



KINGFISHER



October 2006 2006

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

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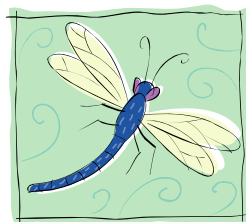
Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Holistic Birding

What? Grab the wind chimes, light up the incense and go birding? New Age birding while listening to background music of a babbling brook? No, holistic birding is discovering that birding is more than just observing birds in the wild. Revel in the habitat where they live! Learn about the habitat necessary to support the birds. Enjoy seeing the interactions between all the different aspects of the natural world for the first time or even the ten thousandth.

So many times we go out in a natural area with the intention of bird watching, but see few birds. Should we be disappointed? Should we complain about a bad day in the wild? No, we should go out and celebrate Nature and its entire splendor. Chances are there are plants and bugs and rocks and too many other wonders to worry about a few birds that didn't make a grand appearance (BTW, we have even seen insects in winter).



Do I need to go halfway across the state to see a Great Speckled Bunting or some other rarity? No, but that can be a fun excursion.

Many times, Pamela and I will go out with one intention such as looking for dragonflies or native plants, but see neither. We usually find other things

to enjoy and delight in. An example of this would be the time that we went up to Aitkin County on Pietz Road looking for the Great Grey Owl that had been reported near there. We didn't find the owl, but observed a spider, a caterpillar and a Crane Fly in the snow. We've seen many Great Grey Owls since, but have never seen that many bugs in the snow again. Finding the unusual sends us to the books to see what we can learn about what we've seen. Information in the book reinforces what we have observed. Even looking up the not so unusual adds to our knowledge. If books on a subject aren't available, the Internet is a great resource. If the Internet is not available, then a Public Library is (and they have Internet access!) In any case, go out and learn!

As another example, we watched some Eastern Pond Hawk dragonflies performing a wonderful aerial dance over a pond. Their motions and choreography could best be described as a Ferris wheel doing a moonwalk.

Continued on page three...

October Program

Global Warming Rapid Changes to Minnesota's Ecology and Economy

Michael Noble is the executive director of Fresh Energy. Headquartered in St. Paul. Fresh Energy, until recently known as Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ME3), is a nonprofit group leading a transformation to a new and better energy system, based on efficiency and clean and modern energy solutions. Michael has worked for over 25 years in the field, building coalitions, proposing policy solutions and gaining consensus for change. Currently, the organization is working on issues in clean electricity, energy efficiency, transportation, global warming solutions and energy justice.

Michael will talk about how science is piling up irrefutable evidence for warming. He will discuss how damaging the changes could be for Minnesota's ecological diversity and natural world, and cite specific examples of how global warming is already affecting—or will soon affect—the habitats of the birds, fishes and mammals famous to Minnesota's landscape.

In addition, he will offer a promising and positive vision for change, bringing forward a new and better energy economy based on new energy solutions.

Join us for coffee and cookies before the meeting.

**Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**

Fall Appeal

Enclosed in this *Kingfisher* is an envelope addressed to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Please use this envelope to send a fully tax deductible donation to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Donations will be designated for programs and other educational uses. Make checks payable to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Thank you!

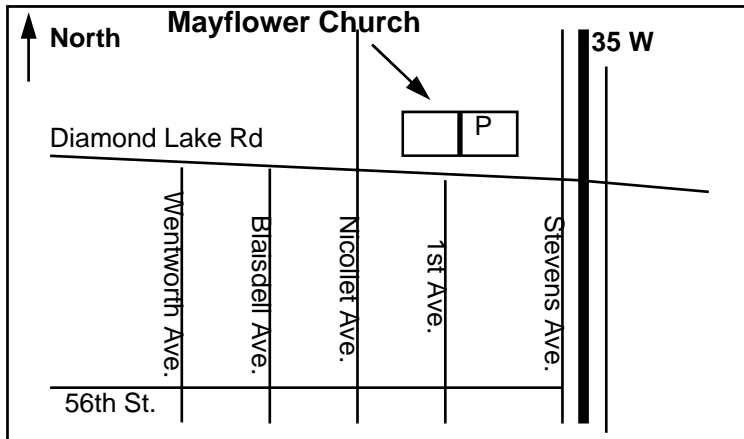
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, October 3, 2006

“Global Warming” by Michael Noble

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake Road—map below



Field Trip Chair Needed

The chapter needs someone to help set up the trips that helped launch the organization over 70 years ago. This is an opportunity to go to the birding spots *you* want to visit! The Field Trip Chair need not be a birding expert, but is responsible for setting up the trips and contacting leaders to guide them. The Chair also arranges the publicity for the trip by writing brief descriptions of the trips for the Kingfisher and any other publication that is appropriate. Finally, the Chair reviews the trips with the leader after they are held.

