



KINGFISHER



October 2005

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 54 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

FALL APPEAL

I wanted to start my column with a headline that no one would miss. Now I want to tell you why it is important for you to send us a few dollars in the enclosed envelope to help us balance our budget. For many years we have funded *Audubon Adventures* for many classrooms in our area. *Audubon Adventures* is a newsletter that deals with environmental education at the grade school level (primarily for grades 4-6, but also used for grades 2-3). It is published under the direction of National Audubon and most who use it say it is excellent.

National Audubon will no longer reimburse the full membership dues for chapter-recruited new members (last year we budgeted \$500 from this source), so we were \$500 short in our proposed fiscal year 2005–2006 budget. As you know, most of our budget(86%) is for publishing the *Kingfisher* and for our monthly programs. Thus, we should have cut the \$300 we normally budgeted for *Audubon Adventures*. But we felt it was too important to cut, so we decided to have a Fall Appeal for funds. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has about 2,500 members, and if everyone gave 20¢ we would reach our goal. Not everyone will respond, so we appeal to those who can: please return the envelope enclosed with this month's *Kingfisher* with what you feel is an appropriate donation amount. All funds will be designated for education.

Our total budget for 2005–2006 is \$9,277. As most of you know most of our funds (about \$6,500) come from dues reimbursement from National Audubon. The remainder must be raised, so we will be having fund-raising projects for the rest. Besides the Fall Appeal, this fall we will also have a Big Sit, which may be a future fund-raiser. We hope to have a Spring Birdathon, a major source of income. We also sell books and other articles at our meetings. Some money is received from memorials.

Finally, we have received many unsolicited donations from members because they felt we were doing something important. I hope you will follow that spirit and return your envelope with a donation. Thank you.

—Jerry Bahls, President



October Program

Hummingbirds!



Hummingbirds are one of the most beautiful and mysterious birds in the world. Their small size and flying speed usually provides us with only a glimpse of them before they are gone. Carrol Henderson will give us a full view of this tiny bird, inserting his knowledge and providing many pictures of them from around the world.

Carrol Henderson is the Supervisor of the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Department of Natural Resources. Carrol is well known to Audubon members and has made many presentations to us. He has traveled extensively, especially in Central America where many of the hummingbirds live.

While the ruby-throated hummingbird is the only hummingbird found in Minnesota, Carrol will tell us about the magnificent, the snow-capped, the anis and many others as well as where they live, what they eat, and possibly even where they sleep.

So bring your questions and especially your children, because this will be Kids' Nite. For more information about Kids' Nite see the article below for the special activities planned for your children.

Tuesday, October 4

7:00 p.m. Mayflower Church

KIDS' NIGHT

Bring the kids on Tuesday, October 4 and let them have fun with bird activities and games. There will be special events for kids of all ages, followed by an exciting program on everybody's favorite bird, the hummingbird. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends - invite any kids you know to join in.

The program will be designed primarily for grades 3 and up, but younger kids are welcome. Arrive by 7:00 p.m. so you can have a full half hour of fun before the program. Try your skill and use your creativity, while learning and having fun with nature. Students might even win small prizes for their efforts.

The regular program will begin at 7:30.

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MOU Rare Bird Alert 763-780-8890
Minnesota Audubon 651-739-9332

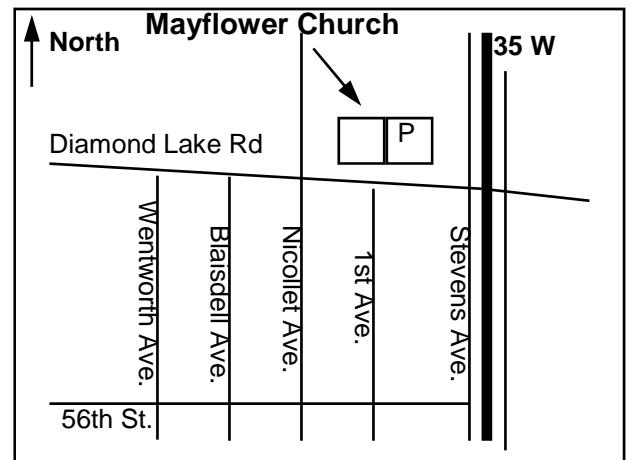
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Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, October 4
"Kids Nite" and
"Hummingbirds"
 with Carrol Henderson, Minnesota DNR

TIME: Program at 7:00 pm

AT: Mayflower Church, map below



Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at
bahls001@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

October Field Trips

OCTOBER 1

MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PARK

7:45 to 10:00 am. A mixed habitat for warblers, vireos, sparrows and other passerines.

Directions: I-94 North to Exit 226, 49th Ave. North. Right turn to Visitor Center.

