



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 50 No. 8

Representing the National Audubon Society
in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

November 2001

President's Message

Another fine program by one of our members - Thank you Vija - How fortunate we are to have talented, sharing people.

On these days of gigantic disaster and depression, it is reassuring, uplifting, to drive along our local street of maples, glowing, shimmering in gold, orange, reds. They make me feel cheerful and childishly happy as I scuffle along enjoying the sound of dry leaves being crunched. I become part of the greater universe, aware of the creatures swooping from tree to tree; their fall colors somber against the last fling of the leaves. Is this leaf beauty part of what tells the birds to head south? It is certainly a reminder of the greater cycle of the world. Even in our deep concern for what will happen next, for the immense horror that has happened, we still need to think of the whole environment and how we can help. What did the smoke and dust do to the birds? How can we help them also survive?



What a contrast to the casual freedom I felt in Alaska. Birding is big in Alaska. Each large town had birding brochures along with other attractions, and, like here, many places are having bird festivals. I so wanted to spend time watching - like at the University farm in Fairbanks where large numbers of Canadian geese and Sandhill cranes were gathered, feasting on the grains before flying on.

In Anchorage there's great watching, especially at low tide as the shore birds strut and race the waves. There is a 5 mile walk along the water. A man I met drives 20 miles each way to watch this area every day, and like most birders is happy, even eager to share what he's seeing. The friendly sharing is one of the deep joys of birding: seeing someone else light up at a find, having someone to be excited with over "just a bird".

There's at least one more birding festival left in Minnesota - Grand Marais, the weekend of October 26. There will be walking and driving birding, speakers, vendors (of course), and a "Name that Bird" game Saturday evening. For information call Grand Marais Visitor Information Center, 218-387-2524.

See you in November, as we learn about wind energy - a truly ever renewing energy source.

—Dorothy Kuether

Upcoming Program

Tuesday, November 13
Winds of Change

On November 13, John Dunlop will be presenting "Winds of Change." Wind power is cost competitive with any other source for electric power in Minnesota. The wind resource will never run out as long as the sun shines. Minnesota could produce many times as much electricity from wind power as currently used in the state. But is wind power environmentally benign? What are other issues surrounding the development of Minnesota's largest indigenous resource?

John Dunlop is the Great Plains Regional Manager for the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). AWEA is the national trade association for the U.S. wind energy technical, educational and policy support at the state and local level. John was formerly president of a renewable energy consulting firm, and for fifteen years was a manager of renewable energy programs in the Minnesota State Energy Office. He is a licensed professional engineer, with degrees in mechanical engineering and physics. He will provide information on the technical, economic, market, and environmental issues that have thrust the region into national leadership in new wind power development over the past decade. Bring your questions for a robust discussion.

Please join us. We meet at Mayflower Church, just off of 35W, on Diamond Lake Road.

—Lisa McDonald



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2000-2001 Contacts

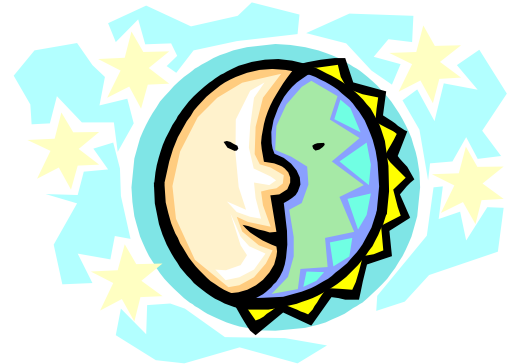
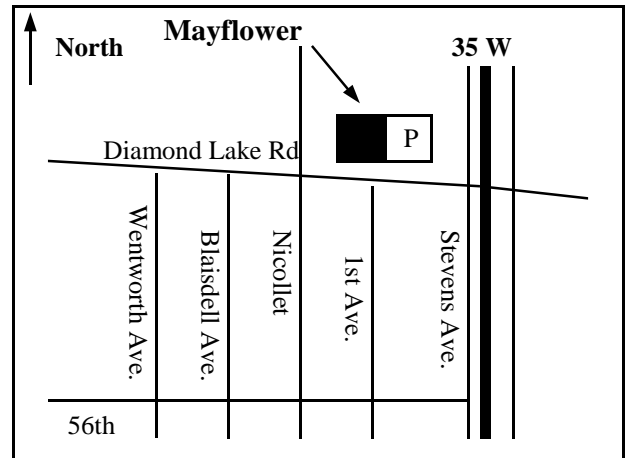
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www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/
Minnesota Audubon
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html
National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, November 13, 2001
TIME: 7:30 p.m. **"Winds of Change"**
AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Electronic Kingfisher

