



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 48 No. 8

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater
Minneapolis and Hennepin County

November 1999

November 9 Meeting: Birds of the North Coast of Alaska

Our Audubon chapter has for many years contributed to Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary in Sarona, Wisconsin by way of scholarship money, and many of our members have watched and aided in the growth and development of that beautiful area. This year we asked Christine Turnbull, Hunt Hill's director since 1995, if she would journey to the Twin Cities to be our speaker in November. Christine is both educator and director, holding a BS in Wildlife Biology and an MA in environmental education.

Although Christine's repertoire includes 3½ years in the Peace Corps in Honduras and El Salvador working in National Parks being involved in environmental education, nongovernmental group training, and management plans, we have chosen for our program Christine's experiences living in a tent on the northern coast of Alaska where she conducted field surveys. The uniqueness of her adventure on the arctic coast will be reflected in her slides of coastal and shore birds—some nesting with their chicks.

The meeting is Tuesday, November 9 (not November 2) at 7:30 p.m. at Mayflower Church. Map and directions are located on page 2. If you come by bus, get off at Diamond Lake Road and Nicollet and walk one block east to the church. Enter from the parking lot.

- Fran Duritsa

Electronic Kingfisher is now available

To subscribe or request information send an e-mail to bahls001@tc.umn.edu.



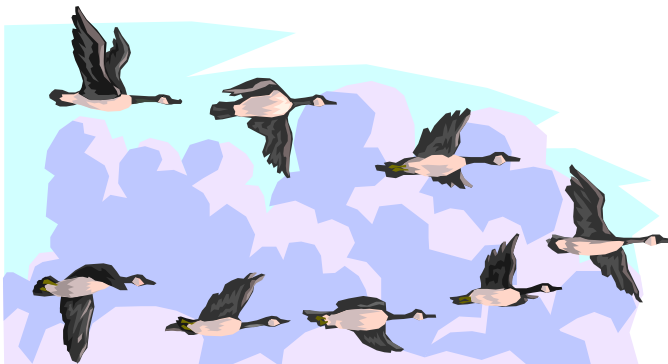
Chapter Funds Provide Environmental Materials to Elementary Classrooms

Our chapter annually budgets \$500 to provide the National Audubon classroom materials to schools in our area. This year 14 teachers will receive Audubon Adventures, a comprehensive approach to natural science content and activities. These nationally acclaimed materials are widely used throughout the country.

We are also pleased that chapter members have donated funds for subscriptions for six more classrooms. We want to publicly thank Marge Cross, Grace Curry, Allana Frear, Lillian Meyer, Michael Nichols, Brenda Reishus, and David Seeman for supporting this successful Audubon program.

Schools receiving Audubon Adventures this year are located in Champlin, Dayton, Excelsior, Fridley, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, and Plymouth.

- Mary Ellen Vetter



Backyard Birding Class

A Backyard Birding Class will be held on November 11th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. The class will cover habitat, food, and identification, and will accommodate up to 10 participants. The class as initially scheduled will be on a Thursday morning to accommodate the instructor (Jerry Bahls) and the birds. However, don't let this discourage you from calling to sign up. Additional classes will be scheduled depending the response received, and future classes will try to accommodate the schedules of those wishing to take the class. To sign up, please call 612 572-2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu. As with most Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis classes and events, there is no charge. Class will fill on a first come first serve basis. Directions to the class will be given during the sign-up process.

- Jerry Bahls

Welcome to New Members

Welcome all new members to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis!

Please check out our coming events and attend as many as you can. All are free and you're welcome to bring a guest. We also have many volunteer opportunities. One such opportunity is to phone new members thanking them for joining National Audubon and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and to invite them to the next chapter meeting. We need about three volunteers. It will take about one hour per month.

If any new members or for that matter any current members are interested, please call Jerry Bahls at 612 572-2333 or e-mail Bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

Come to our next program!

DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 1999
TIME: 7:30 p.m. Christine Turnbull presents:
"Birds of the North Coast of Alaska"

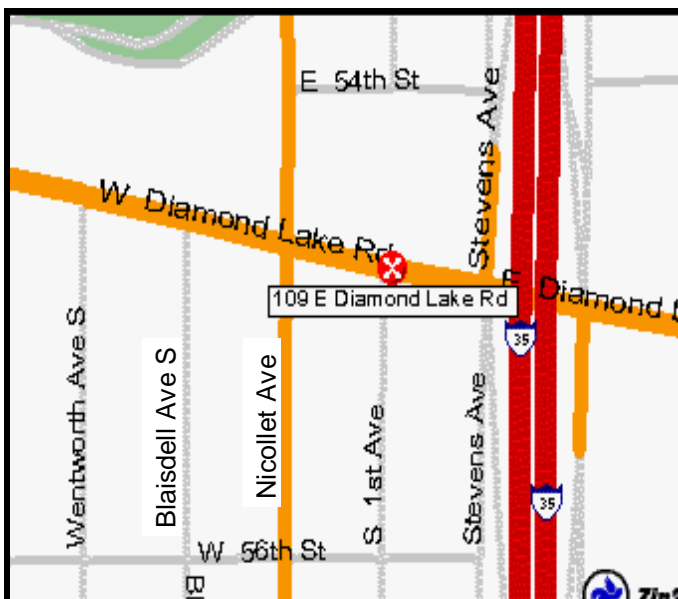
AT: Mayflower Church
 109 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
PARK: In church lot
ROOM: Big room downstairs

Mayflower Church is located just west of the Highway 35W exit. Enter on the main floor and go downstairs to the big room.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) 1999-2000 Contacts

President.....	Tom Mahan.....	588-5440
Vice President.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
Treasurer.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Secretary.....	<open>.....	
Board/Bluebird Recovery...	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Board/Conservation Chair..	<open>.....	
Board/Mailing Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Board/Program Chair.....	Lis Jones.....	827-1482
Board/Sales Chair.....	Tom Stinson.....	767-8736
Board.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Board.....	Jeane Kelly.....	862-1421
Board/Sales Chair.....	Jim Sharpsteen.....	722-9109
Board.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Birdathon/Big Day Coord..	<open>.....	
Camperships/Hunt Hill....	Marion Borell.....	866-1266
Camperships/North Woods..	Bob Nelson.....	933-7340
Education Chair.....	Mary Ellen Vetter...	561-1761
Field Trips Chair.....	Terry Brashear.....	929-1976
Kingfisher Editor.....	Elizabeth Peterson..	822-6051
Kingfisher Editor.....	Pam Rhoads.....	822-6051
Lending Library.....	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Membership Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Park Feeders.....	David Stamps.....	374-3609
Park Feeders.....	Don Bolduc.....	927-0617
Publicity Committee.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Social Committee.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
MN Audubon Office.....	225-1830
MOU Rare Bird Alert.....	780-8890



ACM's Internet Address: www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835

Board of Directors meet at Anwatin School, Minneapolis.

All are welcome! Call the president for details.



Minnesota Audubon's Fall Membership Meeting
Saturday, November 20, 1999
Legislative Issues Selection for 2000

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, Minnesota

Everyone Welcome

Twice a year 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 activities at the state level. **The Fall Membership Meeting is almost here!**

Join us Saturday, November 20th for a day-long event where you can stroll the grounds of the Arboretum, catch up with Audubon friends, and select the conservation issues that Minnesota Audubon will work on during the 2000 legislative session.