To register: contact Don Wanschura at 612.866.3276 or djw1@tcinternet.net

OCTOBER 6

SOUTH METRO MINNEAPOLIS LOCATIONS

7:45 to 10:00 am. We will look for open country birds, sparrows, bluebirds, kestrels, redbirds, shrikes and horned larks.

Directions: Carpool from Lyndale & 77th (I-35&I-494), SW corner of Shops at Lyndale, in front of Sportmart.

To register: contact Don Wanschura at 612.866.3276 or djw1@tcinternet.net

OCTOBER 8

CEDAR CREEK NATURAL HISTORY AREA

East Bethel 8:30 am

Explore different portions of Cedar Creek than on the September 10 field trip. Visit northern areas of varied plant communities which straddle a junction of three North American ecological landscapes. Modern ecology was born at Cedar Creek in 1942 and it is now a premier research site where northern evergreens, eastern broadleaf and western tall grass prairie meet. Directions: Highway 65 north to 237th Ave. (Co.Rd.24), right on 237th to a "T", left at the T (still Co.Rd.24), ¾ mile to mailbox 2660 Fawn Lake Drive. Parking at Lawrence Laboratory. If inclement weather, an indoor program will be presented.

Registration: Mary Ellen at 763.561.1761 or mevetter@mninter.net

NOVEMBER 12

Mississippi River Swans and Eagles Trip, Wabasha

Please contact Mary Ellen at 763.561.1761 or at mevetter@mninter.net, for more details.



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 educational uses. Make checks payable to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

Join the Armchair Activists

Many Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) would like to be able to do something to help preserve and restore our environment, but find the demands of work, physical limitations or just plain procrastination prevent them from doing what they know they should. National Audubon has an activity that is designed just for these individuals. It is called the ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST.

The concept simply is you receive a letter informing you of the month's issue. You are asked to write a letter (from your armchair) on the issue to the appropriate official. Sample letters are provided, so you don't even have to compose your own, though it is best if you do. Think of the impact when the appropriate authority receives these letters. If only 10% of our members enrolled, Governor Pawlenty could receive over a 200 letters on an issue. This sort of action does have an influence. Susan Solterman has stated many times that the reason Audubon Minnesota and National Audubon are so influential is that we can mobilize our members to act. The Armchair Activists are an important link in this mobilization.

To sign up just drop a note to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, c/o Armchair Activist Coordinator, Box 3801, Minneapolis, MN 55403 or send an e-mail to bahls001@tc.umn.edu. If you would like to try it without totally committing, we can put you on a temporary list and you can see how it goes.

This is a chapter-run activity, and we are looking for more people to sign up. Many issues are in your backyard and local letters have a greater impact. So all you Couch Potatoes upgrade yourself to Armchair Activists!

The Big Sit!

So what is "The Big Sit!?" The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event hosted by *Bird Watcher's Digest*. The Big Sit! is like a bird-a-thon. The object is to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard within a 24-hour period. But the unique thing about The Big Sit! is that teams must count birds from within a 17-foot-diameter circle! For more information go to www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirds/bigsit/bigsit.aspx.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis would like to participate in this annual event held this year on Sunday October 9. It can be used as a fund-raiser, basing donations on the number of birds species counted. The best sites often are near a medium-sized body of water. We haven't selected a site yet, but it will be in the chapter area. This is a great opportunity for a family to have some fun birding! (Remember you must stay in a 17-foot circle). If you are interested in participating, please call Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu

Melvin Stenrud

Melvin Stenrud died on August 11, 2005 at the age of 98. Melvin and his wife Mildred (who died May 9, 1990) were very active members of the Minneapolis Bird Club (the predecessor of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis). Melvin was the Treasurer of the Bird Club for a long time. Our sympathy to his friends and family.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Did you know, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis sells books and other merchandise at its program meetings?



*We offer many of the most popular Field Guides for sale!
We have Bluebird Recovery items for sale!
We offer Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis patches and pins as well as National Audubon Society pins.
All items are at **discount** prices.*

This month's featured book is:

**National Geographic
Field Guide to the Birds of North America**

AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS IN SANDSTONE, MN

OPEN HOUSE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FAIR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2005

Join us for a full day of activities, tour the alternative energy systems recently completed at the Center and enjoy the blazing color of autumn oaks, aspens and maples.

There will be a display and preview of artwork focusing on birds. BIRD X BIRD is a charitable organization linking art and science through exhibitions and programs to benefit wildlife and the environment. Nearly 100 notable regional artists will be making art in response to data collected at the Audubon Center and at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary in Theodore Wirth Park. Their art will be exhibited in the Fine Arts Building on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds with an auction of the work on Tuesday, October 5, 2005. Proceeds benefit North Woods and Eloise Butler Gardens.

