



# KINGFISHER



October 2003

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 52 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## BUCKTHORN WARS— KNOW THE ENEMY!

This is the prime season for conducting our primary assault on the enemy – BUCKTHORN! Below is a description of common buckthorn from the Minnesota DNR (with a few additions).

### COMMON BUCKTHORN DESCRIPTION

**APPEARANCE:** Tall understory shrub or small tree, up to 20' high with a spreading loosely-branched crown, often multiple stems at the base. Brown bark with elongated, silvery, corky projections (**Caution:** native plums or cherries have a similar bark); both female and male plants.

**BRANCHES:** Cut branch exposes yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. Twigs often end in stout thorns (not sharp).

**LEAVES:** Alternate, sometimes opposite; broadly elliptic pointed at the tip, smooth, dark glossy and small-toothed with 3 – 5 veins. Leaves stay green late into fall.

**FLOWERS:** Inconspicuous, appear in May or June, clustered in the axils of leaves.



**FRUIT:** Clusters of black 1/4-inch fruit ripen on the female plants in August and September. Seeds are viable for 2 - 3 years in the soil. The fruit of buckthorn causes a severe laxative effect; birds quickly pass the undamaged seeds in their droppings.

**ROOTS:** Extensive fibrous root system, dark in color.

**DON'T FORGET** about our challenge. Destroy one buckthorn plant a day from September 1<sup>st</sup> until November 30<sup>th</sup>. You can cheat by destroying 7 on any day of the week or 30 on any day in the month. Just bring the ninety 6-inch boughs to the December meeting to claim your prize!

—Jerry Bahls



## Legislative Issues Nominations Wanted...

Each year, Audubon Minnesota begins a process to determine the top priority issues to pursue at the MN Legislature the following January. This process begins by soliciting nominations of issues from statewide Audubon members. These nominations are consolidated into like or similar issues and put on a voting ballot for members. The top 5 issues are then debated and pared down to 3 issues at Audubon Minnesota's Fall Membership Meeting. All National Audubon Society and its chapter members in Minnesota are also members of Audubon Minnesota and thus are eligible to nominate and participate in the selection of the issues.

The nomination process begins now and ends on September 27<sup>th</sup>. More information, wording suggestions, and a nomination form (members are encouraged to make as many nominations as they wish) are available from Jerry Bahls (763-572-2333, [bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu)) or Susan Solterman (651-739-9332, [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org)).

After the nominations are received and consolidated, a ballot is prepared and sent to members on the Audubon Minnesota Activists list, all who submitted nominations, all chapter officers and board members, and other interested members. If you wish to participate in the ballot selection process but are not on one of the previous lists, send an e-mail to Jerry Bahls or call the Audubon Minnesota office at 651-739-9332 or e-mail Susan Solterman.

As noted above, the process is culminated at the Fall Membership Meeting of Audubon Minnesota, which will be on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. For more details, contact the Audubon Minnesota office at 651-739-9332. This process has been a very good method of getting the grassroots issues to the Minnesota Legislature. Please participate!

## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2003-2004 Contacts

President	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Vice President	John Arthur	952-931-0819
Treasurer	Phyllis Mahan	763-588-5440
Secretary	<open>	
Board Member	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Board Member	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Board Member	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Board Member	Bill Sipe	763-537-6397
Board Member	Lisa McDonald	612-721-2672
Board Member	Dorothy Kuether	952-926-4205
Board Member	Mary Ellen Vetter	763-561-1761
Board Member	<open>	
Birdathon Coord	<open>	
Audubon Adventures	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Bluebird Recovery	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Camps/Hunt Hill	Marion Borell	612-866-1266
Camps/North Woods	Bob Nelson	952-933-7340
Conservation	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Field Trips Chair	Mary Ellen Vetter	763-561-1761
Field Trip Leader	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656
Lending Library	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Mailing	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Membership	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Park Feeders	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Programs	Lisa McDonald	612-721-2672
Publicity/Exhibits	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Sales	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Social	Helen Weides	612-824-6268
MOU Rare Bird Alert		763-780-8890
Minnesota Audubon		651-739-9332

John Arthur	jarthur@visi.com
Jerry Bahls	bahls001@tc.umn.edu
Kim Halek	mrvogelfrau03@mninter.net
Dorothy Kuether	dkuether@juno.com
Tom/Phyllis Mahan	mahan-mail@att.net
Lisa McDonald	gemyndig@hotmail.com
Dorene Scriven	scriv001@tc.umn.edu

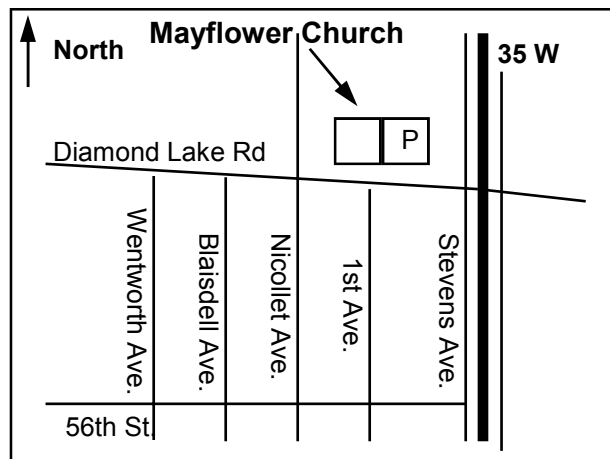
**Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis**  
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

**Minnesota Audubon**  
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

**National Audubon Society**  
www.audubon.org

## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 7 "Osprey Reintroduction" by Vanessa Greene, Three Rivers Park District  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m.  
**AT:** Mayflower Church (Lower Level)  
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis  
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



The Chapter could really use your help: as you can see to the left, several positions remain open and unfilled. Also please note how often a few special people are wearing more than one or two or three hats! National Audubon has placed a high priority on recruitment of new members by local chapters. We need a Membership Coordinator and if you've got some great recruitment ideas, we'd love to have you join our leadership team! Board positions and the open Secretary spot require only 2-4 hours of commitment per month. If you are able to share some of your time with a diverse and interesting group of fellow conservation-minded bird lovers, please contact President Tom Mahan or anyone else on the Board. Thanks a lot!

