



KINGFISHER



NOV/DEC 2013

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 62 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

New Kingfisher Editor

Cathy Bailly will be the new *Kingfisher* Editor beginning with the Jan/Feb 2014 issue. Cathy is semi retired and a recent empty-nester. She is married, lives in Edina and has four grown children, 2 boys, and 2 girls. She graduated from the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism, with a copywriting degree, while being an active stay-at-home mom. She then entered the workforce as an Account manager for a service company and moved into Sales and Business development, until being laid off. She is a frequent visitor to the raptor center and is on the wait list there, for volunteers. Her primary interest are bird's of prey, specifically, Bald Eagles, but she loves all birds. Cathy is very interested in the effort to ban lead bullets and sinkers in Minnesota, so, if anyone has information that is helpful to that cause or wants to collaborate, please contact her. She can be contacted at eaglessoar1964@gmail.com or 612-267-9098.

November Issue

Upcoming Programs

November 12th
Sue Leaf, "T. S. Roberts"
(At Beth El Synagogue)

December 3rd
Sparky Stensaas -Wildlife
Photographer
(At Beth El Synagogue)

Check out their bios on page 5

New Treasurer Needed!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) is looking for a new Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is an elected position and is a member of the Chapter Board of Directors. The Treasurer should have some accounting and computer skills. Familiarity with Quicken[®] is desirable. ACM owns a computer that can be used by the Treasurer. The time required to perform the duties of Treasurer depend upon skill level. It is estimated to be from about 2 - 4 hours/month. Once during the year a tax report is prepared, which will require a little extra time. Most of the time will involve preparing Treasurer Reports for Board meetings, which are facilitated by the financial software. 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. Or contact any Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board member. Thanks for helping us.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jerry Bahls

This past month has had some very important events for the Chapter. We have made some progress toward finalizing the Roberts Bird Sanctuary Management Plan through our membership in the Roberts Revitalization Project Partnership. The Plan was introduced at a MPRB Hearing on September 12th but was far short of our expectations for the plan, however we are hopeful that the hearing process, where the Partnership made extensive comments on the Plan, will work and have our comments incorporated into the final approved Plan.

Just before the Roberts' hearing a Minneapolis City Council Committee held a hearing on a change to the Ordinances that affect dog and cats. This change would allow colonies of feral cats to be established in Minneapolis. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, Audubon Minnesota and Minneapolis Audubon Society submitted comments opposing the ordinance (see TNR article). Upon passage through the committee, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and Audubon Minnesota sought to make a couple of amendments to improve the ordinance. A couple of minor ones were accepted but one that would have potentially protected members who feed birds was defeated and the Ordinance was passed unanimously by the full City Council.

Now that the Ordinance is law the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) would like to make the most of a potentially bad Ordinance by monitoring it to see that it does what its proponents predict it will do - that is, to reduce the number of feral cats in Minneapolis - thereby, by implication, improve the plight of birds in the city. To effectively do this will require knowing the location of the cat colonies. This information will be kept private by the City, but the cat caretakers are required to educate their neighbors. Thus in order to effectively monitor this program, we are asking these neighbors to let us know if they are contacted that a cat colony has been established in their neighborhood. We will keep this information private also, but use it to monitor bird nesting and feeding activity. We are hoping to do this through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Feeder Watch and Nest Watch projects. By knowing the sites of the colonies we will be able to compare data near the colonies with those in throughout Minneapolis and determine if the colonies are influencing bird activity. Because the Ordinance does not take effect until January 1, 2013, watch for an announcement in the next *Kingfisher*.

Continued on following page

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2013-2014 Contacts

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Audubon Center of the North Woods	Www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

MOU Paper Session

The MOU Paper Session will be held on December 7th at the Bell Museum on the UM Campus. This year Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is responsible for the refreshments. We will need about 5 volunteers to help with this. Call or e-mail Jerry Bahls if you can help.

Member

Poetry

Corner

SURVIVOR

For now

the sky is as blue as the
nearby Blue Jay.

Soon, a strong wind

picks up.

Cold weather and flurries

of snow arrive.

Braving the winter,

the blue-coated hero

seeks a supper

before bedding down –

hiding away somewhere

to outlast the storm.