Audubon Minnesota Bird Seed Sale

Stock up for winter feeding while supporting Audubon's conservation work in Minnesota. All popular seed varieties are offered at competitive prices, including sunflower, niger, suet cakes, and the special Audubon Minnesota Mix.

100% of the purchase price goes to support Audubon programs in Minnesota. The sale is made possible through the generous contribution of Performance Seed in St. Cloud.

**Seed orders must be placed and prepaid
by October 1**

**Pick up orders on Saturday, October 15,
9 am to 2 pm**

To obtain an order form and more information, contact Jenny Vitale at the Audubon Minnesota office, 651.739.9332 or e-mail her at jvitale@audubon.org. Maps and directions to the pick-up sites will be mailed one week before the sale. Volunteers are needed to help at the pick-up sites. Anyone interested can call Jenny Vitale at

Buckthorn Across Borders

Buckthorn Across Borders is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the City of Bloomington to treat European Buckthorn on city, state and federal lands with the help of volunteers.

When: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, October 8, 2005. Lunch will be provided. You can come and go at anytime. Meet at the McGough Development parking lot, 3103 80th St., Bloomington, MN. (From 494, take the 34th Ave exit and go south, turn right on American Blvd. E., then take first left – On Hiawatha Line: Bloomington Central St.) Groups will be bussed to the work sites.

**For information contact: Branda Long
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
952-858-0728**

Minneapolis Audubon Society

Meeting: Friday October 14, 1-3 p.m.

"ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE"

with Lois Norgarrd
Bryant Square Community Building
31st Street and Bryant Avenue
Minneapolis



AUDUBON MINNESOTA
Saturday, November 12
Fall Members' Meeting
and
Annual Audubon Dinner



Each year, Audubon members gather for the Fall Members Meeting, where we discuss state legislative issues to voting and discussing the merits of the top three issues. It's a casual and informative day at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The cost, including lunch, is \$10. If you pre-register, a packet of information will be mailed to you in early November with directions and information sheets on the issues that will be discussed. E-mail Susan Solterman, Audubon Minnesota's Policy Director at ssolterman@audubon.org or call 651-260-7040 with your name and address to register.

The Fall Members Meeting will culminate in this year's first Audubon Annual dinner. Audubon members and friends do not need to attend the earlier meeting to come to the Annual Dinner. We'll have cocktails, dinner, a speaker and awards at the Embassy Suites (across the street from the Refuge) at 5:00. Spread the word! Audubon has a lot to celebrate this year—great members, active chapters with excellent leadership, a new Audubon Executive Director (Mark Peterson), an expansion of the Upper Mississippi River Campaign, the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, the Great Grey Owl irruption...the list goes on!

Audubon Minnesota's Annual Evening Dinner \$25/person

Laura Erickson, Speaker

Embassy Suites, 7901 34th Avenue South, Bloomington, MNRSVP by November 1st to Susan Solterman 651-260-7040 / ssolterman@audubon.org

A Memorial Birding Experience - Sandhill Crane Viewing

As we traveled to the Rowe Sanctuary on Nebraska's Platte River, we weren't sure what to expect. We certainly didn't expect to find too many takers for the morning session in the blind. The wind swept the Plains and rocked the car. The cold rain ran horizontally across the headlight beams.

A surprising count of fifteen birders got to the blind at the first hint of light. Bundled in all our clothes, we peered into the darkness. The rain gusted in. After a half-hour outlines of 20,000 cranes began to form. We dried our binoculars in anticipation. Thirty minutes further, more color and detail bled into the scene. Cranes were huddled everywhere. They scarcely moved. We shuffled to keep warm. Through the next gray hour, dribs and drabs of cranes drifted off to feed. But no mass ascension. No riotous gray cloud of life lifting from the Platte. Smart birds—what did we expect?

I'm all for paying my dues. For every golden-wing warbler, you've got to scan 1,000 yellow-rumps. For every boreal owl, a basketful of misses. I understand that. Still, there's sometimes a fine line between bird watching and standing around and looking like a fool. On that March morning, I can't shake the feeling that I saw that line. And I was on the wrong side of it.

—Barb and Kurt Klussendorf
kluss001@umn.edu.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity?



Check out
the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis' website
at <http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/>
and click on "Volunteer Opportunities"



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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
October 2005



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

- 1 Mississippi Regional Park Field Trip
- 1 Last Day for Seed Orders
- 4 Chapter Program
- 6 South Metro Field Trip
- 8 Cedar Creek Field Trip

NOVEMBER

- 12 Mississippi River Trip, Wabasha
- 12 Fall Members' Meeting and Dinner

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.

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 President Jerry Bahls for details!