



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 50 No. 7

Representing the National Audubon Society
in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

October 2001

President's Message

Hurrah to a new season - a good start and lots of ideas and plans. Members have been away and have much to share; committee chairs have plans and activities to help the birds and our environment. Do you, like me, feel good when you can participate, know that you are making life better for the birds and our environment?

National Audubon has made changes which require chapter changes and will encourage cooperation among chapters. Already, our chapter and St. Paul chapter are working together on training: helping teachers use Audubon Adventures in better ways (Mary Ellen Vetter is our worker.) Their president, Chase Davies, and I, are planning some joint activities. What ideas or activities would you like to see us do, or like to help with? Let me, or a board member, know.

While visiting Alaska, I found brochures at visitor's centers and hotels about where to bird watch best, and a group in Anchorage takes people on 4 hour bird-watching tours, supplying transportation, a local bird list, and binoculars for those who need them. What a service that could be for our visitors, for convention groups. Would you help us work on that?

Being with non-birders, the most birds -and mosquitoes- I saw were in the gift shops. There were nicely crafted pins of many birds and mammals, an enticement to go really see them. Everywhere I went there were "birds" - so much interest. Could you interest shops in carrying such items?

In Seward, the Sealife Institute has a BIG tank: areas that allow you to see creatures from "land" and below in the water. Imagine seeing puffins dart down, swim, get their food - a thrill! What wonderful treats technology allows us.

And our National Parks! The bus ride slowly through Denali; the bus driver knew where to look for the birds and animals and we got to totally look. We saw a young peregrine sitting on a ridge, preening; flying hawks were identified and markings told, so the visitors could identify others themselves.

Let's celebrate - we are part of the biggest and fastest growing "hobby" - and let's help it grow, protecting the birds, animals, and ourselves, through a better environment.

—Dorothy Kuether

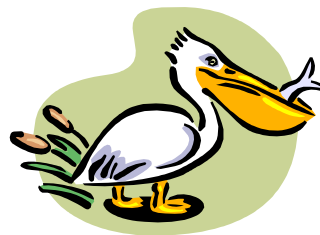


Upcoming Program

Tuesday, October 2
Prairie Potholes

I hope that most of you were able to enjoy Stan Tekiela's presentation on Minnesota birds in September. The feedback I have received was overwhelmingly enthusiastic about his entertaining and informative discussion of bird behaviors.

October's program promises to be equally fascinating. In last month's *Kingfisher*, Vija Kelly shared with us some of her experiences earlier this summer, photographing birds in prairie pothole country in Minnesota and North Dakota. On October 2, she will bring slides to illustrate her discussion of how beautiful prairie pothole country is, in addition to serving as the "duck factory of North America," the major migration route for Snow Geese, cranes and shorebirds, and the largest nesting colony of pelicans in



the country. This rich population attracts its share of predators. Vija also spotted Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks and was able to observe some of their interesting behaviors. It is unfortunate that we are limited to one evening to learn about the dynamics of this unique habitat. Come listen and ask questions!

Vija Kelly is a long-standing member of our chapter, and has been photographing the natural world since 1994. She carries her camera and binoculars everywhere and, in addition to road trips, she is able to get out at least half a day each week. Though she is primarily motivated by her own passion and enjoyment, she also aims her photography at encouraging others to love and protect the world around us. She uses her photographs on note and greeting cards, and also shares them with industrial clients in her consulting work on handling hazardous materials.

Please join us. We meet at Mayflower Church, just off of 35W and Diamond Lake Road.

—Lisa McDonald

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/

Minnesota Audubon

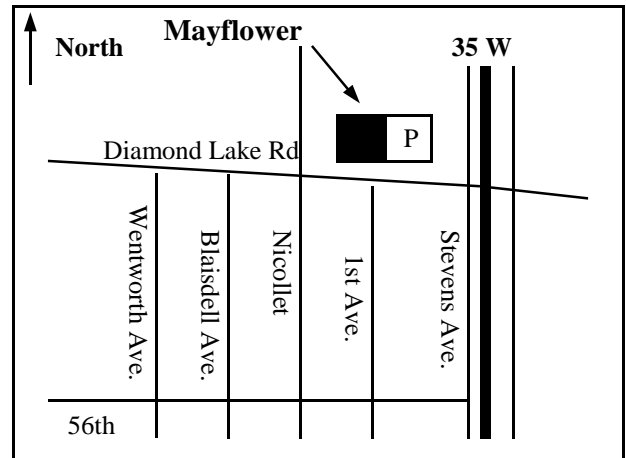
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

National Audubon Society

www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, October 2, 2001
TIME: 7:30 p.m. **"Prairie Potholes"**
AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Betty Hale Donates Books to Audubon Members



In August, long-time chapter member, Betty Hale, donated thirty-four books, guides, and pamphlets from the extensive birding and nature library she and her late husband, John, long time chapter treasurer, had collected. With Betty's blessing, some of these books will be offered at the "free table" during the coming chapter meetings. A small donation to the chapter is suggested. The publications range from well-known nature artists' works, to field guides, to small regional pamphlets on bird or animal watching. Come and browse and enjoy!

