



# KINGFISHER



October 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No.6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Note from the President

At a recent Board meeting, I was again reminded about the importance of accurate communication. If all members had been contacted and had an opportunity to provide their input, it would have saved about half an hour at the meeting. As President of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, I vow to minimize the effects of poor communications. As an organization whose objective is to educate our members and the general public about the natural environment and birds in particular, it is important to get our message to you! We have two primary outlets for this—the Kingfisher and our website.

The Kingfisher is our longer term outlet for the information we want to communicate to you. Because of the time it takes to put together the Kingfisher, it is very difficult to get information into it that is less than a month old. We have a 1<sup>st</sup> of the month deadline for submitting articles, which gives the editor about 10–14 days to assemble it, gives the printer about 5 days to print it, and the mailing team 3 days to get it to the post office. You usually receive the Kingfisher on about Thursday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. That gives you only about 10 days to read about what's happening at the upcoming program.

The time it takes to get something published in print is why we also maintain a website. Our website, [www.geocities.com/audubon.geo](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo), is our quick action communications tool. Information can be available to our members and the general public in less than 2 days, depending upon the availability of our webmaster. It also acts as a backup for the Kingfisher by providing access to the current Kingfisher and the past issues on the website, and it provides other vital information that just can't be printed in the Kingfisher each month. An example is the volunteer opportunities at Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (I had to get one pitch in for help) new section. Please check the website often!

Finally we have quick communications through e-mail. While we don't have everyone's address, we do have over a hundred of you in our database. We've had this for about 6 months now. Fortunately, we have not had to use it yet. I think we have shown we are responsible in not using it unless needed, and I would encourage you to share your e-mail address with us so that if we need to, we can contact you quickly. Just send me a message stating you want to be added to our database (see page 2 for my e-mail address).

**Thanks,  
Jerry Bahls, President**

## October Program

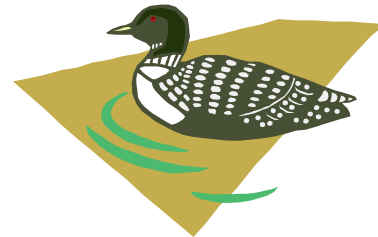
### Lead and Loons

Pam Perry comes to us from Brainerd where she has been a Regional Nongame Specialist for the past 22 years. Because of her interest in loons, Pam has been following the loon research regarding lead poisoning from the ingestion of fishing tackle. An approximate 24% mortality rate has been recorded in studies of adult loons during the breeding season in New England, Michigan some Canadian provinces. Limited research in Minnesota has shown that some loons are dying from lead poisoning, but the full extent is not yet known.

As a Nongame Specialist, Pam works with many different nongame and endangered wildlife species and has a special interest in loons, eagles, red-shouldered hawks, osprey, Blanding's turtles, landscaping for wildlife, and protecting lakeshores. She also coordinates the statewide Volunteer Loon Watcher Survey and in 2004 coordinated the first statewide survey of nesting osprey.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota in wildlife management and a Master of Science degree from the University of Florida in wildlife ecology. Come join us.

**—Fran Duritsa  
Programs**



**SPECIAL---BIRD WALK AT NORTH WOODS  
AUDUBON CENTER, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2**

Join Tom and Phyllis Mahan at North Woods from 9:00 to 11:00 am. We can expect to find residents and late migrants in the Center's varied habitat—woods, lake, stream, wetlands and prairie. Then stay and enjoy the afternoon fun and activities at North Woods Annual Open House. Please call Tom to register at 763- 588-5440.

*Directions:* I-35 to Sandstone Exit #191. SW on Cty. Rd. 61 (2 mi.), right on Cty. Rd. 27, cross Munger Trail. Left on Cty. Rd. 27 (3 mi.) to Cty Rd. 17, then right to entrance at North Woods stone pillars.

## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004-2005 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Vice President	John Arthur	952-931-0819
Treasurer	Phyllis Mahan	763-588-5440
Secretary	<open>	
Board Member	Jim Egge	
Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Board Member	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Board Member	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Board Member	Michael Flannery	
Board Member	Lisa McDonald	612-721-2672
Board Member	Dorothy Kuether	952-926-4205
Board Member	Ed Thom	
Board Member	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Birdathon Coord	<open>	
Aud. Adventures	Trudi Poquette	612-824-4866
Bluebird Recovery	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
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
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Marcia Marshall	
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	Fran Duritsa	612-822-4822
Publicity	Paul Fusco	
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	mnavogelfrau03@mninter.net
Dorothy Kuether	dkuether@juno.com
Tom/Phyllis Mahan	mahan-mail@att.net
Dorene Scriven	scriv001@tc.umn.edu
Mary Ellen Vetter	mevetter@mninter.net

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

[www.geocities.com/audubon.geo](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo)

### Minnesota Audubon

[www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html)

### National Audubon Society

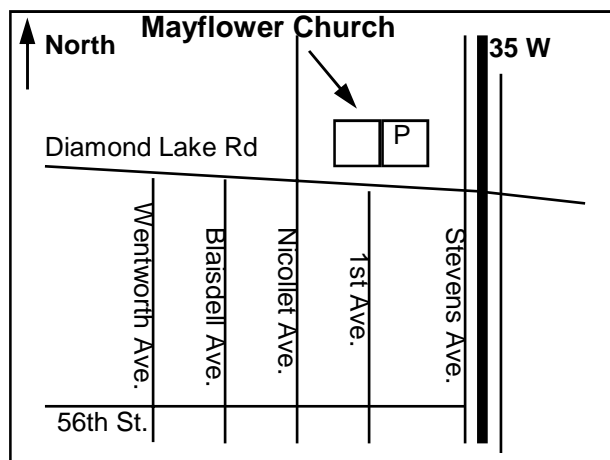
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 5  
"Lead and Loons" by Pam Perry, Regional Non-game Specialist, Department of Natural Resources, Brainard. Ms. Perry has studied the damaging effects of lead on our precious loons.

**TIME:** Program at 7:00 (note new time)

**AT:** Mayflower Church, map below



## Kingfisher and Armchair Activists E-Mail Recipients

Due to a computer malfunction, some of you may not have received your e-notifications. If you expect these and haven't gotten them, please send Jerry Bahls an e-mail at [bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu) to be reinstated on the lists.

## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!  
Contact Jerry Bahls at  
[bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu)

## Minneapolis Audubon Society 2004 – 2005 Programs

Below is the program schedule for the Minneapolis Audubon Society. For those who are unfamiliar with the Minneapolis Audubon Society (not associated with the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis), it meets during the daytime at 1 PM on the second Friday of the month from September through May at the Bryant Square Community Building at Bryant Ave. S. & 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Minneapolis. The organization compliments the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis by providing programs that accommodate individuals who are unable to attend evening programs.

**Oct. 8: NATIONAL FORESTS – AMERICA'S LIVING NATURAL HERITAGE - Lois Norrgard**

**Nov. 12: 25 YEARS WITH BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM - Dorene Scriven**

**Dec. 10: CHANGES IN MINNESOTA BIRDING - Bob Janssen**

**Jan. 14: WILDLIFE IN CHILE & PATAGONIA - Carroll Henderson**

**Feb. 11: IMAGES FROM MINNESOTA NORTH - Scott Sharkey**

**Mar. 11: AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK - Ted Galambos**

**Apr. 8: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY – WHAT'S PRACTICAL - Mike Link**

**May 13: FAIR TRADE FOREST ECONOMY FOR BIRDS & WILDLIFE - Don Arnosti**

For additional information call Mary McGee at 612 377-0630

### Important Bird Areas (IBA's)

National Audubon Society is focusing on helping preserve natural areas through the international Important Bird Areas (IBA's) initiative. Mark Martell, the Interim Executive Director and IBA Director of Audubon Minnesota, gave a presentation last spring on the importance of IBA's internationally. Minnesota is just getting started in identifying IBA's in the state.

Mark put out a call for IBA site nominations at that meeting. Jerry and Donna Bahls have begun the process of nominating sites within the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis area. They have found that the nomination process is very extensive. They would like to have help in nominating all the areas that have been tentatively identified as IBA's in our area.