SAVE A TREE!
SAVE US SOME MONEY!
SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY.
 Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@tc.umn.edu today!



The Solace of Nature's Rhythms

This autumn has brought grief to our country and tension to our family. My sister-in-law is an M.D. in the navy. As I write this, she is on alert to depart within eight hours anywhere in the world where she is needed. The young man who appears likely to become our son-in-law is in the Air National Guard and has been called to active duty. He fixes F-16 fighter jets. For myself, I was surprised to learn that the fears experienced as a young girl in post World War II Europe lie dormant, not forgotten.

So where can we all turn to find sustenance and respite? The natural world moves on in its unceasing rhythms, promising the continuance of life, the turning of one season into another, promising sunrise after the darkest night.

As the talking heads on the television spoke of war, Nashville and Tennessee Warblers were busily feeding in my garden so as to fuel their migration, perhaps to bring them back next summer to breed and raise a new generation. A whole flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets alit in my ash tree. They joined in a happy chorus with the Black-capped Chickadees affirming the sheer joy of living. Two days later, they were followed by the little busy bodies, the Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Those little creatures find themselves incapable of being still.

In a normal year I would have been saddened to see the Yellow-rumped Warblers, knowing that they bring up the tail end of warbler migration. This year, I was glad because I knew that nature was going about her business in spite of man's lunacy.

The maples are scarlet, or orange or yellow. Franklin's Gulls are moving through in huge flocks. The White-tailed Deer have lost their reddish coats and the does have acquired their white collars to signal the breeding season. Hundreds of Sandhill Cranes have gathered at Crex Meadows. The Trumpeter Swans at Crow-Hassan have four cygnettes. The little swans are sporting gray necks and heads unlike their totally white parents. The hawks are flying over Hawk Ridge in Duluth.

Soon the Bald Eagles will be moving down the river. The Tundra Swans will be gathering at Alma, Wisconsin. Perhaps, there will be an influx of northern owls again.

Then the earth will turn again. The warblers will migrate north, the birds will breed, the air will be filled with song. Life demands the continuance of life. Grief must have its season and pass. Anxiety can only last so long. Affirmation is as close as looking out the window.

—Vija Kelly



October Program Review



There were 70 people in attendance at this month's meeting. They came to see Vija Kelly give a slide presentation on the Birds of the Prairie Pothole region.

Vija is a chapter member, and has been earnestly photographing birds since about 1994. She has a PhD in Ancient History, and taught at the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State University. But for years now, she has been a corporate consultant, working on the issue of hazardous waste. She shows her slides to corporate groups in order to impress upon them just what it is that they are saving when they minimize hazardous waste.

In her work as a consultant, Vija often makes trips to Western Minnesota and the Dakotas. On these trips, she tries to find time to visit the many refuges and other areas that comprise the prairie pothole ecosystem. It is not so much a geographical location, she says, but is rather a huge number of small areas within a geographical area. The "potholes" are marshes, lakes, and ponds that dot the prairies of the central part of North America. This area is a "waterfowl factory" that produces millions of ducks, geese, pelicans, shorebirds, herons, egrets, and other birds every summer. Some of the numbers she told us for this year were amazing: 8,000,000 Mallards; 6,000,000 Blue Winged Teal; 4,000,000 Scaup; 3,000,000 Snow Geese; 2,300,000 American Wigeon.

