



# KINGFISHER



November 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No.7

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

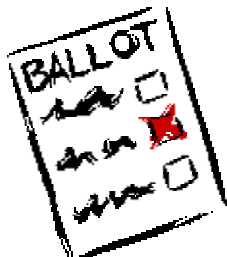
## A Note from the President

There are two important democratic processes that you are being asked to participate in the next couple of weeks. The first is the selection of issues that Audubon Minnesota will pursue during the 2005 legislative session. The first step in this process ended on September 30<sup>th</sup> with the nomination of issues. The second stage of paring down the number of issues will be held during October with the casting of your ballot choosing your top five issues. The final stage is the selection of the top three issues at the Fall Meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington (see article in this issue). Please participate in this process!!

The second important process is the national election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. In my mind this is a very important election. It will have effects far into the future especially for the environment. For this reason it is vital that every one of you cast your ballot! Go the extra mile to do so if you have to. Get an absentee ballot if you won't be in town on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Help a friend who has mobility problems get to the polls. Strongly voice your opinion about candidates. Make sure you state the facts about issues. In short, get involved, then vote!!

Another thing to remember is to go through the entire ballot and vote for all candidates about whom you feel adequately informed (get informed on the Judicial candidates). Be especially vigilant for referendums on the ballot. They usually are located near the end of the ballot. An example of one such referendum will occur in Fridley, where a referendum on the funding for the Springbrook Nature Center will be on the ballot. On this issue a "Yes" vote will provide the funds to continue the operation of the Springbrook Nature Center. You may have a similar issue on your ballot. Make sure you go through the whole ballot!

YOU have these tasks to do in the next couple of weeks. Get your Audubon Minnesota Issues Ballot. Sign up to attend the Fall Meeting. Vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and go to the end of the ballot!



**Vote!**  
—Jerry Bahls, President

## November Program Speaker

Wondering what to plant in place of the buckthorn and other invasive species you've removed from your landscape or woods? Learn what native shrubs should be growing in the spaces that are now occupied by invasive species. See slides of native cherries, dogwoods, junberries, viburnums and others. Flowering, fruit value for songbirds, plant size, winter interest, fall color and appropriate size will be discussed for many of our diminishing native shrubs.



Our speaker, Janet Larson, has a B.S. in Urban & Community Forestry and a minor in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota. She is a landscape designer and forestry consultant who specializes in native plant designs and woodland restorations. Janet has been removing buckthorn and Asian honeysuckle and replacing them with native species in a green space near her home in Bloomington for many years. As a Tree Care Advisor, she gives talks on buckthorn to community groups and mentors Boy Scouts and others who wish to remove invasives and protect valuable natives in specific project areas.



Janet has planted a small woodland of native trees and shrubs on her property for songbirds as a neighborhood example/alternative to turf, and for a seed source for propagating native plants. For twelve years, she has co-taught "Important Plants in Fisheries & Wildlife Habitats," a filed course for the University of Minnesota's College of Natural Resources students at the Itasca Station and Cloquet Forestry Center. She has been a Hennepin County Master Gardener for eleven years.



The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is proud to welcome her as the speaker for the November meeting.

Please join the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis in celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

Cake and cookies will be served at the December 7th meeting.

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### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

[www.geocities.com/audubon.geo](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo)

### Minnesota Audubon

[www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html)

### National Audubon Society

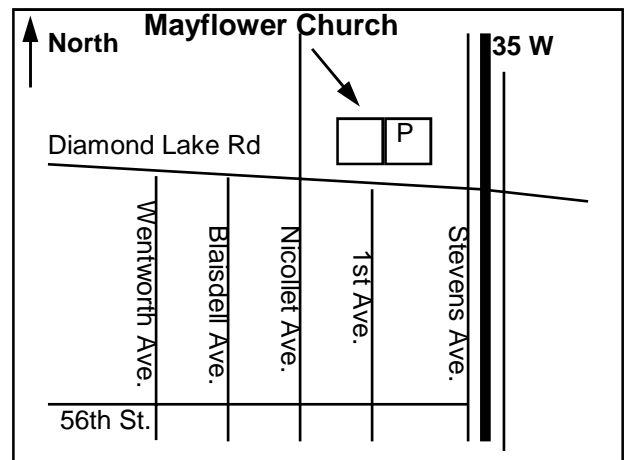
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 9 (note 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in Nov.!)  
"Buckthorn, Biology, and Control," presented by Janet Larson, landscape design consultant and forestry specialist. Ms. Larson will report on removal of (and acceptable replacements for) buckthorn.