## Electronic Kingfisher

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!**  
 Contact Jerry Bahls at  
 bahls001@tc.umn.edu

## Magical Dragonflies

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis held its first-ever Dragonfly Walk. The weather cooperated and the dragonflies and damselflies put on quite a show. Lisa McDonald and John Arthur led the trip.

We met at Bet Shalom Synagogue in Minnetonka which has a small wetland complex on its property that is being monitored as part of the Wetland Health Evaluation Program. While we still stood in the parking lot, a Twelve-Spotted Skimmer flew by and landed on the overhanging branch of a nearby tree. Out came the cameras—the branch was low enough that a photographer could stand right next to the dragonfly and get great photos or for those without cameras, an excellent look. Most of the dragonflies and damselflies were very obliging and posed long enough for all of us to get a good long look or take several photos. Often, dragonflies land on a particular perch and then fly away briefly, only to return to the same perch after chasing away another dragonfly in a territorial dispute or to catch a meal. Now if only birds would behave like that... ha-ha.

Another highlight of the walk was when we found some small tree frogs perching on lots of the plants and on a Black-eyed Susan. The other frogs and toads would not hold still that long. (Vija, we are looking forward to a card!)

Some of the group waded into another part of the wetland that is surrounded by woods. Not many dragonflies, but we did find some exuvia. Exuvia are the leftover shells after dragonflies emerge from the water and become adults. Since most of the participants did not want to wade up to their knees in muck, we tried to bring the exuvia out. An exuvia weighs less than a dried leaf and is A LOT more delicate. Trying to carry one and walk through knee-deep muck is a tricky task and we were not successful with either attempt. The slightest puff of air and the exuvia is gone; the group had to settle for pictures of what exuvia looks like.

In all, we had six species of dragonfly, several species of damselflies, at least one species of spreadwing, four species of frog or toad and at least eight different species of birds. Everyone on the walk went away learning more about dragonflies and other aspects of wetland habitat.

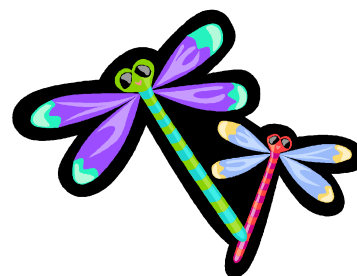
We had another Dragonfly Walk on August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Coon Rapids Dam. We found Powdered Dancers (a damselfly species) laying eggs on some sticks in the Mississippi River. There were also some American Ruby Spots and Ebony Jewel Wings.

Not many dragonflies this time, but we did find some White-faced Meadowhawks and a couple of Eastern Pond-

hawks. Earlier in the year, on a walk at the same place, we found Cobra Clubtails and others species in abundance. Much like birding, the right place, the right time and the season determine what will be found.

We will be offering a couple of Dragonfly Walks next year. The most species can be found in July, with August being the second most popular month and June the third, so look for listings for that time.

—John Arthur  
Chapter Vice President, Trip Leader



## There's Still Time!

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES** is the National Audubon Society's environmental curriculum for grades 3-6. Teachers receive a Classroom Resource Kit with lesson plans for 4 nature-study topics with materials for 32 students. Students participate in several citizen science programs such as the Great Backyard Bird Count. This curriculum is aligned to national standards for science and language arts. **AUDUBON ADVENTURES** is also excellent for home school programs and youth groups!

Each year, our Chapter sponsors 12 classrooms in our area. The cost of a Resource Kit is \$40.95. We invite our members to help us reach more children by sponsoring a classroom or youth group. This gift can go to the student, teacher, or school of your own choice, or you can let us choose one. If you would like to sponsor a recipient this school year, please respond by October 17, 2003. For more information, contact Trudi Poquette at 612-824-4866.

Please enclose the name and school address of the student, teacher, or school along with a check for **\$40.95** made payable to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, P.O. Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Thanks!

Visit [www.birdingtrail.org](http://www.birdingtrail.org) to learn how to obtain the new Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail Guide

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

Return Service Requested



KINGFISHER  
October 2003

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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  
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

#### October

**7** Chapter Program: "Osprey Reintroduction" by Vanessa Greene, Three Rivers Park District, 7:30 p.m.

#### November

**8** Eagle Watch along the Mississippi River to Wabasha

**11** Chapter Program: "Bat Conservation" by "Bat Lady" Stephanie Reynolds, 7:30 p.m.

**15** Fall Membership Meeting of Audubon MN

#### December

**2** Chapter Program: "Important Bird Areas" by Mark Martell, Minnesota Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation, 7:30 p.m.

**20** North Minneapolis Christmas Bird Count

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please check our website or call Mary Ellen (763-561-1761) for more details...

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