the drift. However, according to Dr. Krishchik, she and her colleagues "didn't realize that it also meant that it would be transferred from the soil to the pollen and nectar of the plant forever."

At a recent meeting of the Minnesota House Environment, Agriculture, and Finance Committee, a farmer testified that farmers are not given a choice to purchase untreated seeds. If all nonorganic seeds are pretreated with this insecticide, does that include the birdseed that we lovingly provide our feathered friends? If harvested from a treated plant, the birdseed would, by definition, contain the chemical; perhaps at a level that would interfere with reproduction. The ABC's investigation into birdseed is still underway. Finally, Dr. Krishchik noted that research has shown that neonicotinoids are lethal to hummingbirds. **Please be aware that most garden centers' growers pretreat all plants with neonicotinoids. Whether you garden to attract pollinators or hummingbirds, selecting organically grown, pesticide-free plants will allow you to sleep at night.**

## Advocacy & Activities

### **Do You Have Birds Hitting Your Windows?** Residential Bird-Window Collisions Prevention Study

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) has received a grant to study the effectiveness of window treatments on bird-window collisions on residential homes. ACM is looking for a minimum of 10 home owners who would owner will be given 1 of 3 treatments frequent bird strikes. An exterior immediate landscape is needed. If home owner will be contacted and will require the owner to record bird some other data. ACM will collect the to determine the effectiveness of the 3 window treatments. This study will be run for a minimum of one year (beginning about June 1<sup>st</sup>) and a maximum of three years. If you would like to participate in this study, please contact Jenny at 970 596-1508 or e-mail at [jenniferlynnkapp@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferlynnkapp@gmail.com) or Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net).



like to participate in this study. The home that they will apply to a window that has photo of the problem window showing the selected to participate in this study, the given training about the study. The study strikes on the treated window as well as bird strike data and statistically analyze it

### **Bird-Window Collision Survey**

In order to learn more about bird-window collisions, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is conducting a survey targeted at home owners to find out about their experiences with bird collisions with their windows and doors. Please help us by taking the survey found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AudubonChapterMinneapolis>. Thank you!

### **Woodlake Nature Center– Spring Activities**

6710 Lake Shore Drive ([street map](#))  
Richfield, MN 55423  
612-861-9365



#### **Wood Lake Book Club- *Kingbird Highway* by Ken Kaufman- May 6th**

presentation about birding Upper Coastal Texas.

We meet at 6:30 pm at Wood Lake Nature Center. It is \$5/person, and free for FOWL members.

All books can be found for the lowest price through [addall.com](http://addall.com) and are at local library systems. Local library systems usually only have a few copies of each book so please feel free to read ahead.

#### **Spring Bird Hikes- May 1 and May 8- 6pm-sunset \$5/hike, Free for members**

Enjoy a spring hike through Wood Lake as we look for both migrating and resident birds. Discover how to identify species from sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides will be available for loan. Please call to register at: [612-861-9365](tel:612-861-9365).

#### **Friends of Wood Lake Big Day Bird-A-Thon-Saturday, May 10**

Mark your calendars for Wood Lake's first fundraiser Bird-A-Thon! Get a team together or bird as an individual and enjoy the opportunity to win fabulous prizes while helping bird conservation and education at Wood Lake Nature Center! Please check out [woodlakenaturecenter.org](http://woodlakenaturecenter.org) late winter for a full event schedule, pledge information and other details.

## Field Trips

### Bird Hikes for Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, Spring 2014



Come join in chapter bird hikes set for this spring.

French Regional Park	May 3, 2014	Madeleine Linck
Baker Park Reserve	May 10, 2014	Siah St. Clair
Woodrill SNA	May 17, 2014	Madeleine Linck
Crow-Hassan Park Reserve	June 7, 2014	Madeleine Linck & Siah St. Clair

**All hikes will begin at 8 AM and will last approximately 90 minutes.** Binoculars are helpful. Bug spray advisable for the last two hikes. Wear boots, trails might be muddy. Times may change if severe weather. We would like to limit each hike to 15 people, so signing up ahead is requested. Sign up by calling Siah St. Clair at 763-234-6146 or emailing [stclair@comcast.net](mailto:stclair@comcast.net) or Madeleine Linck at 763-475-0485; or emailing [Madeleine.linck@gmail.com](mailto:Madeleine.linck@gmail.com).

