



KINGFISHER



October 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

When we think about enjoying natural areas around us—the woods, the prairie, oceans, ponds etc.—we automatically picture what our cameras can record, using predominantly the sense of sight. What about our second sense, hearing? Have you ever heard of someone going *bird-listening*? We're told that if we don't use our hearing in a quiet environment, it becomes dulled. I know of birders whose sight is limited, yet develop superb listening skills. I've come to think of birdcalls as field marks on par with feather color or shape.

The muffled whistle of wind on the prairie or the trill of insects and frogs can be haunting especially at night or while lying in a tent. Likewise, the quietude of nature may be as compelling as its sights or sounds.

Washington's Olympic National Park is considered to be one of the truly quiet places in America. While many parks have been spoiled by noise, Olympic has been spared until recently. A group is battling the FAA over increased jet traffic from Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport. It [the FAA] claims that the cost of going around the park would be too great (see "The Listener's Yosemite" in the summer 2009 *National Parks* magazine); perhaps we will put it on our new website.

When I take a large group of kids into the woods, it is difficult to get them to hear anything but the loudest birds or frogs. Sometimes it helps to have kids lower their heads and close their eyes. I ask them to listen for the wind in the trees, or sounds of wildlife. For about 30-60 seconds their world takes on a new, unfamiliar character.

The third sense is even more neglected in nature, and that's smell. Balsam or pine can bring back great memories of summer camp in the woods. After a rain, the smell of a forest floor is unique and indescribable. Blindfolded, we would never mistake the smell of a pond for the smell of a lake. As you are reading this, can you smell the difference in your mind? Researchers tell us that odor can be a powerful trigger to remind us of events from many years ago.

This brings me to same place I always end up. How can I help create increased awareness and memories for today's youth, who often don't have much opportunity to experience using any of their five senses in nature? The Bell Museum recognizes this in their exhibits and in the "Touch and See" room. We used to take the grandkids there followed by a trip to Burger King in Dinkytown to incorporate all five senses. How can Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis stir up our members to spread their passion for nature to the next generation?

—Jim Egge

October Program

Legislative Environmental Issues

Each fall Audubon Minnesota gathers for a meeting to determine the legislative issues it will concentrate on the following legislative session. (The coming session will be a bonding year.) Audubon Minnesota's Environmental Issues Committee submits a list of issues it feels are legislative priorities (this year, most will be bonding in nature) to the Audubon Minnesota Board for their approval. A ballot is then prepared and made available to all Audubon members in Minnesota. This ballot selects the top three priorities which the Policy Director will concentrate on.

This month's Chapter program will focus on these issues in a community gathering setting. (We have chosen this setting to demonstrate social gatherings that start the evening off with an environmental topic.) These issues will be briefly described and then discussed in small group settings. It is hoped that at the end of the meeting everyone will better understand the issues and will voice their opinion through the Audubon Minnesota issues ballot.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will invite Minneapolis area State Representatives to sit in on our discussions. This will give them a chance to hear our concerns on these issues. Please invite all your friends who are concerned about birds and the environment.

**Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**

2009 Fall Appeal

The 2009 Fall Appeal will again be made this year, starting in September (envelopes will not be sent out in the *Kingfisher* until the November issue due to the mailing chair's vacation in September). Last year the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis raised \$1,565 in its appeal (missed the \$1,800 goal, probably due to the bad economy). This year's goal is \$1,500. Funds will be used for Chapter programming and education outreach efforts, especially in schools with large minority groups. The Chapter appreciates every donation! Donations can be sent anytime to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, PO Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801.



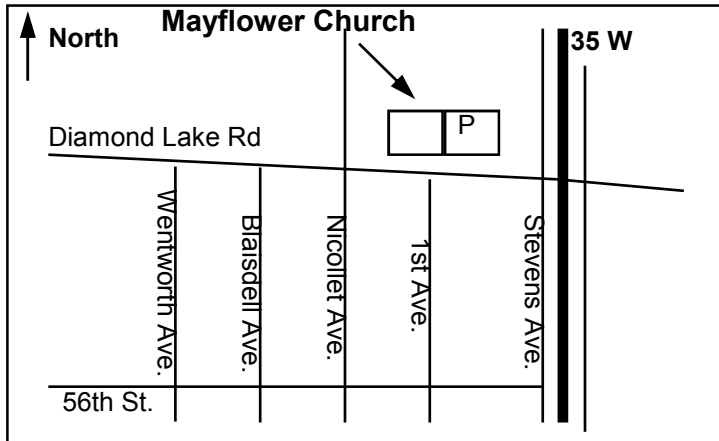
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: October 6, 2006

Legislative Environmental Issues

TIME: Program at 7:00 PM

AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



ACM Website to Change

This summer, the Chapter initiated a study to change the current website. Little did we know that Geocities was making the decision to close down their servers for hosting websites (October 20). Thus, we were able to get a little ahead of the curve. In mid-August we launched our new website: www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org.

AudubonChapterofMinneapolis is all one word and can be written with or without capitals. It's easier to understand if using capital letters. Please visit the site, then look it over and send us your suggestions. Currently, we have all the *Kingfishers* from 2005–2009 on the site as well as some from previous years. We hope to get all the scheduled programs online and other pertinent Chapter information. In the meantime, you will be able to use both websites but try to rely on the new one since it is the one that will be updated with current information.

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

RhWR Completes Second Year of Study

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR) has completed the second year of a committed three-year study—along with the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota DNR—of the red-headed woodpecker (RHWO) population at the Cedar Creek Eco Systems Science Reserve. The past two years, volunteers with the RhWR have visited Cedar Creek about three times during the spring and summer to survey it for nesting RHWO's. More than 20 volunteers have been involved with this effort.