Please let John Arthur know that you would like to become our new Field Trip Chair.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

DON'T FORGET

AUDUBON MINNESOTA BIRD SEED SALE

**Seed orders must be placed
by October 5, 2006**

**Volunteers are needed to help
at the site.**

**For more information or to
receive an order form,**

contact

Jenny Vitale

651 739 9332

Jvitale@audubon.org

Minnesota River Valley Field Trips

Oct 2 6:30 am. McLeod/Sibley Counties Birding Day, Shakopee. Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

Oct 14 9:00 am. Nine Mile Creek Bluff Prairie, "Buckthorn Control," Bloomington. Mary Brown 952-885-0913

Oct 21 9:00 am. Nine Mile Creek Bluff Prairie, "Buckthorn Control," Bloomington. Mary Brown 952-885-0913

Nov 4 2:00 pm. Beginning Bird Watching Workshop, Visitor Center, MVNWR. George Skinner 952-936-0811

Nov 11 9:00 am. Swans on the Mississippi, Weaver Bottoms. Mark Lystig 651-452-1133

Nov 13 7:00 am. Sherburne County Birding Day, Minnetonka. Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

Nov 18 2:00 pm. Beginning Bird Watching Workshop, Chaska. George Skinner 952-939-0811

Please contact the trip leader for further information

Audubon Adventures Available

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents basic, scientifically-accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or an Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and home-schoolers.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has a limited number of these available for interested educators. Please contact Jim Egge at 612-827-7629 or Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

The Brooklyn Historical Society invites you to come and hear St. Paul Author Biloine (Billie) Young speak about the upper Mississippi River and its 300 years of history. Displays, refreshments, and a business meeting round out the afternoon.

Sunday, October 8
Brooklyn Park Community Center
5600 85th Ave N.

For further information, contact Michael Larson at 763-561-2111

President 's message continued from page one...

(Join us sometime for a dragonfly outing and we can show you what we mean.) After dancing across the pond, they performed a more intimate dance step before she proceeded to lay eggs by dipping her tail in the water while he circled overhead; a truly amazing sight that can be observed at almost any nearby pond.

While on another recent dragonfly-focused field trip, we learned about the wonderful shapes created by the empty seed pods of some of our native plants. A Red-tailed Hawk called and added to the overall tapestry of what we were experiencing. Butterflies also flittered around and even sparked a discussion over the proper identification of one of them. I thought it was a Monarch and a more knowledgeable member of the group said it was a Viceroy. Later examination of a photo proved it was the latter and an apology was sent.

That trip also proved rewarding in that we photographed a Skimming Bluet (*Enallagma geminatum*) which turned out later to be a first state record. This hint for you Listers out there: there are plenty of county and state records to be had just by submitting them. Many counties in Minnesota only have a few or no records of dragonflies and damselflies.

Other adventures are there just for going out in a natural area with no preset intentions, although calling it a birding trip makes a wonderful excuse. Try not to be too narrow in what you want to learn.

Audubon is about more than birds.

—John Arthur



Karen Orenstein Joins National Audubon Society Staff

Karen Orenstein very recently joined the National Audubon Society staff in Washington, DC and will be doing grassroots organizing in Minnesota! While her organizing work will be primarily focused on federal-level issues, she is interested in learning about national, state, and local issues that local chapters are tackling. Opportunities may very well arise to collaborate on various issues that can achieve our common conservation goals.

By way of background, Karen hails from the Midwest, Illinois in specific. She's been doing grassroots advocacy work—organizing and lobbying—in Washington, DC for the better half of a decade. Her past work has mainly focused on international human rights but comes from an environmental background.

Please feel free to call her with any questions or concerns. Her phone number is **202-861-2242 ext 3002**.

Fall Fund Appeal This October

In order to meet our 2006 -2007 fiscal year budget as set by the Finance Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and approved by the Board last May, we need to raise \$1000 to balance our budget. This will allow us to continue our current level of activity. Thus we'll continue to publish 8 Kingfishers and have 8 programs during the year. These two items continue to represent over 80% of our budget. National Audubon Society's (NAS) dues reimbursement will cover most of these expenses. The remaining expenses are covered by a variety of other sources. Because of our success of the Fall Appeal last year, it was decided to again make a Fall Appeal to raise this \$1000. Members will receive an envelope in the this issue of their *Kingfisher* to use to make a donation to ACM. This will help to cover expenses associated with our Meeting Programs and other education related projects.

As a thank you to our membership for making a donation, one donor will be selected at random and awarded a thank-you gift with a value in excess of \$100. Please donate and help us continue our work to help the birds and other wildlife!

Upper Midwest Audubon Conference

Plan now to attend the Upper Midwest Audubon Conference at Ho-Chunk Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells Friday, October 13. At this event, the Wisconsin Audubon Council will partner with the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, Bird Conservation Minnesota, Wisconsin DNR, and others to bring you the latest information on how to reduce risks to migrating birds.

The purpose of the "No Bird Left Behind" conference is to provide a forum to discuss: *Bird interactions with tall structures and how to reduce the risk*. The conference is intended to: 1) Create awareness and increase knowledge of the problems migratory birds face from tall structures such as buildings, transmission towers, and wind-energy generators 2) gain understanding of the restrictions on owners/operators of these structures 3) bring interested parties together to discuss the problems and 4) open lines of communication and foster cooperation to help alleviate the problems.

