



# KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 48 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater  
Minneapolis and Hennepin County

September 1999

## Letter from the President

Hi Everyone,

Here's hoping that you are having a great summer! The chapter's Board of Directors has had a three-month hiatus. At the last meeting we discussed ways in which the chapter can contribute financially to other causes. Many groups approach our chapter for donations and although we would like to give something to everyone, that is not possible. So, as in most organizations, a committee was formed to discuss the matter and report their recommendations to the Board for a vote. A large portion of this donated money comes from members. We provide scholarships for kids to attend ecology camps, Audubon Adventures for 26 elementary classrooms within our chapter area, and support for the Minnesota State Audubon office. Our main, actually only, fundraiser is the spring Big Day/Bird Census. Our thanks to the folks that contributed this year, totaling approximately \$300. This amount is about half of that taken in last year and may not allow us to provide our usual financial support (in fact it barely covered the cost of printing the donation envelopes). If you have any fundraising ideas, please "donate" your time to help the Board increase your chapter's support of some worthy causes.

In the same light, the Board of Directors still has openings for two members. We have nine monthly meetings, each of which lasts about two hours. If you are interested, please give me a call. As always, all members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Most Board meetings are held at Anwatin Middle School.

- Tom Mahan, President

### Potluck Season Kickoff

Come one, come all to the annual potluck supper to kick off the new season of chapter meetings and events! Join your fellow Audubon members in some good food and conversation. Bring along a food item to share: salads, hot dishes, bread, cheese and cold cuts, dessert, etc.

Beverages will be provided by the chapter—coffee, tea, and lemonade. Placesettings will also be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Following the potluck supper is our first program of the year. We look forward to seeing you there!

### September 7: Valley of Grass: Prairie and Parkland of the Red River Region

Mary Ziegenhagen's work in prairie preservation found expression in 1980 when she learned of 30 acres that had been identified within the city limits of Savage following a grass fire. She supported designation of what is now the Black Dog Fen and Prairie Complex, a scientific and natural area of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Mary has served as an editorial writer for the *Star Tribune*, for the McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services. She currently edits five weekly newspapers in the western Twin Cities area. She completed Peace Corps service in the Philippines and in Western Samoa. Her international travel has included two 150-mile treks in the Himalayas of Nepal.

She recently coauthored *Valley of Grass*, sponsored by the Minnesota chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

- Lis Jones

We've  
Moved!  
To The  
Mayflower  
Congrega-

## An Opportunity to Sail on the Birding Boat

Would you enjoy a leisurely Saturday afternoon paddleboat trip on the Mississippi River with an opportunity to learn about the birds and history along the river? Here's your chance. The Minnesota Audubon Council has been cooperating with the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area and the Padelford Packet Company to bring "Birding Boat" adventures to children for the last three months. The "Birding Boat" is the inspiration of Charlie Maguire, the "Singing Ranger" of the Mississippi River. Charlie, Audubon volunteers, National Park Service rangers and a bird artist, and Minnesota Historical Society staff will entertain you with songs about the river, help you see the birds, coordinate art activities, and provide information about the river and its history.

Now, these "Birding Boat" partners are offering an opportunity to the public on Saturday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. on Sept. 18 from Harriet Island in Saint Paul or Sept. 25 from Boom Island dock in Minneapolis. Anyone booking passage on the trip can participate in this special "Birding Boat" program. It's a great event for families with a free Birding Boat Guide and extra binoculars available.

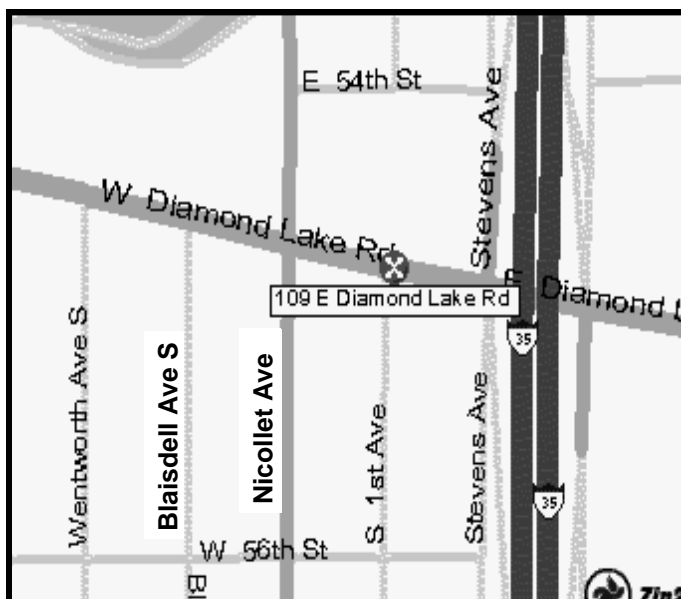
A special opportunity is available for teachers to learn about the "Birding Boat" as a potential school field trip: Saint Paul Audubon Society is offering a FREE ticket to elementary and junior high teachers for these trips. Family members and friends are invited to join them at regular Padelford ticket prices. All of the singing, birding, and historical activities are free on the boat. For more information, please call Dorothy Waltz at 651-454-8994 or contact her via e-mail at dwaltz@isd.net.