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 pm

**AT:** Mayflower Church, map below



### 2005 Legislative Issues Ballot

Ballots will be cast during the month of October for issues nominated for Audubon Minnesota's lobbying for the 2005 legislative session. To have your voice heard in this selection process, please request an Issues Ballot from Susan Solterman. Call her at 651.739.9332 or e-mail at [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org) for a ballot! Then sign up to attend the Fall Meeting (see page 4). Also don't forget to vote on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the national election!

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at  
[bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu)

## Eastman Anniversary Nov. 7

Join current and former staff members of Eastman Nature Center for a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 1-3 p.m. Sunday November 7, in Dayton.

Take a walk through our past and become part of our future. In honor of this special occasion, Whitney Eastman's "Ivory Billed Woodpecker" will make an appearance in the woods. Find it and you may win a prize. Games, live animals, face painting and cake are also part of the family fun. Bird lovers will enjoy looking through Whitney Eastman's extensive birding scrapbooks. This free event is co-sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Eastman Nature Center first opened for the public to enjoy in 1974, thanks in part to fundraising efforts by Whitney H. Eastman. Eastman was an avid nationally-known bird watcher whose dedication to conservation helped create three nature centers in the metro area. He died at the age of 91 in 1979. A 1,500 square-foot addition to the nature center was completed in 1991, adding two classroom spaces and a new reception area. At least 26,000 people visited Eastman Nature Center in 2003 for programs, school groups or just on their own.

Eastman Nature Center offers its visitors a peaceful retreat. Popular displays feature live frogs, salamanders, turtles and snakes. You can view birds up close through enormous picture windows. The center's talented staff is eager to share its knowledge of the natural world with inquisitive visitors of all ages. Just outside, there are four miles of hiking trails that meander through forests, fields and alongside creeks. Special features include a 200-foot boardwalk across a pond, an observation blind for watching birds and other wildlife, a restored prairie, an outdoor classroom, and an orienteering course.

Eastman Nature Center is located in Elm Creek Park Reserve at 13351 Elm Creek Road, Dayton. The park is northwest of Osseo between the communities of Champlin, Dayton and Maple Grove. From Highway 169, take County Road 81 to County Road 121, turn north and go to Elm Creek Road; proceed to the nature center. Three Rivers Park District operates Eastman Nature Center.



### Conservation Committee Report

The Conservation Committee met on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was attended by four members with two more members unable to attend on that day. Legislative issues that could be nominated for the upcoming legislative session were discussed. None were nominated at that time.

Projects for the "Buckthorn Wars" were discussed. The following projects were agreed upon to further explore: buckthorn wood as artist's/building media, choosing a small municipality and make it "Buckthorn Free," and assisting

other groups in their "Buckthorn Busts." Another committee project that was undertaken was the nomination of Important Bird Areas (IBA's) in our service area.

Watch for an announcement of our next meeting. If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry Bahls (see 2<sup>nd</sup> page) to find out where and when the Conservation Committee is meeting.



## Book Review-*Winter World*

*Winter World* by Bernd Heinrich  
Harper Collins Publishers, 2003

Bernd Heinrich may be familiar to many as the author of *Ravens in Winter* and *Mind of the Raven*. In *Winter World*, his most recent book, he uses the golden crowned kinglet as a connecting thread to explore the techniques animals use to survive winter.

Initially this book requires a bit of effort on the part of the reader. A basic understanding of the physical science of water freezing is important to a full understanding of some winter survival strategies. However, once you are past the first two chapters, the rest of the book is a walk in the park—well, actually a walk in the woods.

Reading this book is like taking a walk in the woods with an expert naturalist. You may go out looking for kinglets, but you might end up learning about flying squirrels and, by extension, other squirrels. And if you want to learn about kinglets, you need to look at nests, including those of kinglets, other birds, and insects. You need to know which insects might be available for kinglets to eat in the winter and what those insects eat. You need to compare kinglets to other birds to see if their behavior is the same or different. Along the way you get both the details and a chance to think about the big picture.

Heinrich leads the reader along, explaining with his own observations and appropriate literature references. Heinrich is a true naturalist who is delighted and interested in all aspects of the environment. He does very entertaining experiments that require little in the way of expensive equipment, but much in creativity and curiosity.