The volunteers with the RhWR visited Cedar Creek during the months of May (optional), June, July and August to look for nesting RHWO. When a nest site is located it is marked with a green ribbon and its GPS coordinates taken. Later in the summer Minnesota DNR personnel visit each nest site and record information, such as Tree Species, Tree Status (dead or alive), Average Tree Height, Cavity Height, Cavity Location in Tree and Nearest Tree. In August volunteers return to look for fledged young, to try to determine the year's hatch success.

In 2008 (our 1st year), 18 nest sites were located. This year (2009) 21 nest sites were located. In addition to these sites, it was felt that there were probably other nest sites located on private property in the immediate area, although none were found. A curious mystery that has emerged is why aren't there any nest sites in the Helen Allison SNR just south of Cedar Creek? The habitat is similar.

If anyone is interested in helping with this effort or the RhWR effort to survey for RHWO's on the many golf courses in Minnesota (or Wisconsin), please visit the RhWR website at www.RedheadRecovery.org or come to the next meeting in October. Contact Chet Meyers (612 374-5581 or chetmeyers@visi.com) or Jerry Bahls (763 572-2333 or rhwracm@comcast.net) for more information.



Conservation Committee

News

by Kit Healy

I'd like to apologize to anyone who went to Lunds on September 29 looking for a Conservation Committee meeting. I had it in my head that the ACM Board met on the last Tuesday of the month. Not so! The board meets on the fourth Tuesday and since the committee follows the board's schedule, last month we met on the 22nd. In anticipation of the next committee meeting, I've counted the Tuesdays in October twice. I feel confident the fourth one falls on the 27th but I wouldn't blame you if you decided to count them yourself. As usual, we meet at Lunds from 6 to 7 pm and everyone is welcome.

As you probably know, fall is the best time to attack buckthorn. If you check online or in your local newspaper, you'll likely find listings for removal events in your community; I hope you'll consider attending some of them. It's true that larger buckthorn trees can be hard to pull and often require special equipment, but smaller trees usually have shallow roots and can be removed by hand (wearing gloves, of course!). This means the more hands, the better. A beautiful place to do some pulling is the Eloise Butler Garden at Wirth Park. The Friends have a pull scheduled for Thursday, October 1, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. For more information, email the Friends at invasives@friendsofeloisebutler.org.

Another beautiful site in need of buckthorn removal is the Roberts Bird Sanctuary between lakes Harriet and Calhoun (the entrance is on the NW side of Harriet). The preserve, named after Thomas Sadler Roberts, a professor of ornithology at the U of M, encompasses wetlands, wet prairie, and forest. Its 13 acres provide a habitat to a wide variety of birds and other wildlife. Unfortunately, the diversity of the habitat is under threat from the extensive amount of buckthorn (both common and glossy) in the area.

Neighborhood groups are trying to address this concern and I've offered the help of the Conservation Committee. Together, we're working with the MPRB to assess the situation and work out a plan of action. The long-term goal is to restore the diversity of the sanctuary by not only removing invasive species but replacing them with native plants.

Restoring Roberts is a huge undertaking and we're in need of partners and funding. If you can help in any way, we would greatly appreciate it! I'll put more details on the website when it's up.

Send questions or comments to heal0055@umn.edu.

GOLDEN EAGLE 42

If you like birds, maps, and armchair travels, check out the adventures of Golden Eagle 42 on the Audubon MN website. Since his release from the U of MN Raptor Center in March, his movements have been monitored via a satellite radio, updated on the website, and marked on a Google map. Fascinating!

	<u>Mpls</u>	<u>St. Paul</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Routes Walked	87	47	134	13 volunteers (one person walked 36 routes)
Dates Walked	70	46	74 of 78	From 3/17 to 6/1/09 (of 78 possible dates from 3/15 to 6/1)
# of Birds Found	87	54	141	46 species (92% dead)

Project BirdSafe

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has begun its 3rd fall participation in the BirdSafe Project. *Lights Out* is a project within the BirdSafe Project. The other aspect of the project is the monitoring of bird collisions with buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Volunteers walk a specified route looking for birds that have collided with buildings along the route. The dead ones are tagged and taken to the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum Ornithology Lab where they are identified and used for research. Live ones are either released (if determined to be unharmed) or taken to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. The following information has been taken from a report by Joanna Eckles, Audubon Minnesota, who directed the BirdSafe Project this past year.

Lights Out

- There are now 38 private buildings signed on to the *Lights Out* program in seven cities: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Rochester, Shoreview, Minnetonka and Golden Valley
- National Audubon paid for a professional photo shoot in April of the skylines. Both Twin Cities' skylines from two vantage points, before and after midnight, were photographed, and the photos have been used extensively
- A new state law was passed pertaining to *Lights Out* and birds. This law will affect over 5,300 state-owned buildings. The law was introduced after Representative Kahn (Minneapolis) became intrigued by the program (after a *Star Tribune* article in March) and worked to insert this language into an energy bill that was making its way through her committee



Birdsafe Birds Research and Monitoring Results, Spring 2009 (tables below)

<u>Species Found:</u>	<u># Found:</u>
Rusty Blackbird	6
Indigo Bunting	5
Ovenbird	18
Dark-Eyed Junco	16
Tennessee Warbler	10
White-Throated Sparrow	8
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	7
Brown Creeper	6
Total	76

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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

- 1 Buckthorn pull—Eloise Butler Garden
- 6 Chapter Program at 7:00pm

NOVEMBER

- 3 Chapter Program 7:00 pm

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 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 Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net