



KINGFISHER



Nov/Dec 2017

Vol. 66 No. 6

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

In This Issue:

- Page 1- Upcoming Programs & Events.
- Page 2 - Letter from the President, Mission Statement
- Page 3 - 2017 Fall Appeal, Volunteers Needed, Contacts.
- Page 4 - Roberts Bird Sanctuary– Buckthorn Removal day, Annual Meeting
- Page 5 - Poetry corner, Bird Feeding Tips
- Page 6 - Winter Bird Feeding Tips
- Page 7 - Winter Bird Feeding Tips...Cont'd, Suet Recipe
- Page 8 - Member Application, Calendar.

Minneapolis Audubon Society

CONTACT: Sylvia Winkleman
 763-533-8381
sparrowsister2@comcast.net

Friday, November 10th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
Update on the New Bell Museum

Don Luce, Curator of Exhibits, Bell Museum/
 Planetarium, U of M

Friday, December 8th, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
Wise Guys: Owls vs. Ravens

Melonie Shipman, traveling naturalist
 (former Co-Executive Director, Audubon Center of
 the North Woods)

Join the Minneapolis Audubon Society for food and
 enjoyment at the Bryant Square Neighborhood
 Center, 31st & Bryant Avenue S, just one block
 south of Lake Street, easily accessible via the #4
 bus, which runs every 15 minutes! For more
 information call 763-533-8381.

November/December



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Upcoming Programs



Program meetings are held at 7:00 PM at Beth El Synagogue, 5225
 Barry St W, St. Louis Park 55416 (unless otherwise noted*).
 All Program meetings are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, November 14th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. – Note: (This is a
 week later than usual, due to the election on the first Tuesday of
 November).

Julie Westerlund : WATER CONNECTS US ALL

Julie will discuss how we, as a society, value water, and she will
 challenge the audience to think about their personal relationship
 with (and responsibility to) water, and with/to each other. She will
 also discuss how land, water, ecosystems, and people are
 connected.

BIO: Julie specializes in water quality and Minnesota water policy.
 She currently coordinates the “One Watershed, One Plan”
 Program at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
 Julie has also worked at the Minnesota Department of Natural
 Resources and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. During
 her career, she has spoken about “water connections” to dozens of
 professional groups, elected officials, lake associations and
 environmental groups.

Tuesday, December 5th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Jim Egge, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis:
BIRDING SOUTH TEXAS and THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Jim will trace a productive birding route, identifying the prime
 birding spots for the birder who would like to see as many birds in
 one Texas week, as is possible. Jim is well-acquainted with south
 Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. For the last 3 years he has
 spent part of the winter in Texas, birding mostly in the Rio Grande
 Valley. The Rio Grande has the benefit of excellent habitat to
 attract not only northern birds, but also a variety of Mexican
 species. The region from coastal Padre Island has an abundance
 of wildlife reserves along the river valley, to the high country of
 Laredo and the Edwards Plateau. Unique species found nowhere
 else in America are endemic here. Some examples include the
 Aplomado Falcon, Audubon's Oriole, Green Jay, Golden-cheeked
 Warbler, and White-collared Seedeater.

BIO: Jim is a retired high school chemistry and biology teacher.
 He has birded actively around the world since the late 70's.



A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT - By Jim Egge

For more than 5 years, 12 Pacific Rim nations had quietly met to forge the largest trade deal in history (TPP). When details were leaked, the world got a glimpse of what the government-industrial complex truly has become. Most alarm has been over the economic injustice, just as there has been regarding NAFTA. But the environmental provisions have shown that conservation has been just a footnote to the flow of goods across borders. There is ample language about deforestation, overfishing, and illegal wildlife trade, but most are not backed up with real teeth.

The reality is that the TPP gives new powers to companies, making them equal to countries. It gives multinationals the power to sue governments of signers, if it believes that provisions cut into their profits. This is already true for NAFTA, and is one reason the Trump administration has opposed both agreements. About 500 such suits have been brought before the World Trade Organization, including one by an oil and gas company against the Canadian government. Lone Pine Resources uses NAFTA to demand \$250 million in damages from Quebec for a moratorium on fracking.