The conference continued Saturday and Sunday, October 14-15, with workshops and field trips focused on citizen science, birds and birding, habitat issues and more. All are welcome to attend one or more days. More details, including complete registration information are available at www.madisonaudubon.org

Arctic Explorer Will Steger Special Guest Speaker

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter presents "Eyewitness to Global Warming" by Arctic explorer Will Steger.

Date: Thursday, September 28

Time: 7:00 pm Refreshments

7:30 – 9:00 pm Presentation by Will Steger

Where: Christ the King Lutheran Church
8600 Fremont Ave S., Bloomington MN

AUDUBON AT LARGE

On March 24, a group from the Zumbro Valley Audubon made a 5-day bus trip to Arkansas to explore near the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge where the Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been seen. If Minneapolis Audubon members would like to explore the possibility of a similar trip, contact Jim Egge Or perhaps someone in chapter would like to organize or lead birding trips of any kind.

On March 26 to 28, the Minn. River Valley Audubon traveled to the Worthington area for the height of the waterfowl migration. They searched for Ross' and White-fronted geese in area lakes. One night of the trip was spent looking for owls in Worthington woodlots. Further birding trips can be found at www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/

The Albert Lea AS held a potluck Christmas party at the Audubon Science Center. Al Batt provided the program. Also, the Golden Kii Kiwanis built a wonderful six-sided display table and an eight-foot aquarium shelf. Materials were provided through a grant from the Albert Lea Medical Center.

Again this year, Ted Stevens of Arkansas is leading the push to open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Perhaps no recent legislation has been defeated more times in Congress, yet it keeps coming back. It shows the power and determination of the oil lobby. MN Senator Norm Coleman will again be an important player. Let him know your thoughts soon. Someday we may have to drill there, but it doesn't make sense to damage our most vulnerable areas without first taking serious measures to reduce fossil fuel use and find safer drilling methods. [Http://coleman.senate.gov/](http://coleman.senate.gov/)

Contact Jim Egge 612-827-7629 about items in this article.

Bird Conservation Minnesota

The mission of Bird Conservation Minnesota is to keep Minnesota's common birds common and reverse species decline by building strong connections among bird conservation organizations and individuals. To date, BCM has enrolled more than 70 partner organizations. To learn more about BCM and to see the other partners check out www.birdconservationminnesota.org.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is one of eight Minnesota Chapter to sign on to date. Audubon Center of the North Woods is also a partner, so Audubon is well represented in this conservation-initiative here in the Loon State!

The goal of 125 partners to BCM by next spring appears to be reachable. Please encourage local nature and environmental organizations to which you may belong to join BCM. Any organizations or individuals who would be interested in working with this conservation initiative can contact Ron Windingstad at rwindingstad@audubon.org.

Currently, BCM has seven financial supporters: USFWS Joint Ventures and Partners in Flight, MN DNR Ecological Services, Bell Museum, Minnesota Ornithologist's Union, Audubon Minnesota and Prairie Restorations, Inc. Office facilities are provided by Audubon Minnesota.



BIRDS I PREFER

*what birds do I prefer
to slow me at night?*

*red winged blackbirds lament
and the mourning doves plight*

*what birds do I prefer
to greet me each day?*

*the chickadees insistence
the cardinals delight*

James Marshall Goff

Audubon Center of the North Woods

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FAIR
Saturday, September 30, 2006

Join us for a full day of FREE family-friendly activities and learn about alternative (real) energy systems. See their website for more information: www.audubon-center.com

MINNEAPOLIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

2006 – 2007 PROGRAMS

All programs at: Bryant Park Square Community Building
31st Street and Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

On the second Friday of the month at 1:00 pm

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| September 8 | Potluck lunch at noon
"Darwin and the Galapagos"
Lee Beimborn |
| October 13 | "Central Turkey and Cappadocia"
Lyllall Schwarzkopf |
| November 10 | "Birding the Edges of Alaska"
Jim Williams |
| December 8 | "Nests, Eggs, and Bird Cards"
Matt Schuth |
| January 12 | "Newfoundland"
Ted Galambos |
| February 9 | "Wilderness Within a Wetland"
Scott Sharkey |
| March 9 | "Flowers"
Marilyn Gladich |
| April 13 | "Wonders of Aitkin"
Warren Nelson |
| May 11 | "Madagascar Memories"
Richard Kain |

October Bird of the Month:

Common Yellowthroat

Presented by Jean Kelley

Learn more about this little warbler at the Chapter's October meeting.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
OCTOBER 2006



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

SEPTEMBER

- 26 Will Steger at MN River Valley
30 Audubon Center of the North
Woods Open House

OCTOBER

- 2 MRV Field Trip
5 Bird Seed orders due
8 Billie Young at BP Historical Society
13-15 Upper Midwest Audubon
Conference
14 MRV Field Trip
21 MRV Field Trip

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!