This book is very enjoyable when read from start to finish, or if read in bits selected at random. Each chapter provides some interesting facts and a new perspective on animals and their relationship to the winter environment.

Heinrich is a professor of biology at the University of Vermont and a well known nature writer.

—Donna Bahls

*Note: This book can be obtained through the Audubon Lending Library. See last month's article.*

## Upcoming Field Trips

### Saturday, Nov. 13: Tundra Swans

The annual trip to see tundra swans at Alma, Wisconsin is always interesting. We'll be hoping for a strong cold front to make the swans move into our area from up north. We can expect to see bald eagles, various waterfowl, gulls, and of course, tundra swans.

Dress appropriately for cold weather. This is a half-day trip. Meet at the Hub Shopping Center in front of Walgreens at 8:00 am and we will carpool down to Alma. We will stop for lunch in Wabasha. Contact Terry Brashear with questions at 612.929.1976.

### Saturday, Dec 18: Christmas Bird Count

This is the 105<sup>th</sup> year of this event. The Coon Rapids Dam is at the center of the chapter's 15-mile diameter count area. We will meet at Springbrook Nature Center at 7:30 am to assign areas. Birders of all ages and experience levels are welcome. New participants will be grouped with birders who have previous experience with the Count.

Visit <http://www.pconline.com/~calico/index1.htm> for directions to Springbrook Nature Center.

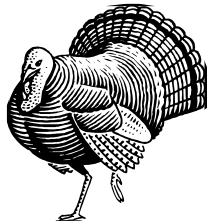
More information on the Christmas Bird Count is available at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/cp.html>

Contact Terry Brashear if you have any other questions—612.929.1976.

—Terry Brashear  
Field Trip Leader

#### *Quote from Benjamin Franklin:*

"I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country: he is a Bird of bad moral character. Like those among Men who live by Sharping and Robbing, he is generally poor and very often lousy. The Turkey is a much more respectable Bird and withal a true original Native of North America."



- \* Turkeys have great hearing, a poor sense of smell, and have a 270 degree field of vision
- \* Only male turkeys gobble; females "click"
- \* Mature turkeys have about 3,500 feathers at maturity
- \* Wild turkeys can fly short distances at speeds of 55 mph and can run 25 mph

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## Fall Audubon MN Meeting

Each fall, Audubon members from all over the state gather to socialize with one another and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the State Capitol. Since it worked so well last year, Audubon Minnesota's annual Fall Membership Meeting will be at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minnesota again this year. So, join us on Saturday, November 13. Lunch is provided!

We'll have lively, informative presentations on topics that Audubon members voted as their top concerns from the issue nomination and ballot forms. Afterward, the top five issues will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting. Members attending the meeting will vote for three issues to become the legislative priorities for the 2004 legislative session. Resolutions supporting other issues will also be discussed and voted on.

### Proposed Agenda

<b>9:00</b> Welcome	<b>1:00</b> Optional Guided Tour of the MN Valley Nat'l Wildlife Refuge and Special Guest Speaker (to be announced)
<b>9:15</b> Issue Overview Session I	<b>2:00</b> Issues Selection
<b>10:45</b> Issue Overview Session II	<b>4:00</b> Resolution Selection
<b>12:00</b> Lunch (provided)	<b>4:45</b> Conclusion

### **AUDUBON 2004 FALL MEMBERS MEETING REGISTRATION**

**Saturday, November 13, 2004**

**Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, Minnesota**

A map and further program details will be mailed to pre-registrants.

Registration Fee \$10.00 x \_\_\_\_ people = \_\_\_\_

Do you want hotel information? **YES** **NO**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**For more information about the issue nominations, issues ballot or the Fall Members Meeting, please contact Susan Solterman at the Audubon office, 651.739.9332**

#### **Mail to:**

**Audubon Minnesota, attn: Susan Solterman  
2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106, St. Paul, MN 55125**

## Environmental Inform-action

It's always good to hear about educational activities going on elsewhere to see ourselves as an important part of a huge effort worldwide. We have such a wonderful venue for bringing excitement and enthusiasm into people's lives by expanding their awareness.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Zumbro Valley Audubon held a "Biking to Save the Turtles" event. Participants patrolled the nesting area near Whitewater State Park, assisting threatened Blanding's turtles across a dangerous road.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, the Audubon Science Center of Albert Lea held a class on landscaping for wildlife. It was an overwhelming success and will be offered again in the spring of 2005.

