



KINGFISHER



November 2003

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 52 No. 7

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

November Program

Did you know...

- ◆ A baby bat is called a pup?
- ◆ Minnesota's Big Brown Bat's scientific name, *Eptesicus fuscus*, is Latin for "dark house-flier?"
- ◆ Of the 4,500 different species of mammal in the world, nearly 1,000 of them are bats?
- ◆ That bat guano is used as fertilizer in many countries?
- ◆ Bats can lose over 25% of their body weight during winter hibernation?
- ◆ Bats are vital to rainforests for pollination and seed dispersal?

Our November program speaker, "Bat Lady" Stephanie Reynolds, will share information and dispel common myths about these flying creatures. Please come prepared to learn some fascinating facts about these flying mammals and how you can help with their conservation efforts in Minnesota.

There are a few interesting web sites for bat conservation: Batcon.org and BatConservation.org. See you at the program!



Thank You, State Fair Volunteers

A big 'thank you' to all of the Chapter members who shared their time, knowledge, and pronto pups at the *Audubon Minnesota* booth at the State Fair this summer. We greatly appreciated the help from: Mary Abbey, John Arthur, Jerry Bahls, Ginny Black, Priscilla Bue, Bill Caverly, Pamela Deerwood, Lois and Ted Dick, Alice and Allen Fagley, Jim Johannsen, Dorothy Kuether, Tom and Phyllis Mahan, Lisa McDonald, Cindy Moess, Jenny Peoples, Kitty and Roger Pickering, Trudi Poquette, Cecil Ram, Jean Scheu, Dorene Scriven, Bill Sipe, Mary Ellen Vetter, John Vickery, and Sylvia Winkelman. Thanks again for representing our Chapter.

—Trudi Poquette
State Fair Coordinator

Mark your calendars: this winter's Great Backyard Bird Count will be February 13-16, 2004.

Tundra Swan and Eagle Trip

Join our chapter's field trip to southeastern Minnesota and Alma, Wisconsin on Saturday, November 8th to observe the migrating tundra swans and bald eagles.

Bring your camera equipment! Trip leader and Chapter bird expert Terry Brashear will discuss techniques on bird photography and the group will attempt to photograph the eagles and swans.

If you are interested in attending this field trip, here are the details...

Where: The Hub Shopping Center in front of Walgreen's West 66th Street, Richfield

When: 8:30 a.m., Saturday, November 8

What: Carpools will be formed and depart from the mall parking lot, lunch in Wabasha, returning to the Cities around 2:30 p.m.

Be sure to dress for the weather and don't forget your camera and binoculars. See you there—everyone is welcome!

Mailing Volunteers Needed

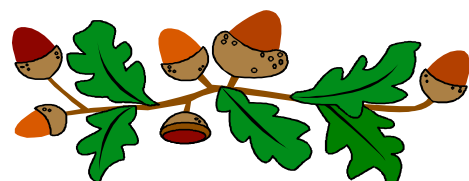
It is time to replenish my list of volunteers who help with the Kingfisher mailing. A few mailing team members have had to drop out due to illness and work.

The mailings are in the morning of the third Monday of the month. We prepare the mailings in January, February, March, April, August, September, October and November for the following month's newsletter.

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis provides the newsletters to prepare as well as coffee, cookies and the location. You only need to supply the hands and the stimulating conversation to keep us all working!

Please call me at (763)572.2333 or e-mail me at bahls001@tc.umn.edu if you can help and want to join this hard working team. Thanks!

—Jerry Bahls
Kingfisher Mailing Chair



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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

Minnesota Audubon
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

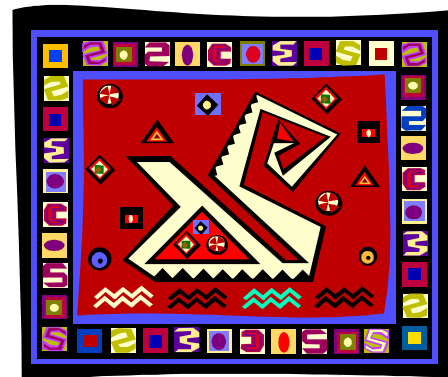
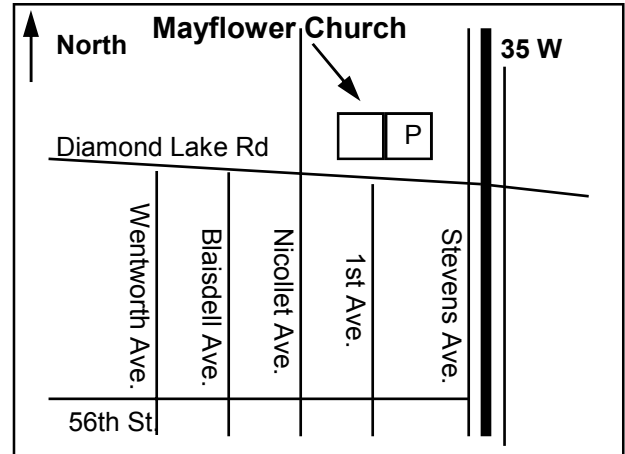
National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, November 11
"Bat Conservation" by Stephanie Reynolds

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
(35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu

BUCKTHORN WARS, PART II— NOW DESTROY IT!