Hope to see you on the river!

### Come to our next program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 7, 1999  
**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. Mary Ziegenhagen presents:  
**"Valley of Grass: Prairie and Parkland of the Red River Region"** Following the 6:00 p.m. potluck dinner.  
**AT:** Mayflower Congregational Church  
 109 East Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis  
**PARK:** In church lot  
**ROOM:** Big room downstairs

**Mayflower Congregational Church** is located just west of the Highway 35W exit. Enter on the main floor and go downstairs to the big room.



### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) 1998-1999 Contacts

President.....	Tom Mahan.....	588-5440
Vice President.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
Treasurer.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Secretary.....	<open>.....	
Board/Bluebird Recovery...	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Board/Conservation Chair..	<open>.....	
Board/Mailing Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Board/Program Chair.....	Lis Jones.....	827-1482
Board/Sales Chair.....	Tom Stinson.....	767-8736
Board.....	Kim Halek.....	427-8656
Board.....	Jeane Kelly.....	862-1421
Board/Sales Chair.....	Jim Sharpsteen.....	722-9109
Board.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Birdathon/Big Day Coord..	<open>.....	
Camperships/Hunt Hill....	Marion Borell.....	866-1266
Camperships/North Woods.	Bob Nelson.....	933-7340
Education Chair.....	Mary Ellen Vetter...	561-1761
Field Trips Chair.....	Terry Brashear.....	821-1191
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor.....	Elizabeth Peterson..	822-6051
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor.....	Pam Rhoads.....	822-6051
Lending Library.....	Dorene Scriven.....	922-4586
Membership Chair.....	Jerry Bahls.....	572-2333
Park Feeders.....	David Stamps.....	374-3609
Park Feeders.....	Don Bolduc.....	927-0617
Publicity Committee.....	Bill Sipe.....	331-1223
Social Committee.....	Phyllis Mahan.....	588-5440
MN Audubon Office.....	.....	225-1830
MOU Rare Bird Alert.....	.....	780-8890

ACM's Internet Address: [www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835](http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835)

Board of Directors meet at Anwatin School, Minneapolis.

All are welcome! Call the president for details.



## Audubon Ark to Highlight All-Audubon Picnic

Music, games, and a live bald eagle will be among the activities beginning at noon on Saturday, August 21st when the National Audubon Society's "Audubon Ark" docks at Hidden Falls Park in St. Paul. Bring your picnic goodies and enjoy music from Charlie Maguire, Bill Hinkley, and Judy Larson, and a brief program to honor recent conservation achievements along both the Mississippi and Minnesota river valleys. Games for kids, exhibits, and free refreshments will be provided by Minnesota Audubon and local Audubon chapters. Staff from the Audubon Center of the North Woods will be giving eagle presentations during the event, which starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy a day on the river, meet Audubon folks from other chapters, swap bird stories, and have fun! If helping with games for kids or handing out free lemonade and watermelon would add to your fun, please call the Minnesota Audubon office.

Hidden Falls Park is just one of the 37 stops that the Ark, a 48-foot houseboat, will make on its month-long Mississippi River inspection and education journey. Community members at each stop are invited to visit the Ark, enjoy exhibits and music about the river, learn about the ecology of the river, and share their hopes and concerns for the river's future.

Information gathered during the tour will be combined with comments collected at public workshops this spring to complete the report, "A River that Works and a Working River," to be released in December 1999. The riverboat trip will also be the subject of a Travel Channel "American Journey" documentary, to be broadcast early next year.