This summer, an ongoing Young Naturalist Program was held at Nielsen Spearhead Center in Itasca County. The Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society sponsored 10 three-day sessions for kids aged 2-12, to expose them to the excitement of outdoor sciences.

The Long Lake Conservation Center at Palisade, MN hosted 25 different weekend events between September 2003 and May 2004. Three-day retreat groups were comprised of 718 visitors staying on the campus to get close to nature. In addition, a full summer of learning activities brought 250 youth to Long Lake. Of special note, 20 young people from Ibaraki, Japan joined 35 U.S. campers for six days of learning and fun.

On Nov 21 from 6:30-9:30 pm, Southdale Center hosts the Magical Evening of Giving. This is an inexpensive way to enjoy powering up your shopping while supporting Audubon of Minneapolis. You can listen to holiday entertainment such as the Minnesota Boychoir; receive special shopping offers and discounts; visit Santa; enjoy children's activities; and register to win fabulous prizes. The cost is only \$5 which goes directly to our local Audubon chapter. Call Jim Egge at 612.827.7629 for tickets.

—Jim Egge  
Contributing Writer



### Bird-Friendly, Shade-Grown Coffee...

At this time of the year, a steaming cup of coffee warms your hands and insides, and is particularly welcome after a morning outdoors. These days, every neighborhood has a coffee shop and in certain urban areas, more than one corner coffee store battles for your attention and dollars. But did you know that the majority of the Latin and Central American coffee you buy is grown in full sun, which requires the destruction of bird habitat and increases soil erosion and the use of pesticides and fertilizers? The Seattle Audubon Society presents interesting information on the subject of coffee plantations and the link between migratory birds and shade-grown coffee. See the Chapter's website for suggestions on how you can support bird habitat and the environment and empower coffee farmers by purchasing bird-friendly, shade-grown coffee. Production follows demand and more farmers will return to shade-grown methods as consumer awareness increases.

## Two Bluebird Trails Available

Once thought to be extirpated from Minneapolis, bluebirds have been enticed to return to the city in just a few places.

Mary McGee was the one who brought them back to Cedar Lake, starting in 1987. They have returned every year since, and their offspring have found boxes in **Wirth Golf Course**.

Last year, Sharon Moran monitored 18 boxes (nine pairs) at Wirth and was able help a record 30 bluebirds fledge out of 11 successful nests. The superintendents at Wirth have been very cooperative and loan a golf cart for making the rounds. It is a beautiful setting: from a section in the prairie area, one can gaze over downtown Minneapolis!

If you like to get up early once a week (your choice of day) for about 18 weeks (April to August), enjoy a beautiful morning riding across lawns AND enjoy the thrill of having your very own bluebirds, contact Dorene Scriven at 612.922.4586 or email her at BBRP@att.net. Full bluebird box care instructions are available. Ideally, we will have two or three backup people to monitor the boxes when necessary.

The second trail is at **Bunker Hills Park**, just into Anoka County (drive up East River Road). Originally established by Carrol Henderson, Supervisor of the DNR's Nongame Program, it has most recently been regularly monitored by Loren LeBlanc, whose mobility is now somewhat impaired.

There are just 30 boxes there, mostly paired (meaning one stop for each two boxes). There were many successful bluebird broods there last year. Loren is willing to help a new volunteer get started. Monitoring can be done anytime, but ideally should be done once a week during the season. Call Loren at 763.786.4863 for more details.

—Dorene H. Scriven  
Please reply to: BBRP@att.net

### FALL CLEANING FOR NESTING BOXES

Nest boxes should be cleaned when the nesting season is over. Open the box and wet down the old nest to minimize dust from the nesting materials. Remove the old nesting materials.



It's a good idea to wear rubber gloves and to check the underside of the box for a nest of hornets or wasps before you clean it.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
November 2004



### 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 (note: second Tuesday in Nov.)

- 9 Chapter Program: Buckthorn: Biology, Ecology and Control, 7:00 pm
- 13 Audubon Minnesota Fall Meeting
- 14 "Bird Feeding 101" Raptor Center
- 17 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 pm

#### December

- 5 "Why Do We Band Birds?" Raptor Center
- 7 Chapter's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, refreshments  
Chapter Program: Adventures in Argentina, Patagonia, and Chile, 7:00 pm

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this issue or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761).

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

All are welcome to programs, trips and Board meetings. Call President Jerry Bahls for details on Board meetings and field trips.