Become an Expert

Our Saturday session will provide lively, informative presentations on topics nominated by Audubon members to be priority issues. The top six issues will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting. Members will vote for three 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 with Audubon friends—and their friends!—from across the state. There will be time for socializing and strolling the grounds of the beautiful University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

PROPOSED Agenda

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:45 Issue Overview Session I (3 issues)
- 11:30 Audubon Business
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Announcements
- 1:15 Issue Overview Session II (3 issues)
- 3:30 Nature Hikes*
- 5:00 Small Group Discussions
- 6:00 Dinner and Awards
- 7:00 Issues Selection (select priority issues)
- 8:15 Resolutions
- 9:00 Farewells

* We are hoping to schedule nature walk options for bird-watching, winter plant ID, and wetland restoration. **Please bring warm gear for these hikes!**

For persons wishing to relax indoors, displays about Audubon activities at Chapters and the state office and an eagle video will be on display.

AUDUBON 1999 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REGISTRATION

Take 20% 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 Suzanne Plass at the Audubon office 651-225-1830.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

- _____ I would like vegetarian meals.
- _____ I live outside the metro area and would like to be matched up with a host for Friday evening.
- _____ Please send me hotel information.
- _____ I live in the Twin Cities and have room for ___ guests.

Prices:

Registration Fee \$10.00 x ___ people = _____
 Saturday Lunch \$9.00 x ___ people = _____
 Saturday Dinner \$11.00 x ___ people = _____

Take 20% off if you are registering before November 1, 1999. MINUS = _____

TOTAL = _____

Make your check out to/return this form to:

Minnesota Audubon
26 E Exchange St. #207
St Paul, MN 55101



Annual Potluck Dinner

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis' annual potluck dinner will be held December 7, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. just before the December program meeting held at the Mayflower Church on Diamond Lake Road. Directions and map are found on page 2.

The chapter will provide beverages and a meat dish. All attendees are requested to bring a salad or dessert to contribute to the meal.

We hope to see you there!



Westwood Hills Environmental Center. Easily reached in St. Louis Park, this 160-acre park is squeezed in between housing, highway, and commercial sights but still manages to be well worth the visit. Boasting marshes, restored prairie, woodlands, and a 60-acre lake, Westwood has enough habitat to lure songbirds and

waterfowl. The two docks and floating boardwalks make sightings of swans, ducks, geese, and Sora easily achieved. In spring and summer the trees are alive with songbirds and woodpeckers. Keep your eyes open for the Winter Wrens that have been seen at the smaller pond near the environmental center building.

Bird feeders outside the main building attract a wide array of birds as well as deer, squirrels, and chipmunks. Westwood even boasts its own den of red fox that you might see dashing through the trees. A bee-keeping area below the main building has several active hives. You can watch their unending activity from the safety of the bee shelter, a small wooden structure directly next to the hives, complete with screen door and bay window. Charts inside explain the fascinating life cycle of the honeybee.

In fall the woods are alive with Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers as well as Northern Flickers and the lake is a magnet for migrating waterfowl.

Directions: Take 169 north from Highway 7 or 394 to the Old Cedar Lake Road exit. Turn right onto Texas. Go right on Texas Street, left on Franklin. The entrance to Westwood is on the right. No fee. Water and restrooms are available when the building is open.

- Pam Rhoads

Chapter Member Remembered

Long time Audubon member, John Spence, has passed away after many loyal years with our chapter.

KILL THE CONDORS?

The National Audubon Society has launched a campaign to stop the newest lethal threat to the California Condor—an Enron Corporation proposed wind farm literally next door to US Fish and Wildlife Service designated critical California Condor habitat.

The California Condor is perched on the brink of extinction. A controversial captive-breeding program has succeeded in restoring about 50 condors back into the wild in California. The California Condor is being given a rare second chance to roam the skies again.

Yet, at this critical moment in the recovery of the California Condor, Enron is proposing to build a giant condor death trap. They plan to build 53 wind turbines at the crossroads of the California Condors' range. Two hundred-foot tall spinning blades would be placed in the heart of Condor Pass. This must be stopped.

Wind power may well play an important role in America's energy future. But the choice here is clear. If Enron builds this wind farm, there is little future for the California Condor. The survival of the condor comes first.