Vija's slides were wonderful, and I think they gave hope to the rest of us that we might get such shots. She told us that, unlike our speaker in September (Stan Tekiela), she has (relatively) moderately priced equipment: a Nikon F100, a Sigma 170-500mm lens, and a good 200mm lens.

But maybe we still have no hope. She told us that she has an affinity for birds, and she had many slides to prove it. She takes many of her photos from inside her van with a window mount. Several times she talked about birds that would not get out of her way, until she actually honked her horn. This has certainly never happened to me!

Vija showed us pictures of fifty species of birds, most of them in beautiful poses, as though they wanted a place in a field guide or magazine. Here are some samples: Horned Lark, American Bittern, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Chicken, Common Yellowthroat, Black tern, and Marbled Godwit. And she had some fantastic photos of Great Egrets in flight.

It's a treat to see the work of local chapter members, especially when it's as great as Vija's!

—Paul Kinzer



Membership Blitz Continues

The Membership Blitz continues through November. A reduced cost (\$5 off) is available on new Audubon membership obtained at an Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis function during October and November. Look for the new membership table at the meetings. Ask your birding trip leader for a voucher for \$5 off a new Audubon membership. Attend the "This Benefit is for the Birds" Celebration/Fundraiser on November 10th at Maple Grove Junior High and purchase a new membership and receive a free ticket, which entitles all your children under 16 to attend free! Send an e-mail to bahls001@tc.umn.edu requesting a new membership, and to receive the Kingfisher electronically, and receive \$5 off the new membership. For members, purchase gift memberships (pick up form at meetings or call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333, or e-mail above for form) and Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will receive credit for the new membership. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!



—Jerry Bahls

Publicity Update

On Saturday, September 29, the Minnesota Arboretum held its Fall Festival. It was a beautiful day, and well attended. There were crafts, including quilts and tapestries, cider pressing, and representatives of our chapter! Mary Ellen Vetter and I set up a table there with displays and information about the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

It was our attempt to reach the Western/ Southwestern area of our chapter, because there is not a specific chapter to cover that region. It was a big success, as well as a good time. Our table was very busy, with a steady stream of 3 or 4 people visiting it at all times. As a result, we hope to get interest in our chapter from that area.

—Bill Sipe
Publicity/Exhibits Chair

Happy Thanks-



"This Benefit is for the Birds"



A celebration/fundraiser for Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will be held on November 10th. Join us for a morning of games with prizes. Try your hand at "Jeopardy" or "Last Standing" games. An expert on binoculars will give a short presentation on how to select a pair and then be available to discuss your personal needs. Carrol Henderson, of the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, will tell us about the program and how we can help. He will then join a panel of birding experts to answer your questions about birds and birding. There will be an opportunity to buy a birding book and other items related to birding. Find out how the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis serves the community. To demonstrate our Field Trips, there will be a pre-celebration Field Trip (meet in school parking lot) in the immediate vicinity, beginning at 8:00 a.m. for those who are new to birding. All are welcome on the Field Trip, whether you are new or not.

Bring the whole family! Advanced sale tickets are \$7 for Audubon members (\$9 at the door) and \$8 for nonmembers (\$10 at the door). Children under 16 will be admitted free with a paid parent ticket. Nonmembers will receive a free ticket with a new Audubon membership. Tickets can be reserved by calling 763- 572-2333, or e-mail bahls@tc.umn.edu. We will accept mail ordered tickets up to October 24th at Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, PO Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Net proceeds will be used to provide plants for area public spaces and for "Audubon Adventures" for Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis area schools.

The celebration/fundraiser will begin at 9:30 AM (doors open at 9:00) at Maple Grove Junior High, which is located at 11200 93rd Ave N, Maple Grove (2 blocks south of I-694 on Hemlock Lane near I-494). Circle November 10th on your calendar and be prepared for a fun morning filled with information, games and prizes. Invite your friends and relatives. After noting place, date and time on your calendar, post the enclosed flyer at work or in some public place. SEE YOU THERE!