Under American law, any gas export to a sign-on country, is deemed to be in our national interest. This strips away layers of protection, and renders sensitive areas such as the Monterey Shale, harder to defend against resource extraction companies. Here are some of things TPP says countries must do to protect wildlife:

1. Each country must make sure that licenses are required for import and export of certain animals as per (CITES) the global treaty that regulates wildlife trade.
2. Protect and conserve wildlife at risk in their own country
3. Shall not weaken their environmental laws to attract investment
4. Must end some of the most harmful fisheries subsidies. Overfishing is responsible for the disappearance of 90 % of the world's big fish, such as tuna, cod and swordfish.

It took a lot of effort to convince countries of their obligation to defend other countries' laws and international commitments. If someone imports a bird to Malaysia illegally snatched in Peru, Malaysia must go after that as a crime. But the enforcement language is weak. TPP may be window dressing for destructive pursuits, i.e. palm oil and more fossil fuel exports. TPP needs specific provisions such as shark-finning bans, and management provisions for birds, sea turtles, and marine animals.

In 2009 U.S. and Peru entered an agreement to eliminate illegal logging. Environmentalists hailed the agreement as clear and strong. But after it went into effect, Peru has done little to enforce it. The U.S. has used no sanctions to pressure Peru.

Free trade has often had bad effects on biodiversity, according to research from Lancaster Univ. in England. Even the threat of a lawsuit may prevent countries passing environmental regulations. TPP will have a tough sell in Congress.

1. "How TPP Will and Won't Protect Wildlife", Rachel Bale, Nat. Geographic Society, Nov 5, 2015
2. "Trading Down", Audubon, Jul-Aug 2014

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.

2017 Fall Appeal, Volunteers Needed, Contacts.

2017 Fall Appeal

It's time for our annual Fall Appeal, our only organized fund raiser for the chapter. Our members continue to be generous. Last year we received \$2285 in donations. Our goal in 2017 is \$2500. The *Kingfisher* and Programs continue to represent over 80% of our budget. National Audubon Society's (NAS) dues reimbursement will continue to cover most of these expenses. Our annual budget has increased to about \$18,000. The remaining expenses are covered by a variety of other sources. The Chapter has begun a new project that is aimed at bringing the diverse community in which we live to our Chapter. We are working with a Community that provides English as a Second Language (ESL) services to foster a relationship with new residents to the US and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis in hopes of bringing more diversity to the Chapter. We are continuing our efforts to get the Viking Stadium to be Bird-Friendly by working with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA) to retrofit it to reduce bird collisions. This will require the Chapter to commit funds to accomplish this goal. We will be continuing to "bird dog" new construction in Minneapolis to urge use of bird friendly glass. We also will be continuing to fund research on better understanding birds that are on the Species of Concern list such as the red-headed woodpecker.

An envelope in this issue of the *Kingfisher* can be used to make a donation to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) to cover expenses associated with our Meeting Programs and other education related projects, including our bird friendly glass activities.

Please make your fully tax deductible donation to help ACM continue our work to help the birds and other wildlife! Please make out the check to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Thank you.

- Jerry Bahls, Past-President



Chapter Needs Webmaster.



The Chapter needs the following volunteers:

- Board Member – 2 openings
- Webmaster
- Membership Chair
- Education Committee members

Contact Jim Egge ((612) 827-7629 or email goldspike11@gmail.com) or any Board member to add your name to those making a difference!

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2016 - 2017 Contacts

President	Jim Egge	(612) 827-7629	goldspike11@gmail.com
Vice President	John Arthur		jdragonflyarthur@gmail.com
Treasurer	Davie Hartwell		
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Cathy Bailly	(612) 267-9098	eaglessoar1964@gmail.com
Conservation Co- Chair s	Kit Healy and Ann Laughlin		
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		
Audubon Minnesota	www.mn.audubon.org		

Roberts Bird Sanctuary- Buckthorn pull & Annual Meeting



Roberts Bird Sanctuary Sunday October 29, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Help Needed With Invasive Species Removal

Enjoy time in the woods working with others to protect our urban forests and enhance habitat for birds and other wildlife! Volunteers are needed this autumn for buckthorn removal in Roberts Bird Sanctuary and William Berry Woods, the small natural area between Lake Harriet and Bde Maka Ska (formerly Lake Calhoun). Come for as much or as little time as you have!