Thank, you, Betty, for your generosity!

—Dorene Scriven

Electronic Kingfisher

SAVE A TREE! SAVE US SOME MONEY!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY.

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu today!



Exclusive: Chickadees Prefer Showers to Baths

My backyard is an endless source of entertainment and education. As I wrote a couple of months ago, I tried a new ground level birdbath this year. Most of the birds loved it. House Finches, Orioles, Catbirds, Robins, and Chipping Sparrows all came frequently to bathe and drink. Some, like Blue Jays, made a terrible ruckus to chase little birds away so they could have their turn unfettered. Conspicuous by their absence from the fray, however, were Chickadees.

My Chickadees could not even be tempted on 90° days to come to the bird bath. When they wanted a drink, they went to the ant guard on the sugar feeder which was hung in a tree. Then I started to plant a shrub border at the back of my lawn. Naturally, new shrubs have to be watered frequently to ensure their survival. I turned a small rotating sprinkler on them. Lo and behold! The Chickadees discovered a shower. They flew through the fine spray. They sat on the shrubs letting the water drench them. They drank the water off the leaves. All in all, they acted as though they had been provided a special Eden for their enjoyment. The shrubs no longer need that much attention, but the pleasure of watching my little black-capped friends enjoying themselves is worth a few extra doses of sprinkling.

Those of you who attended the ACM meeting on gardening for butterflies may be interested in this further bit of information from my back yard. When I put in my brand new garden beds last fall, I planted a lot of thugs—that is, those flowers that would thrive no matter what was thrown at them. These included Bee Balm (Monarda) and Purple Cone Flowers. The reward was sixteen species of butterflies that I could identify and some I could not. Additionally, I had a couple of species of Sphinx moths and other moths in the darker hours that I never tried to identify.

Among the butterflies were: Black Swallowtail, Tiger Swallowtail, Alfalfa Butterfly, Clouded Sulphur, Pink-edged Sulphur, Cabbage Butterfly, Monarch, Great Spangled Fritillary, Comma, Red Admiral, American Painted Lady, Mourning Cloak, White Admiral, Dwarf Blue and Common Blue.

I kept my camera by the back door to photograph them all. Only one problem—virtually every picture shows the butterfly on Purple Coneflower no matter what the species.

Other things of note: we have bats that usually start flying at dusk. I hope it is the bats that keep our yard relatively mosquito free and not spraying by the city, but I don't know. The bats mate in late July and early August.

Common Nighthawks always show up around my birthday in the middle of August.

June bugs really do put on a light show in June. As you can tell, I spend a lot of time outdoors.

—Vija Kelly



September Program Review



The meeting started with the Fall Potluck Dinner, with 71 people in attendance. There was a large variety of excellent dishes, and thanks to the Social Committee for setting it up, and especially for the very nice centerpieces: hydrangeas and sunflowers.

There were several announcements, including a reminder that Saturday, September 22nd, is the Greater Minnesota Birding Day. (You can go to www.birdingtrail.org for more information.) Also, we were introduced to Audubon Minnesota's new President, Ken Finch.

It was easy to tell that this month's speaker, Stan Tekiela, has a lot of experience leading groups. He was enthusiastic, informative, funny, and he could really "hold a crowd".

Stan is the author of several nature guides that are specific to Minnesota, he writes a syndicated nature column, he leads field trips, and appears regularly on the radio to talk about nature. He also has his own website: www.naturesmart.com.

He told us it was difficult to speak to groups like ours, since he's always worried that we will ask questions that he can't answer. But his goal for the evening, he said, was to get us to gain respect for some of the birds that birders often despise; by sharing with us some "gee whiz" bird facts, about *these* birds, as well as others.

Here are some examples:

Members of the Blackbird family (which includes grackles, orioles, and meadowlarks) have beaks that are more powerful as they open than when they close. This enables them to widen openings in order to probe for food.

The Turkey Vulture is the only common bird in America to have a highly developed sense of smell. It is a myth that parent birds will reject a nestling that is returned to it because it can smell a human.

Woodpeckers have long, barbed tongues that wrap around their skulls. This provides for cushioning of the brain while hammering, as well as an excellent probe for insects, once a whole is bored.