—Jerry Bahls



Chapter Funds Provide Environmental Materials to Area Students

Our Chapter annually budgets \$500 to provide the National Audubon environmental materials to schools in our Chapter area. We would like to thank our Chapter members, Michael Nichols, Dorene Scriven and Marion Borell, for their generous donations to also sponsor schools.

This year 15 teachers will receive the AUDUBON ADVENTURES KIT, a comprehensive approach to classroom natural science content and activities. These nationally acclaimed materials are widely used throughout the country.

Schools receiving AUDUBON ADVENTURES this year are located in Champlin, Dayton, Coon Rapids, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Osseo, St. Louis Park and Winnetonka.

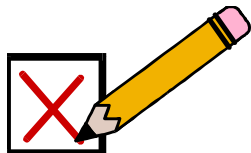
—Brenda Reishus and Mary Ellen Vetter
Education Committee



Issues Ballot Available

The 2002 Issues Ballot is now available. Issues nominations for the 2002 legislative session ended on September 28th. Ballots have been prepared and distributed to Activists, nominators and members who requested ballots. In order to get the widest participation from Audubon members, Audubon Minnesota is asking members to participate by requesting ballots so that you can have a say in narrowing the number to 10 issues for 2002. On November 17th at the Audubon Minnesota Fall Meeting, these 10 will be reduced to 4 priority issues for the 2002 legislative session. If you have not received a ballot either by mail or e-mail, please contact the Audubon Minnesota office at 651 225-1830 or e-mail Betsy Daub (bdaub@audubon.org) or Jerry Bahls (bahls001@tc.umn.edu) to receive one. The deadline to return the ballots is October 26th. Please participate, request a ballot!

—Jerry Bahls



Field Trip Highlights

Bredesen Park

On Saturday September 8th, Tom Mahan led a late summer field trip to Bredesen Park in Edina. It was a crisp morning following a rainy evening. Several birders braved the chance of rain and joined us in hopes of finding a rare migrant dropped by the recent cold front: Louise Cameron, Amy Carlson, Dick Eide, Sally Enstrom, Laurie Ford, Sue Mahler and Carol Thomas.

24 species observed

American Crow	Eastern Wood Pewee
Wood Duck	American Goldfinch
Green Heron	Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
American Robin	House Finch
Black-capped Chickadee	Cooper's Hawk
Great Blue Heron	Northern Cardinal
Gray Catbird	Barn Swallow
Great Egret	Canada Goose
Downy Woodpecker	Great Horned Owl

Fort Snelling State Park

On Saturday September 22nd, Tom Mahan led an early fall field trip to Fort Snelling State Park in Bloomington. This field trip served a dual purpose as the second annual bird census for the Minnesota River Birding Trail. We were lucky to have a bright sun that morning. The afternoon rain began as we were leaving the park. We were joined by several enthusiastic birders:

Gus and Amy Axelson, Dick Eide, Frannie Lowe and Duane Temple.

25 species observed

American Robin	Ring-billed Gull
White-breasted Nuthatch	Eastern Phoebe
American Goldfinch	Hairy Woodpecker
American Crow	Blue Jay
Canada Goose	Northern Cardinal
Downy Woodpecker	Great Blue Heron
House Finch	Pied-billed Grebe
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Rock Dove
Black-capped Chickadee	Nashville Warbler
Gray Catbird	Yellow Warbler
Bark-eyed Junco	Cape May Warbler
Cedar Waxwing	Great Egret

European Starling



—Phyllis Mahan





Audubon Minnesota's
Fall Membership Meeting
Saturday, November 17, 2001

Macalester-Plymouth United Church
1658 Lincoln Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Legislative Issues Selection for 2002

The Fall Membership Meeting is almost here! Each fall, Audubon members from all over the state gather to get the latest information on chapter programs, socialize with one another and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the state capitol. Join us Saturday, November 17th to select the conservation issues that Audubon Minnesota will work on during the 2002 legislative session.