*** Editors Note: The September/October Kingfisher failed to mention the poet associated with the poems printed. The author is Clem Nagel, and this month he is featured once again. We regret the error. ***

President's Note—continued

The Chapter would like to thank Bob Dunn for filling in as Treasurer after Ernie Gunderson had to resign. Bob continued to be a diligent Treasurer and helped the Chapter make the transition to an electronic financial bookkeeping system. Bob will continue to serve on the Board.

Finally, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to thank Shannon Huebscher for her service as the Editor of the *Kingfisher*. Shannon's first *Kingfisher* was the September/October 2010 issue and this issue will be her last. We wish the best for Shannon in her future endeavors and we hope to see her at some future programs.

Spectacular Panama Birding Tour with Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

February 13-22, 2014

Panama, the southernmost country in North America, brings together the best of North and South American birding. A week here in winter can bring you a list of over 350 species of birds, including some that are at the extreme north or south of their ranges - plus up to 50 regional endemics found only in Panama or Costa Rica. You will see the Panama endemics Yellow-green Tyrannulet and Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, plus Resplendent Quetzal, Blue Cotinga, Keel-billed Toucan, tanagers, hummingbirds, trogons, antbirds, manakins, oropendolas...as well as howler monkeys, agoutis, sloths, many colorful butterflies, six-inch long damselflies...and so much more.

You'll begin your birding in the central part of the country, around the Panama Canal, later moving west to the cooler highlands of Chiriquí, and finally into eastern Panama. Each region provides a new array of birds, allowing your life list to grow every day of the trip.

You may want to consider an optional pre-trip extension that will take you into Panama's easternmost province, Darién. This is the best place to find birds normally found only in South America, as well as the largest raptor in the Americas, the Harpy Eagle.

To learn more about this fabulous trip, visit our website at www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org. Also, feel free to contact Ginny May, Coordinator for Outstate Field Trips for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, at 612-377-0146; email ginnymay@comcast.net

BIRDS are the STARS

Match The letter of the bird seen in the numbered constellations. Answers are on page seven!

- | | | |
|---------|-----|---------------------|
| Tucana | ___ | A) Crane |
| Apus | ___ | B) Swan |
| Cygnus | ___ | C) Crow |
| Phoenix | ___ | D) Eagle |
| Corvus | ___ | E) Bird-of-Paradise |
| Pavo | ___ | F) Toucan |
| Aquila | ___ | G) Peacock |
| Columba | ___ | H) Mythical Bird |
| Grus | ___ | I) Dove |

Newsletter Feedback

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to get some comments from our membership on how we might be able to enhance the *Kingfisher*. Please send your suggestions to Bob Papke at rf1papke@gmail.com. We appreciate your feedback.

Fall Appeal Begins

Our Fall Appeal continues to be our only organized fund raiser for the chapter. Our members have been generous ever since we initiated the Appeal. Our goal will be about \$2500. The *Kingfishers* (Postage is expected to increase again this year) and Programs continue to represent over 80% of our budget. National Audubon Society's (NAS) dues reimbursement will cover most of these expenses. Our annual budget is about \$13,600. The remaining expenses are covered by a variety of other sources. Roberts Bird Sanctuary restoration again is a high priority commitment. We are hopeful that the Roberts Management Plan can finally be completed with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. The sewer work in Roberts next Fall and Winter may require us to make some funds commitment for tree planting, but we feel this continues to be a very important long term project.

An envelope in this issue of the Kingfisher can be used to make a donation to ACM to cover expenses associated with our Meeting Programs and other education related projects, including Roberts.

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

- Jerry Bahls, President

Bios for Program Speakers!

Nov 12: Sue Leaf

Sue Leaf will be talking about her book, the first full Biography of Thomas S Roberts, "A Love Affair With Birds". When Minneapolis was small, St Anthony Falls' roar could be heard in town, Passenger Pigeons roosted in oak trees, and a dapper professor conducted his ornithology class by streetcar to Lake Harriet.

His birding took him often to the area we now call Roberts Bird Sanctuary.

Sue has taught Biology and Environmental Science at Cambridge Community College. She is currently the president of Wild River Audubon Society.

Dec 3: Sparky Stensaas

Sparky Stensaas will be sharing his wildlife photography at the December program. He is referred to as the Photonaturalist, specializing in Natural History images of the North Woods. He lives in the North Woods and is co-owner of Kollath-Stensaas Publishing. He founded Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, promoting the famous birding area west of Duluth. Check out his website www.Thephotonaturalist.com.