Last month we learned how to identify the enemy, BUCKTHORN! Now that we know what it is, we can take measures to destroy it.

Pulling it out by its roots works very well for small saplings. Small ones can be pulled by hand; however, you need a weed wrench (may be free from your local rental store) to be able to pull out the saplings that are larger than about a quarter inch. It works for saplings up to about two inches (maybe larger if you are very strong – be careful of your back!) For trees up to 3 inches, a handsaw works fine (over 3 inches, use a chainsaw). Try to cut it as close to the soil as you can.

With the enemy on the ground, our work is not done. For the saplings that you've pulled out, let them dry and put them in your compost pile. For the ones you had to cut off, there are a couple of more steps. If they do not have berries on them, cut the saplings into smaller pieces and put on your compost pile (be careful of the thorns – they're not sharp, but they can scratch). If the tree had berries on it, cut the branches that have berries on them and have a bonfire with them (don't forget the burning permit, if needed). Don't be tempted to taste the berries, they are cathartic! If you can't have a fire, contact your garbage hauler for instructions on having them pick up the tree. If the trunk is over 3 inches, wood carvers may be interested in it. The wood is actually a beautiful hardwood that makes wonderful carvings and furniture.

The tree is gone, but you are still not done. Buckthorn will re-sprout from the stumps (but not the roots). Digging out the stump is the environmentally safe method, but it may not be practical. In that case, spray the exposed trunk and bark with a herbicide that contains 8% Triclopyr (ask for it at your garden center). Please do not use the herbicide if rain is imminent. Remember to read the label and use rubber gloves and protective eyewear when using any herbicide!

Don't forget about our challenge: destroy one buckthorn a day from September 1st until November 30th and bring the ninety 6-inch boughs to the December meeting [you must be present] to claim your prize! For more information contact Jerry Bahls at (763)572.2333 or bahls001@tc.umn.edu.



ALDER BUCKTHORN: *Rhamnus frangula*

**AKA: BLACK DOGWOOD, EUROPEAN
BLACK ALDER, ARROW WOOD**

2004 Legislative Issues Ballot

The 2004 Legislative Issue Ballot has been sent to Audubon Activists, officers, and board members. If you wish to receive a ballot, please contact Susan Solterman at (651)739.9332 or ssolterman@audubon.org or Jerry Bahls at (763)572.2333 or bahls001@tc.umn.edu. This ballot is the compilation of all the issues that were nominated in the September call for issue nominations. This list of issues needs to be pared down to five issues. Be heard—request and cast your ballot!

These final five issues will be debated and voted on to reduce them to two priority issues at the Fall Meeting on November 15th at the National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. The chosen issues are the ones that Audubon Minnesota will work on during the 2004 Legislative session, which will be primarily a bonding session. Also, contact Susan to sign up to attend the Fall Meeting. See you on November 15th at 9:00 AM at the National Wildlife Refuge.



Various November Activities

There are many nature-related fall activities within short driving distances of the Cities in November. Listed below are a few examples—more details are available at www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org.

Saturday, November 1st

- ◆ “*Bird Banding*,” Eastman Nature Center, 9 am to noon.
- ◆ “*Turkeys and Stamping*,” Eastman, 10 to 11 am. Learn about turkeys and stamp turkey note cards. Reservations req., small fee.

Saturday, November 8th

- ◆ “*Battling Buckthorn*,” Lowry Nature Center, 10 am to noon. Hands-on experience with equipment.
- ◆ “*Lunar Eclipse Party*,” Baker Park Reserve, 5-9 pm. Bring the family for lunar magic, food, music, crafts, a bonfire, and moon-howling. Reservations req., fee.
- ◆ “*Full Moon Walk: Migration Moon and Lunar Eclipse*,” Eastman, Lowry, Richardson, Murphy's Landing—call for times and reservations. Experience the lunar eclipse through binoculars and a spotting scope and go on an evening walk with a naturalist.

Sunday, November 16th

- ◆ “*Raptors in the Yard*,” Richardson, 2-4 pm, ongoing. Meet live raptors and see them up close. Bring your camera.

Saturday, November 22nd

- ◆ “*Bird Feeder Fun*,” Richardson, 1-2:30 pm. Meet expert bird feeder designer, Dave Ahlgren; get menu tips; compare feeders and feed. Reservations req., fee.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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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
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

November

- 8** Tundra swans and eagles field trip along the Mississippi River to Wabasha (details on front)
- 11** Chapter Program: "Bat Conservation" by "Bat Lady" Stephanie Reynolds, 7:30 p.m.
- 15** Fall Membership Meeting of Audubon MN

December

- 2** Chapter Program: "Important Bird Areas" by Mark Martell, Minnesota Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation, 7:30 p.m.
- 20** North Minneapolis Christmas Bird Count

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please check our website or call Mary Ellen (763-561-1761) for more details...

See you on the birding trails—
guests are *always* welcome!