The Audubon stage and boat launch can be reached from the north entrance of Hidden Falls Park on Mississippi River Boulevard at Magoffin Avenue. Along with the Audubon activities at the park, the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) will be conducting the Watershed 100, their annual event to have 100 volunteers paint signage on storm drains that conduct water into the river. The activities begin at 10 a.m. and will continue through 2 p.m. at the park pavilion.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact Suzanne at 651-225-1830 or [splass@audubon.org](mailto:splass@audubon.org).

See you at the picnic!

## Electronic Kingfisher Begins This Month

Beginning with this issue of the *Kingfisher*, those who requested it will be able to receive it from our website (<http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/5835>). Those of you who signed up should have received an e-mail informing you that it is now available. If you have trouble getting it, please send me an e-mail ([bahls001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:bahls001@tc.umn.edu)) as soon as possible so that we can correct the problem. If anyone forgot or wants to sign up, send me a note at the above address. Remember this is a small effort to reduce our mailing costs and to save a few trees.

## Free Audubon Adventures Workshops for Teachers

Do you teach a 3rd-6th grade class or know someone who does? If so, the Metro area Audubon chapters invite you to a free Saturday morning workshop on using Audubon Adventures, National Audubon Society's exciting classroom nature program for children.

Geared to grades 3-6, the Audubon Adventures curriculum features four editions of Audubon's innovative newspaper for kids, an educational videotape from the Audubon Animal Adventures series, and a classroom resource guide filled with hands-on activities, duplicating masters, and research material. Audubon Adventures activities can also be integrated with Audubon's internet based citizen-science programs such as WatchList for Kids and the Great Backyard Bird Count. Topics for the 1999-2000 school year are "Forests," "People and Wildlife Sharing the Earth," "Fins, Fur and Feathers (Alaska)," "Our One and Only Everglades," and the video "Eagles." The program is multidisciplinary and designed to be integrated into the existing classroom curriculum.

Teachers who attend the workshop will also have the opportunity to meet local Audubon volunteers who are available to make presentations and lead field trips for classrooms. The half-day workshop is offered September 18 and September 25 (please register for only one date). It will take place at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge headquarters near the metropolitan airport. The workshop is from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 noon, and is free to 3-6th grade teachers. Enrollment is limited. Call Suzanne Plass at 651-225-1830 for more information or to register for the workshop.

Teachers attending the morning workshop will also have the opportunity to take an afternoon "Birding Boat" trip. (See page 2.)



## Special October Program!

Mark your calendars now! A special program is being offered on October 28, a joint effort of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, the Saint Paul Audubon Society, and the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. The program will take place at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge auditorium, and will feature Laura Erickson, author of *For the Birds: An Uncommon Guide*, and *Sharing the Wonder of Birds with Kids* (Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award for 1997). Laura's presentation will focus on North American owls. More information will be provided in the October issue of *Kingfisher*.



**Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
Programs  
1999 - 2000**

**Mayflower Church  
35W & Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis**

**First Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.  
Guests are welcome!**

Slide presentations by prominent topic experts are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Mayflower Church at 35W and Diamond Lake Road in south Minneapolis. We have been guaranteed space for the September-December programs, and are awaiting verification for the February-May programs. Any changes in location will be announced in *Kingfisher*.

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at approximately 9 p.m. All are welcome to attend the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis programs and field trips!

**Sep. 7 "Valley of Grass"** Mary Ziegenhagen is one of the authors of the book, *Valley of Grass: Prairie and Parkland of the Red River Region*. She will present a slide program based on this fascinating book.

**Oct. 5 "Through the Eyes of a Raven"** Kristin Stuchis is a graduate of the Wolf Ridge Program and is continuing her studies for a Master's of Education at the University of Minnesota at Duluth. She will present a slide program on these enchanting birds.

**Nov. 9 "The Birds of the North Coast of Alaska"** Christine Turnbull is the executive director of the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary. She will present a slide program on this remote bird haven.

**Dec. 7 "Wood Ducks of Kandiyohi County"** Dr. Roger Strand will follow the story of the Wood Ducks of Kandiyohi County with a video that details their lives from egg-laying to duckling jumping, including mixed breeding of Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers.

**Feb. 1 "The History of Racing Pigeons"** Bob Capitola will present on the history and aspects of Racing/Homing Pigeons. This presentation includes the video "Marathon in the Sky" with Michael Landon.

**Mar. 7 "Natural History Photography"** John Gregor will discuss the values of nature photography with the use of slides of the photography of Coldsnap Studios and the natural history photography of the northern plains and forests.