#### French Regional Park: County Rd 9 (Rockford Rd), Plymouth. **May 3rd**

In walking the wooded trails adjacent to ponds and lake shore, we should see early migrants such as Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Black and White Warblers, White-throated Sparrows and various thrushes. Nesting Wood Ducks, Bald Eagles, Red-tail Hawks, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds should all be active. We will visit the Purple Martin colony on Medicine Lake.

**Where to meet: Please park at the over flow parking lot across from the French Visitor Center parking lot and shuttle stop.**

#### Baker Park Reserve: County Road 24, Medina. **May 10th**

Wooded hiking trail along a shallow marsh will provide habitat for migrating and resident (Common Yellow-throat, Yellow and American Redstart) warblers, resident Swamp Sparrows and Trumpeter Swans. Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Red-tailed, Broad-winged and Cooper Hawks are all potential sightings.

**Meet at the gravel parking lot, north side of County Rd. 24, just west of County Rd 19 at the entrance sign for Marshview Group Camp.**

#### Woodrill Scientific and Natural Area: Old Long Lake Rd, Long Lake, Orono. **May 17th**

Walk trails through Old Growth oak-maple-basswood forest interspersed with ponds, wet meadows, and glacial moraine hills. There will be a good chance to see/hear migrant wood warblers, vireos and thrushes. Resident Scarlet Tanagers, Pileated and other woodpeckers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Wood Ducks and Green Herons are other possible highlights.

**Meet at the SNA parking lot, south side of Old Long Lake Road, about .25 m from Old Hwy 12 and just east of East Long Lake Rd.**

#### Crow-Hassan Park Reserve: 12595 Park Drive, Hanover, Hennepin County. **June 7th**

Hike along forest edges on to wetlands and a rolling prairie. Good habitat to see grassland birds such as Savanna, Henslow, and Grasshopper Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks and Bobolinks. Other possible birds include Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Ovenbirds, American Redstarts and Orchard Orioles.

**Meet at Trailhead parking lot on Park Drive.**

## Conservation

### Mining, your business?

By Mike Menzel



A controversial sulfide mine is being proposed near the Arrowhead Region by PolyMet Mining, Inc, a foreign corporation. Thousands of Minnesotans have expressed their concerns during the hearing process and the decision to permit will be decided later this year.

PolyMet's NorthMet open pit mine is the first sulfide mine project ever proposed within the state of Minnesota and is planned for the extraction of copper, nickel, and various other metals from the Mesabi Iron Range.

The current plans call for the following:

- Three open pits of 800 acres producing an estimated 394 million tons of waste rock and ore, all generating acid waste

- Transport of the ore to a mill located at the former LTV Steel Mining Company taconite processing plant.

- Millions of tons of mine tailings discharged in the form of a toxic, semi-solid slurry into the existing LTV tailings reservoir, which is unlined and contains wetlands and ponds.

- Destruction of approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands, indirect impacts upon 500 acres of wetlands

Located near important tributaries in northeastern Minnesota such as the Embarrass and Partridge Rivers, the potential for acid mine drainage (AMD) from this open pit mine is especially pertinent due to its capability to pollute major water bodies such as the St. Louis River and Lake Superior.

To make matters worse, the sulfide mining industry has a poor history of stewardship, integrity and accountability. To date, no sulfide mine has been able to operate without causing some form of pollution in the surrounding environment. PolyMet's own study says that the water from the mine site would need at least 500 years of treatment.

The official public comment period has closed but your concerns can still be addressed to: Tom Landwehr, DNR Commissioner at [commissioner.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:commissioner.dnr@state.mn.us)

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403



KINGFISHER  
MAY/JUNE 2014

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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**

Please see ACM website for details

- May 03 and 04- Living Green Expo  
06 Program- Annual Meeting (Board Elections, Financial Committee presentation, Cookie Social)  
27 Board Meeting- (New Officers & Dir.'s begin terms)  
Wood Duck Jump- Date/Time TBA
- June 01 File Minnesota Nonprofit Corp. Annual Renewal form  
01 Deadline for newsletter articles  
10 Newsletter Editor deadline  
17 Newsletter Mailing  
June Board meeting- TBA

*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*

**Electronic Kingfisher**

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Contact Jerry Bahls at [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)