It was true that many of us probably knew some of these facts, but few of us could have known them all; and Stan presented them in a fun way, accompanied by wonderful slides.

—Paul Kinzer

Remember the Audubon Lending Library

With several recent additions, we remind chapter members that the Audubon Lending Library has bird guides available on loan from chapter members. There are large coffee-table books as well as small field guides to many different countries.

Arrangements are made between the loaner and those who wish to borrow. Call Dorene Scriven, 612-922-4586, or email scriv001@tc.umn.edu to see if a guide or book is available for the country you plan to visit. This is a good way to try a field guide before purchasing a copy yourself!

—Dorene Scriven



Fall Membership Blitz!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will be holding a new membership recruitment blitz during the months of October and November. We will need your help in getting the word out that the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is a dynamic organization that does things. Tell everyone you know about our fantastic monthly programs about birds and the environment. Tell them about our rewarding conservation programs that help the local nature centers and parks plant trees and native plants. Tell them about the Bluebird Recovery Program and about monitoring bluebird trails. Tell them about citizen science projects like the "Wetland Health Evaluation Project" in Hennepin County. Tell them about the bird survey conducted at Cedar Lake. Tell them about environmental activism such as the Armchair Activists. Tell about how we help Audubon Minnesota with lobbying efforts at the Capitol. Tell them about our environmental education activities for youth and adults, such as the scholarships we give to go to Audubon Center of the North Woods. And don't forget to mention the many birding trips that are led by Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis birding experts.



The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is a great organization that gets things done and has fun doing it. We hold potluck dinners before the September and December meetings, so that members can get to know each other socially. The Kingfisher newsletter mailing seems more like a social event than a working session. After meeting at a program or field trip, many members become good friends and often go on extended birding trips to exotic locales.

During the October and November meetings, memberships in Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and National Audubon Society (membership in National Audubon Society gives you membership in Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis) will be offered at \$5 off the normal membership rate. You will also receive a free ticket to the "This Benefit is for the Birds" Celebration (\$8 value) which will be held on November 10th. Non-Audubon members participating in Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis birding trips will be given a coupon worth \$5 off a membership during October and November.

Pass the word on. We can't do it without you!

—Jerry Bahls

2nd annual
Wild Bird, Wildlife and Backyard Habitat Expo
November 2-3-4
Washington County Fair Park
in West Bend, Wisconsin
For more information, call 1-800-324-3337
or visit www.backyard-birds.com.

"Nature's Diversity" Environmental Education Workshop

Dates: Saturday Oct. 13 or Saturday Oct. 27

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center
(sticker or daily pass is required)

FREE for teachers Brunch included

Discover nature's diversity of animals and their habitats. Learn how to enjoy a nature walk with your class. Learn binocular and spotting scope techniques. Explore the new 2001-2002 Audubon Adventures topics. Get three hours of continuing education credits. Attendees will receive a free AUDUBON ADVENTURES kit for grades 4-6.

Enrollment is limited. To register, please call Mary Ellen Vetter at 763-561-1761.

Coming in November!! Fun!! Games!! "This Benefit is for the Birds"



The first annual "This Benefit is for the Birds" celebration will be on November 10th. Time and location will be announced in next month's Kingfisher. This celebration will include a bird identification contest with prizes awarded to winners. The contest will be similar to the popular "Jeopardy" and "Millionaire" games with many toss-up questions to determine contestants. It will also be educational, with great bird photos and calls to identify. We'll even take some time to point out interesting features for identification of the birds, so the beginner will learn while having fun. There will be several experts on hand to authenticate answers and to talk to during breaks and after the contest. There will also be many items available for purchase at very reasonable prices.

This celebration will be the culmination of the new membership recruitment blitz. All new members will receive free tickets to the celebration. This will give us an opportunity to meet them and to welcome them into Audubon. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and see what a dynamic organization it is.

The advanced sale tickets will be \$7 (to cover expenses and make a little) for Audubon members and \$8 for non-members. Tickets at the door will be \$10 for members and \$11 for non-members. (Net proceeds will be used to purchase "Audubon Adventures" for schools in the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis membership area.) Non-members will have an opportunity to join National Audubon on the spot. Your ticket (both advanced sale and at the door) will be free with each new membership. Tickets will be available at all the meetings prior to the event and by calling 763 572-2333. We will accept mail ordered tickets up to October 20th at Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, PO Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Hope to see you on November 10th for a FUN time!!

—Jerry Bahls



Chapter Members Volunteer at the State Fair

We extend our appreciation to all our volunteers who served so well at the AUDUBON MINNESOTA booth. A steady stream of fairgoers stopped to test their bird identification skills at our large board of bird pictures and kids of all sizes liked to match their "wingspan" with those on our raptor wing display. Visitors asked about what Audubon does, described the birds they see, and took away much Chapter and general information.