THE NEW DESERTS

Increasing technology, increasing lifestyle, and increasing population have put a spiraling cost on world economies. The cost in dollars is enormous and the ripple effect on employment and profits, removes the resilience from the economy. This recession will likely have long-term effects to the next generation. We all bear responsibility for America's struggle to maintain its leadership in the world.

The costs to America take on proportions that are seldom foreseen, in ways that entrap the innocent along with the instigators. A society can ill-afford rapid change, and should seek to preserve stability while improving the lives of its citizens. Usually one of the first casualties of unstable economy is the natural environment. Controls are relaxed and protections of wildlife, forests, water quality, etc. are sacrificed.

The current recession has seen high energy prices and an explosion in resource searches such as copper mining in sulfide ores. Fracking of shale oil has grown faster than the needed monitoring and controls. Resource extraction and growth usually increases the number of people living in what are called "sacrifice zones". These are areas that have diminished value as living space or natural environments.

The Louisiana Gulf Coast has long been such a zone. The fossil fuel and chemical industries have impacted communities for decades, for those needing to live and work there. Cancer and respiratory illnesses proliferate in these landscapes with toxic effluents. For example, the Bakken and other shale oil fields have sacrificed farmland and water quality. The tar sands in Alberta are exhibit A for sacrificing land quality, for they may always be too toxic to ever grow much. When I was in Texas years back, I saw a sulfuric acid plant, with almost nothing living within a mile around. And in Northern Minnesota, look at the overburden piles covering mile after mile around the mine pits. To a certain extent we have all sacrificed varying degrees of health and safety, from the effects of our climatically-challenged planet.

In an area like the Twin Cities, 40% of the space is designed for cars. No wildlife can find food or natural habitat there. Add houses, businesses, etc. and with the exception of a few house sparrows, finches, and robins, birds find little space to nest. Some biologists have referred to this as the urban desert.

By Jim Egge

Thank You

As mentioned on the front page, I am stepping down as Editor of the Kingfisher. Being your Editor has been a great joy for me – from getting to know the members of the Board, to learning about ways (both new and old) to help and protect our birds has been a wonderful experience. Thank you for letting me be a part of this!

Sincerely, Shannon Huebscher

Trap-Neuter-Release of Feral Cats in Minneapolis Approved

The Minneapolis City Council is allowing its residents to maintain feral cat colonies in the city. By a unanimous 13-0 vote the city council amended its regulations on cats allowing for colonies of feral (wild) cats.

The new ordinance mandates that the cats in the colonies be neutered, under the so-called Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) method. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis argued strongly against this ordinance while it was being considered by the council.

Recognizing that the city has a problem with free roaming cats, both Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and Audubon Minnesota argued that the TNR method has not been shown to reduce feral cat populations. It also “increases predation by cats, a harmful, non-native predator, of our native birds and mammals, encourages colonization and abandonment of cats on public and private lands, and exposes people, domestic animals and wildlife to serious disease risks.”

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and Audubon Minnesota requested the City Council delay the vote for further study, and urged that the city also consider the problem of free-roaming domesticated cats. National studies have consistently shown that cats kill between 1 and 4 billion birds annually. Again, we argued, “Local governments have responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act to conserve birds and other wildlife, and must also carry out their paramount mandate of protecting the public’s health. The practice of TNR is inconsistent with the commitment the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul made when applying for and receiving designation from the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Urban Bird Treaty Cities just two years ago.”

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis urges all its members who live in the city to pay close attention to what their council members said on this issue and then decide how to vote Nov. 5 in municipal elections. Not all council candidates are incumbents. We would urge residents to ask all candidates where they stand on this issue.

Answers from Birds are the Stars on page 4:

1)-F 2)-E 3)-B 4)-H 5)-C 6)-G 7)-D 8)-I 9)-A

Thanks to Jim Egge for this quiz!!

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November/December 2013

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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

October

22: Board Meeting, Byerly's in Golden Valley on Duluth Ave., 7PM-8:45PM

November

12: Program, Beth El Synagogue, 7PM—9PM

26: Board Meeting, Byerly's in Golden Valley on Duluth Ave., 7PM-8:45PM

December

3: Program, Beth El Synagogue, 7PM—9PM

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 at : www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org

Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net