In our effort to save the California Condor, we are launching the "Kill the Condor?" campaign. Billboards with this question and the web site www.condor-pass.org are up in Los Angeles and Houston, the corporate home of Enron. To help educate Members of Congress, we have placed this advertisement in Capitol Hill publications and are distributing a brochure to the Senate and House of Representatives. The brochure can be viewed on the web site.

Fortunately, we believe there is a solution. The Wind Energy Tax Credit expired this summer. Without this federal tax subsidy, Enron would not find it profitable to build the wind farm at Condor Pass. We urge that when Congress renews the Wind Energy Tax Credit, it say that no wind farm can receive the federal tax subsidy if it is within 10 miles of designated critical condor habitat. We urge people to contact their Members of Congress in support of the condor and this vital change in the Wind Energy Tax Credit. People can use the web site to send this message to Congress.

The California Condor is one of the rarest of North America's birds. The Fish and Wildlife Service spends a million dollars a year to try and help this magnificent bird recover in the wild. It is hard to imagine a worse idea than putting a condor Cuisinart next door to critical condor habitat.

Kill the Condor? The answer must be no. We look forward to working with Members of Congress and the public to ensure a future in the skies for the California Condor.

Daniel P. Beard, Senior Vice
President for Public Policy
National Audubon Society





Who Likes What?

A guide to which foods our feathered friends prefer.

Oil Sunflower

cardinal*
 chickadee*
 evening grosbeak*
 house finch*
 purple finch*
 red-breasted nuthatch*
 white-breasted nuthatch*
 white-throated sparrow*
 blue jay
 dark-eyed junco
 goldfinch
 grackle
 house sparrow
 mourning dove
 pine siskin
 redpoll
 red-winged blackbird
 song sparrow
 woodpeckers -
 hairy & downy
 red-bellied
 red-headed

Striped Sunflower

blue jay*
 red-bellied woodpecker*
 cardinal
 chickadee
 evening grosbeak
 grackle
 house finch
 house sparrow
 purple finch
 white-breasted nuthatch
 white-throated sparrow
 white-crowned sparrow

Sunflower Chips

pine siskin*
 brown-headed cowbird
 cardinal
 chickadee
 goldfinch
 grackle
 house finch
 house sparrow
 mourning dove
 red-winged blackbird
 white-throated sparrow

Niger (Thistle)

goldfinch*
 pine siskin*
 house sparrow
 house finch
 mourning dove
 purple finch
 dark-eyed junco
 song sparrow
 white-throated sparrow

Cracked Corn

blue jay
 brown thrasher
 cardinal
 dark-eyed junco
 eastern bluebird
 grackle
 house sparrow
 mourning dove
 red-bellied woodpecker
 red-winged blackbird
 rock dove
 starling
 tree sparrow
 white-throated sparrow

White Millet

brown-headed cowbird*
 house sparrow*
 mourning dove*
 dark-eyed junco*
 song sparrow*
 starling*
 tree sparrow*
 cardinal
 pine siskin
 red-winged blackbird
 white-crowned sparrow
 white-throated sparrow

Peanuts in the Shell

blue jay
 woodpeckers
 crow

Safflower

(squirrels, grackles & blackbirds
 tend not to eat)
 blue jay
 cardinal
 chickadee
 house finch
 house sparrow
 mourning dove
 red-bellied woodpecker
 white-breasted nuthatch

Shelled Nuts

blue jay*
 red-breasted nuthatch*
 chickadee
 house sparrow
 white-breasted nuthatch
 woodpeckers - hairy & downy
 red-bellied

* Favorite Seed Choice



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403



KINGFISHER
November 1999



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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 check 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: CM02 9M99

Calendar of Events

November

- 9 Chapter Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
"Birds of the North Coast of Alaska"
- 16 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

December

- 7 Chapter Potluck Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
"Wood Ducks of Kandiyohi County"
- 14 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Birders of all ages and skill levels are
welcome on all field trips.**