When you have the right tools, it's fun to pull buckthorn! We explain how to use root talons and weed wrenches, which make the job easy. Bring your own gloves and water, and we'll supply the tools! Children 10 and older are welcome with adult supervision.

Meet at the W. entrance of the Sanctuary (near the L. Harriet bandshell) and follow signs on Bossen Lane to the pull site.

Join us at the Friends of Roberts Annual Meeting!

Saturday, November 4, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Bryant Square Park Building
3101 Bryant Avenue S, Minneapolis

Robert Janssen, a legendary Minnesota birder who has worked tirelessly for decades to continue the legacy of Thomas Sadler Roberts, will speak at the 5th annual Friends of Roberts meeting. **All are welcome and there is no charge.** The meeting starts at 12:30 p.m. and Bob Janssen's presentation will start at 1 p.m.

For many years Bob was editor of the quarterly journal of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and is a past MOU president. Bob was a coordinator of the Minnesota Breeding Bird Survey for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and consults for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other agencies. He is author of several books on Minnesota birds. He spent eleven years surveying birds in Minnesota's state parks and another five compiling the data for his newest book *Birds of Minnesota State Parks*.

For information about the Annual Meeting, contact maryellingeng@gmail.com

Poetry Corner, Birdfeeding tips



Poetry Corner



Solitary Sandpiper

A river brushes beneath
a low tangle of trees.

Deep, swallow-like beats of
dark wings lifts
a woodland sandpiper
to a low branch.

Landing softly with
a white flash of tail.
Wings held aloft –
momentarily.

It perches quietly near me
with its dark eyes staring
into the dark woods.
It still does not see me . . .

I too, am motionless
and unafraid.

Then, as neither of us
moves, it
watches me.

Within this quiet woods,
we both near an ending,
both near a beginning –
each with a long way to go.

For the bird,
a pause in migration.

For me –
simply moving on.

-Clem J. Nagel
8/16/2017

Birdfeeding tips

HOW TO BEAT THE BIRDSEED SPROUTS

Article reprinted by permission from the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society-April 2007

Many people who feed birds struggle with having sprouting seeds under their feeder. If you live in an unattractive result of having our feathered friends keep us company. So, is there any way to control this unwanted sprouting? Well the best thing is to keep a tidy feeding area. Make sure to rake up the extra seed below the feeder on a regular basis. This will help keep the area neat and reduce sprouting, and it is safer for the birds. Fungus and bacteria can develop if there is seed on the ground if it gets wet and moldy. This could lead to a disease called aspergillosis.

Some have asked about baking the birdseed to kill the seed in terms of its ability to sprout. Baking birdseed – besides being a real hassle – may not be totally effective in killing all types of seed. You'll be happy to know it isn't necessary. You have many options for sprout-free feeding.

You can feed birds sunflower hearts or chips and whole or broken peanuts, none of which will sprout. All nyger or thistle seed imported into the U.S. must be treated so that it will not sprout, a rule set forth by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prevent unwanted weeds from becoming established. Raisins, mealworms, and suet cakes without seeds are good choices, as is peanut butter mixed with enough cornmeal to make a stiff dough. An added advantage is that the treats tend to attract a wider variety of native birds and fewer non-natives, such as pigeons, which prefer to feed on small seeds on the ground.

Be sure to use feeders that restrict non-native birds, and keep the ground underneath your feeders clean. A tidy feeding area will help cut down on large flocks of unwanted birds, as well as rodents, disease, and mess that cause unwanted clean-up at many feeding stations.

Joel Dunnette - President

Winter Birdfeeding tips

It is relatively easy to plan for winter bird feeding. There are three main choices of food: large seeds, small seeds, and suet.

Large seeds include black-oil sunflower, striped sunflower, safflower, peanuts, shelled corn, ear corn and cardinal mixes that contain sunflower, safflower and peanuts.

About 80 to 90 percent of seed I use in Minnesota is comprised of black-oil sunflower seeds and cardinal mixes. These have the greatest appeal to the broadest variety of winter birds and contain a high energy content.