Heartfelt thanks to members Jerry Bahls, Terry Brashear, Bill Caverly, Julie Cornwall, Frank DeSteno, Lois Dick, Elaine Evers, Alice and Allan Fagley, Joyce Holcomb, Phyllis and Tom Mahan, Denise Martineau, Cindy Moess, Conrad Nelson, Pete Peterson, Cecil Ram, Pat Rusch, Dee Schmaltz, Bill Sipe, Mary Ellen Vetter, and Sylvia Winkelman.

—Mary Ellen Vetter

Mailing Team Needs Help!

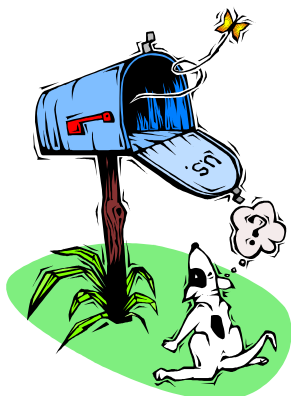
As stated in a recent Kingfisher, the mailing team has been losing members due to various causes. We lost another volunteer last month. The call list is now down to 11 and about three of these are not able to make it on a regular basis. In June we only had 5 of us to prepare the Kingfisher for mailing. We need to increase the call list to at least 15. That means we need 4 new volunteers to help.

We meet on the 3rd Monday of each month, except in May, July and December, at about 9:00 a.m. at Jerry Bahls' house in Fridley. With a full crew (about 10) we are able to finish the mailing preparation in less than 3 hours. Coffee and cookies (usually homemade) are served, cafeteria style, at about 10:00 a.m.. All participants provide the chatter and laughter, of which there is plenty.

If you would like to help, please call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail him at : bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

All the birds will appreciate your contribution of time and a little labor. **Thank you, we DO need the help!**

—Jerry Bahls



Legislative Issues Ballot

The deadline for nominating issues for the 2002 Legislative session is September 28th. You can submit nominations up until the deadline. It would be nice if you could e-mail them to Betsy Daub at <bdaub@audubon.org> if you are getting close to the deadline. A team of Audubon Minnesota EIC members will assemble at the office in St. Paul on about October 1st to compile the nominations and prepare a ballot that will be mailed to all

Audubon Minnesota members wishing to receive one. This will include the Audubon Minnesota Activists list, all who submitted nominations, all chapter officers and board members and other interested members. To insure YOU are on this mailing list please call (651 225-1830), e-mail (<bdaub@audubon.org> or <bahls001@tc.umn.edu>) or write to Audubon Minnesota, ATTN: Issues Ballot, 26 East Exchange Street, Suite 207, St. Paul, MN 55101, asking to receive a Legislative Issues Ballot.

It is your participation that gives Audubon its clout at the legislature. Please participate by requesting a ballot, and by attending the Audubon Minnesota Fall Membership Meeting on Saturday, November 17th, when the final 4 issues will be selected!

Fall Open House and 30th Anniversary Celebration

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Come and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Events will be running all day starting at 8:30 am with a pancake breakfast. Visitors will participate in guided nature hikes, tours of the Center, scavenger hunts, Ojibwa crafts, canoeing, and bird programs. Bring your own bag lunch or purchase soup and a sandwich there. Sign up by September 28th for the evening activities, which include a cook out, silent auction, Irish Folk Dance, and 10 p.m. campfire. Stay over night in the Crosby lodge or pitch a tent in their field, then in the morning, enjoy a continental breakfast before you leave!

Cook out dinner per adult: \$6.00, per child: \$4.00.
Irish Dance: \$5.00
Dorm Room with breakfast: \$80.00
Bed in the Dorm with breakfast: \$15.00
Tent space with bathroom facilities: \$10.00



Audubon Center of the North Woods is located 5 miles west of Highway 35 in Sandstone, Minnesota. More information and registration forms for evening activities and overnight accommodations are available by calling toll-free: 1-888-404-7743.



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
October 2001



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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 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

- 2 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Prairie Potholes"
- 6 Audubon Center of the North Woods'
30th Anniversary Celebration, 8:30 a.m.
- 9 Chapter Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.

November

- 3 Field Trip, Weaver Bottoms
- 10 "This Benefit is for the Birds"
- 13 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Wind Energy"
- 17 Field Trip, Minneapolis City Lakes
Audubon Minnesota Fall Membership Meeting
- 20 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Field trips usually begin at 7:30 a.m., call the Field Trips Chair for details.

All are welcome to the Chapter Board Meetings!
Board Meetings are held at
4350 Brookside Ct., Edina
Call the president for details.