Become an Expert

Audubon members will provide lively, informative presentations on topics that the membership voted as their top concerns. The top six issues will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting. Members will vote for four issues to be our focus at the Minnesota Legislature. Resolutions of support for other issues will also be considered and voted on.

Fun and Fellowship

Enjoy meeting and socializing with Audubon friends from across the state. Joining us is Jim Rataczak, professional wildlife artist, who will demonstrate and describe how he observes and paints birds. He will also have items for purchase.

Proposed Agenda (subject to change)

8:30 Registration	10:45 Issue Overview Session II	4:00 Break
9:00 Welcome	12:00 Lunch and Audubon Business	4:15 Resolution Selection
9:15 Issue Overview Session I	1:00 Jim Rataczak bird painting demonstration	5:30 Farewells
10:30 Break	2:00 Issues Selection	

AUDUBON 2001 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REGISTRATION

Take 10% off if your registration is postmarked by NOVEMBER 1. As always, students and low income individuals may register for *half price*. **A map and further program details will be mailed to pre-registrants.**

For more information, contact Nancy Viking at the Audubon office (651)225-1830.

Name (s) _____	_____ I would like a vegetarian meal.
Address _____	_____ I live outside the metro area and would like to
City/State/Zip _____	be matched up with a host for Friday evening.
Phone _____	_____ Please send me hotel information.
Email _____	_____ I live in the Twin Cities and have room for _____
	guests.

Audubon is able to offer lunch at a greatly reduced rate this year due to the donation of labor from a member.

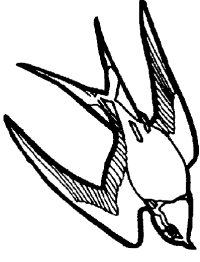
Prices:

Registration Fee	\$10.00 x _____	people = _____
Saturday Lunch	\$ 3.00 x _____	people = _____
Take 10% off if you are	MINUS = _____	
registering before Nov. 1, 2001.		

Make your check out to/return this form to:
Audubon Minnesota
 26 E Exchange St. #207, St Paul MN 55101

TOTAL = _____





"THIS BENEFIT IS FOR THE BIRDS"

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis celebration and fundraiser honoring new chapter members will be held on

November 10 at 9:30 AM

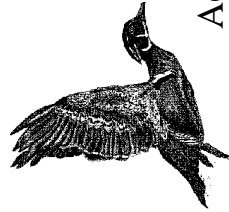
at the **Maple Grove Junior High**

11200 93rd Av N, Maple Grove (2 blocks S of 694 on Hemlock La near 494)

Win prizes in games about birds!

Meet Carrol Henderson, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program!

Learn how to select the Correct pair of binoculars. Learn about Audubon. Have an opportunity to purchase bird books and related items for Christmas? And did I mention games about birds for prizes?



See you there!



Advanced sale tickets are \$7 for members (\$9 at door) and \$8 for nonmembers (\$10 at door).

[This is a fundraiser after all.] Nonmembers receive free ticket with new Audubon membership (\$20). Call

763 572-2333 or e-mail jayobe@yahoo.com for info.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
November 2001



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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.
- 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

- 3 Field Trip, Weaver Bottoms
- 10 "This Benefit is for the Birds," 9:30 a.m.
(pre-game birding, 8:00 a.m.)
- 13 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Wind Energy"
- 17 Field Trip, Minneapolis City Lakes
Audubon Minnesota Fall Membership Meeting
- 20 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

December

- 4 Holiday Potluck, 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Wildlife Enhancement on Farmlands"
- 11 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Field trips usually begin at 7:30 a.m., call the Field Trips Chair for details.

All are welcome to the Chapter Board Meetings!
Board Meetings are held at
4350 Brookside Ct., Edina
Call the president for details.