The list of birds that favor sunflower seeds is impressive: **Northern cardinals, Blue jays, Black-capped and Chestnut-backed chickadees, House and Purple finches, American goldfinches, Evening and Pine grosbeaks, Gray and Steller's jays, nuthatches, crossbills, titmice**, and many more.

If you provide sunflower seeds on your deck or patio, you may wish to try sunflower hearts to avoid the mess that occurs in spring when you discover several inches of sunflower seed hulls under your feeders.

Peanuts provide a nutritious diet for birds, including **Black-capped chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and Blue jays**. Even **Northern cardinals** will come to a peanut feeder.

Seeds and mixes

Cracked corn or milo (sorghum) is so attractive to House sparrows and starlings I recommend not using them.

Millet mixes contain 80 to 90 percent millet and a small percentage of sunflower seeds and other ingredients, such as milo, wheat, rape and canary seed.

Small amount of millet can be scattered on the ground or on tray feeders to accommodate **Dark-eyed juncos, Mourning doves, and American tree, Fox, Harris', White-throated, White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows**.

The most important change from fall feeding to winter feeding is to decrease the proportion of millet mix from 30 to 40 percent in the fall to about 10 percent in the winter as the **migrant sparrows and juncos** move farther south.

Niger seed—thistle—is an excellent all-winter staple for **American and Lesser goldfinches, Common and Hoary redpolls, House and Purple finches, and Pine siskins**.

All of these species will use commercial finch feeders. Finch mix can also be used for these species, but feeders with larger feeder ports will be necessary.

If **House finches** become a problem, an anti-House finch feeder is available. **Goldfinches** are able to perch upside down and feed, but **House finches** can't.

If you experience a large number of **redpolls** or **Pine siskins** trying to use your feeders, scatter a few handfuls of niger seed on top of sunflower seeds in tray feeders. Several years ago I tried this during a "redpoll invasion" and got as many as two dozen redpolls feeding at a time on a 12" x 48" deck railing feeder. Small tray feeders can also be stocked with niger to attract **Pine siskins** and **redpolls**.....

Cont'd on page 7.

Winter Birdfeeding tips...Cont'd, Suet Recipe

Cont'd from page 6

Suet

Many wintering birds benefit from the high energy nutritional benefits of suet, suet mixes, and peanut butter.

Suet can be fed in onion sacks, wire mesh feeders, wooden dowel (cage) feeders, or placed on open platforms that are secure from dogs and other "suet robbers."

Pileated woodpeckers seem to prefer their suet on solid platforms instead of suspended feeders.

Conventional suet feeders sometimes attract **European starlings**, another nuisance exotic species that drives native songbirds from your yard and from nesting cavities in the spring.

If **starlings** are a problem, use a "starling-proof" feeder that forces the birds to feed upside down. **Chickadees**, **woodpeckers**, and **nuthatches** have no trouble feeding this way, but **starlings** have weaker feet and are not able to feed in such an awkward position.

Peanut butter is another good choice for filling log-style feeders and smearing on pine cones

The bird-feeding techniques discussed above are included in a book by Carrol Henderson, DNR Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor, *Wild About Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide*. This book is available from [Minnesota's Bookstore](#) (1-800-657-3757).



MAKE YOUR OWN VEGETARIAN SUET

This recipe comes from National Audubon. It is the perfect substitute for birds that normally feast on insects. It's rich in lipids and a great winter treat for woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Materials needed:

3/4 cup shortening (preferably no palm oil)

3/8 cup peanut butter (any nut butter)

1 3/4 cup wild bird seed

1/2 cup quick oats

1/4 cup corn meal

Ice cube tray

Mix dry ingredients in a bowl. In a separate bowl combine shortening and nut butter and melt. Pour over dry ingredients and mix. Spoon into ice cube tray, freeze, and put in suet feeder.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403



KINGFISHER
November/December 2017

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 90280

Return Service
Requested



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.

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.

Nov 14th, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Program Meeting- Julie Westerlund : "Water Connects Us All". Beth El Synagogue.

Dec 5th, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. Program Meeting- Jim Egge: Birding South Texas and The Rio Grande Valley". Beth El Synagogue

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.

www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net