**Apr. 4 "Hummingbirds of California"** Don Mitchell is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. He will present a slide program on the many delightful hummingbirds found in California.

**May 2 "Fox Sparrows: Is One Species Enough?"** Ann Kessen will explore the methods used to determine whether a group is a special species by looking at diversity among researchers.

**For more information call Tom Mahan, President, 612-588-5440.**

**Clip & Save!**



## You Decide the Issues!

You! Yes YOU! You are the one who decides which issues your state Audubon office will work on/lend our name in support of or oppose during the upcoming legislative session. Any chapter member may nominate an issue. Forms for "Requests for Issues" will be mailed to Conservation Chairs, Presidents, and any member requesting an issue nomination form. Issues nominated in past years have ranged from BWCAW management to funding for preservation of metropolitan greenways. Last year the legislative work of the Minnesota Audubon Council and chapter members increased funding for nongame wildlife programs by \$235,000 for the next two years!

The issue nomination process begins August 23rd. If you would like a nomination form sent to you, contact Suzanne at 651-225-1830, or [splass@audubon.org](mailto:splass@audubon.org). Nominations forms will also be available at September chapter meetings.

## Chapter Members Remembered

Our chapter has lost two long-time friends and loyal members. Many of you will remember Bill Quam and John Hale, whose deaths both occurred in July. Both men were active participants since the beginning days of the Minneapolis Bird Club.

Bill served as president of the Chapter Board, co-leader with his wife Merna, of the popular Summer Field Trippers, and also as treasurer of the Audubon Center of the North Woods. Memorials for Bill can be sent to the Audubon Center, Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072.

John served as treasurer of the Chapter Board and facilitated the mailing of *Kingfisher* for many years.

We also learned of the death of Jerry Groesser. While Jerry and his wife Carol were members of the MN River Valley Chapter, they were joint-members of our Chapter. We got to know them at our programs and field trips.

- Mary Ellen Vetter

## Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is the National Audubon Society's interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum for grades 3 through 6. Last year, our Birdathon proceeds provided Adventures to 26 schools in our chapter area.

A subscription packet costs \$35, and includes resources and activity materials for one classroom. Six nature-study topics are covered during the year.

We invite our Chapter members to help us reach more children by funding a gift subscription. Your child or grandchild will be excited to share this gift with classmates. Do you have a teacher or school that is special to you? Or, you can let us choose a school that is on our waiting list.

Adventures is also excellent for youth groups such as Scouts or Campfire. The packet can be sent directly to a leader's home. The enrollment deadline for the coming year is September 11, 1999. For more information, please call Mary Ellen Vetter, 561-1761.

YES, I would like to help our chapter support *Audubon Adventures*! Enclosed is \$35 to support *Adventures* in the following school. (Please copy form if you would like to support more than one classroom.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (circle one) Student Teacher School Other

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Mail to: Audubon Adventures, c/o Mary Ellen Vetter, 7715 York Lane N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

## Kingfisher Submission Deadline

Just a note to once again mention the e-mail address for article submissions is: [KingfishMN@aol.com](mailto:KingfishMN@aol.com). Please attach the articles to e-mail in the MS Word format if possible. To reduce confusion and incorrect information, please send fully written articles.

Contributors are still welcome to submit articles and information to the *Kingfisher* by regular mail. Send material to either editor at 3161 Columbus Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

**The deadline for submission of all articles and information is the first day of the month prior to publication.** The October issue's deadline is September 1.



**Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis**  
**PO Box 3801**  
**Minneapolis MN 55403**

**Return service requested**



**KINGFISHER**  
September 1999



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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 check 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: CM02 9M99

## Calendar of Events

### September

- 4 Rice Creek, led by Terry Brashear
- 7 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Minnehaha Park, led by Don Wanschura
- 11 Old Cedar/Bass Ponds, led by Terry Brashear
- 12 Lebanon Hills Regional Park, led by Tom Mahan
- 14 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18,19 Hawk Ridge Weekend, Duluth
- 23 Louisville Swamp, led by Don Wanschura
- 25 Roberts Bird Sanctuary, led by Terry Brashear

### October

- 5 Chapter Program Meeting, 7:30 p.m.  
"Through the Eyes of a Raven"
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Joint Chapter Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the  
Minnesota Valley National Wildlife  
Refuge Auditorium

**Birders of all ages and skill levels are  
welcome on all field trips.**