If you are interested in helping write the nominations for an area you feel qualifies as an IBA, call Jerry or Donna at 763 572-2333 or e-mail at bahls001@tc.umn.edu. They will give you the information you need and help guide you through the process.

### Flying in Fog, 419 Birds Hit Wire and Die

One of the worst bird kills in years happened this week [week of 5/28/04] when at least 419 songbirds died after they struck support wires at a tower in northern Anoka County, a state wildlife biologist said.

More than 30 species of night-migrating songbirds, predominantly Tennessee and yellow warblers, were collected late Tuesday and Wednesday from beneath the wires at the tower, just south of St. Francis in Burns Township.

Bob Fashingbauer, assistant wildlife area manager at the nearby Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area, said he believes that the birds, which were migrating north, became confused by the tower's light beacon during a recent foggy evening. The light, he said, attracted the birds, which then flew around it, periodically striking guy wires supporting the tower.

—Associated Press

### Audubon Minnesota 2004 Bird Seed Sale

This is a reminder that the Audubon Minnesota's annual Bird Seed Sale is now taking orders, and bird-lovers are invited to stock up for winterfeeding while supporting Audubon's conservation work in Minnesota. All popular seed varieties are offered at competitive prices. **Seed orders must be placed and prepaid by October 6, 2004.** Customer pick-up of seed orders will be on Saturday, October 16, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at six convenient locations around the Twin Cities. See September's Kingfisher for location details.

To receive 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 to seed purchasers one week before the sale date.



# 2004 Issue Nomination Form and Fall Membership Meeting Registration



## The Process

Audubon's process for selecting the state legislative priority list begins by soliciting nominations of issues from Audubon members. The issue nomination process ends on Friday, September 30th - your nominations are due in our office on that day. After this, the nominated issues will be consolidated and written-up as a ballot. Ballots often contain anywhere from 10 to 20 issue descriptions. On the ballot members will rank their top five issues - we will mail the ballot out to you and you can pick up copies at your chapter meetings, too. The top five issues will be discussed at the annual Fall Members meeting.

Members attending the meeting will debate and prioritize three of the five issues and those three issues will become Audubon's legislative agenda for the 2005 state legislative session. All Audubon members in Minnesota are eligible to nominate and participate in the selection of the issues.

September chapter meetings should include time to discuss ballot issues and hand out ballot forms. During the election season, please use the ballots as tools to educate candidates in your district and to formulate debate questions. In order to adhere to federal law for nonprofit 501(c3), your chapter must provide all candidates in an electoral race with the same information—if you share information with one candidate, you must then provide it to all.

If you've had a policy issue on your mind, don't assume someone else will be smart enough to nominate it. Do it yourself. On the flip-side of this mailing is the issue nomination form and the registration form for our Fall Members meeting. *Remember!* - You **DO NOT** need to attend the Fall meeting in order to nominate an issue, nor do you need to nominate an issue to attend the Fall meeting. If you want to nominate an issue now, and register for the meeting later - that's fine.

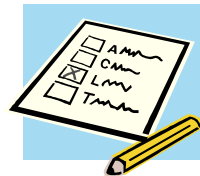
## The Fall Members Meeting

Each fall, Audubon members from all over the state gather to socialize with one another and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the State Capitol. Since it worked so well last year, Audubon Minnesota's annual Fall Membership Meeting will be at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minnesota again this year. So, join us on Saturday, November 13. Lunch is provided!

We'll have lively, informative presentations on topics that Audubon members voted as their top concerns from the issue nomination and ballot forms. Afterwards, the top five issues will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting. Members attending the meeting will vote for three issues to become the legislative priorities for the 2004 legislative session. Resolutions supporting other issues will also be discussed and voted on.

## Proposed Agenda

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 9:00 Welcome  | 2:00 Issues Selection     |
| 9:15 Issue Overview Session I   | 4:00 Resolution Selection |
| 10:45 Issue Overview Session II   | 4:45 Bye-bye              |
| 12:00 Lunch (provided)  |                           |
| 1:00 Option - Guided Tour of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Special Invited Speaker. |                           |



## **2004 Audubon Issue Nomination Form**

Issues nominated should be state level issues that require changes in state law. Mail to address below or e-mail to: [ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org)

- Issue:
- Contact Person Name:
- Address:
- Phone:
- Email:

**Brief description of the issue:**

## Buckthorn Wars—Year II

Last year we learned what buckthorn was, what it looked like, why it's a problem and how to get rid of it. Buckthorn Wars -Year II we'll attack, seeking to cut this insidious invader at the roots. We will do reconnaissance to locate the mother (female) trees in the public arena and mark them with a blue marker for later destruction by the local militias (government officials). First we will need to gain the allegiance of these local militias by meeting with their representatives and receive permission to enter their territory armed with our blue marking devices. Then we'll convince them to cut out the buckthorn at the roots!

This will require us to recruit suitable diplomats and combatants of our own. To enlist in this long-range battle, call Field Marshall of Buckthorn Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail at bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

Last year a challenge was issued to destroy a-buckthorn-a-day for 90 days beginning on September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Because of budget cuts (everything is blamed on the budget, so I thought I'd blame it for this too) we'll do only a 60-day buckthorn-a-day from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> (I know that is 61 days. So you get 1 day off!) Bring you twigs of buckthorn, 60 of them, to the December meeting and receive a prize from our treasure trove of Audubon related items. Good hunting!!



## HUNT HILL THANK YOU

*Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis received this fine thank you letter:*

July 16, 2004

Dear Audubon Scholarship Selection Committee,

Thank you very much for selecting me and paying for the scholarship to attend the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary's Adult Camp program "Wade into Ecology" July 4 – 9. I had an informative and good time with four other participants even though the weather was colder and wetter than normal.

The three instructors were excellent in helping us to identify birds, trees and plants. We found a nest with two baby birds and one egg on our walk. I got wet up to my knees in water when we went bog walking to find pitcher and sundew plants.

What interested me the most was the measurement and

chemical testing on the lake study and the analysis of the data afterward. On the canoe trip down the Namekagon River we chased eagles down river and tried to avoid hitting rocks.

The food was great with a game hen for one meal and a fish boil for another meal. The last session was on Wild Edibles.

Thank you once again for making it possible to attend this interesting camp.

—James Kleven

*Footnote: Because of the drop in our revenue from the National Audubon Society, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis can no longer provide this scholarship. We deeply regret this.*

## Audubon Lending Library

The Minneapolis Chapter of Audubon has a lending library available to all members. The "library" consists of a list of books that are in the possession of various Audubon members who are willing to lend to other Audubon members birding books, particularly field guides to many different places.

- \* Call or email Dorene Scriven, 612-922-4586, BBRP@att.net, when you are planning to travel to a particular area of the U.S. or foreign country
- \* If there is a field guide or picture book for that area on the "library list," you will be given the name and telephone number of the person who is willing to lend it
- \* All pick-up and return arrangements are made between the lender and the person requesting the loan
- \* If YOU have a bird identification book that YOU are willing to lend, please get in touch with Dorene so we can expand and enhance our lending library list. The list hasn't been updated for a while, and this is a good time to do so. Many of us have good books which we use only once or twice, don't want to give away, yet are quite willing to temporarily share with friends and fellow members

PLEASE indicate whether the book is a picture book -PB; or a paperback field guide (FG) or a hardcover field guide (HFG) and indicate publisher or author. Be sure to include your telephone number and email if you have one. This list is not available to anyone except Minneapolis Audubon Chapter members.

The present list includes books for Argentina, Australia, Britain and Europe, Caribbean (Costa Rica, West Indies, Bahamas), India, Israel, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, some U.S. states and Canada areas.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
October 2004



### 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

- 2 Bird Walk at North Woods
- 5 Chapter program, 7:00 pm  
"Lead and Loons" by Pam Perry, DNR
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting

#### November (note: second Tuesday in Nov.)

- 9 Buckthorn: Biology, Ecology and Control
- 13 Audubon Minnesota Fall Meeting
- 14 "Bird Feeding 101" Raptor Center
- 17 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 pm

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).

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

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call President Jerry Bahls for details on Board meetings and field trips.