



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 49 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society
in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

September 2000

Upcoming Program

Tuesday, September 5: Minnesota River Valley
Birding Trail, presented by Paul Konrad

The establishment of a birding trail with maps and birding sites along the Minnesota River ---an idea long discussed--- is about to become reality. The guiding hand coordinating the project is Paul Konrad, a North Dakota native, a wildlife biologist, writer, editor, photographer and eco-tour leader now with an office at Minnesota Audubon.

To promote birding, tourism, and conservation, Konrad will visit the cities and towns along the river, process the information gained, and then establish and map birding sites bordering both woodlands and prairies. Included will be wetlands and riparian habitats. This is a huge assignment being sponsored by Minnesota Audubon and the State of Minnesota.

During the planning and development process, Konrad explains that Auduboners are welcomed, as well as all interested individuals, merchants, teachers, agency personnel and others to participate in this interesting and significant project.

Konrad comes with an impressive resume. As an undergraduate at North Dakota State University he has researched hawks and owls on the prairies. He has also studied cranes in southern Africa. For eight years he wrote, did photography for, and was editor of *Wild Bird*. He has led birding tours from Russia to the South Pacific to Antarctica. With such a background, does coordinating a birding trail in Minnesota sound exciting? "Yes", says Konrad. "It is challenging and exciting to bring something new to the state and to the wonderful Minnesota River Valley."

Come hear it from Paul Konrad Tuesday, September 5. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Come early and join in a pot luck at 6:00 p.m. We meet at the Mayflower Church located immediately west of Hwy 35W at the Diamond Lake Road exit. See you there!



—Fran Durits a

Celebration of Upper Mississippi River, Wildlife and People

Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign, starting its third year, invites you to attend our first-ever joint gathering of Audubon members as well as Non-Audubon River Stewards from the entire five-state watershed. The dates are September 15-17 and the place is Sinsinawa Mound, near Dubuque, Iowa.

Why would you want to come to this event? Take a look at some of the projects that you can be a part of by attending this event:

- * Become a participant in the actual design and building of the permanent *Audubon Ark* riverboat - a floating permanent Audubon Center that will travel on the river to communities and schools all year long.
- * Become a volunteer River Steward, serving as crew and interpreter on the Ark.
- * Help our Birding Trail Coordinators develop the Great River Birding Trail and then serve as trail guides in your area.
- * Be a Watershed Steward, making one to one contact with landowners doing watershed protection work in the five-state Upper Mississippi watershed.
- * Join the growing ranks of conservation-minded people who are helping Audubon and others fight the expansion of the navigation system on the river.

Here is a summary of the agenda and registration information:
Fri., Sept. 15 – The weekend will kick-off with a variety of guided field trips to explore the river, bluffslands and prairies of the Sinsinawa area. Urban adventurers can also explore the Mississippi River Museum or the shopping opportunities in Dubuque. At 5:00 a buffet-style dinner will be served at the Mississippi River Museum.

Sat., Sept. 16 – After a morning birdwalk, choose from a smorgasbord of workshops and plenary sessions. Speakers include Dan McGuinness on the Upper Mississippi River Watershed and Jon Stravers on Mississippi River Birding Trails. A silent auction and concert will cap the day.

Sun., Sept 17 – The requisite bird walk will start the day. Groups will meet by state beginning at 9:00. At 11:00, the *Spirit of Dubuque* will depart for a riverboat cruise.

For more information or to register, call Jessie at 651-290 1695 or email jmeschievitz@audubon.org. Register now — space is limited.

—Suzanne Plass

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 1999-2000 Contacts

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Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
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Camps/North Woods	Bob Nelson	612-933-7340
Conservation	Tom Rice	612-887-3547
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Sales	Tom Stinson	763-767-8736
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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

MN Audubon Council

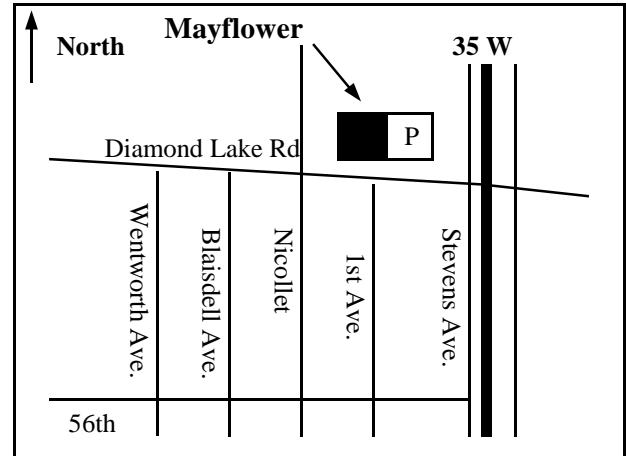
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn

National Audubon Society

www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2000
TIME: 7:30 p.m. "Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail"
AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



This Benefit is for the Birds

Do you know more about birds than others do? Can you identify birds from slides and sounds? Are you able to answer bird trivia questions in a single bound? If so, on November 4th the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is having Fund Raiser/Bird ID Contest - "This Benefit is for the Birds".

I'll take "Little Brown Birds for 100, Alex." (Sorry, we couldn't book Alex for our contest, or Regis for that matter.) Yes, its Jeopardy, Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, and several other games shows all rolled into one. We may even allow teams to vote other team members out of the contest. Noooo!

Prizes, Prizes, Prizes. Did I mention that there would be prizes? We are soliciting prizes from local business and individuals. Also to be given away, will be memberships in the National Audubon Society.

But wait, there's more. Buy your ticket in advance and the price goes DOWN. Tickets will be \$10 at the door, \$7 in advance for members and \$8 in advance for non-members. Also, non-members can apply the ticket price toward a membership. This should be a fun time. Bring the whole family! Children under 16 will be admitted free when accompanied by a paying parent.

So set aside November 4th at 9:00 AM at a site to be determined. Check next month's Kingfisher for site and directions and other information about the contest. Proceeds will go to sponsor Audubon Adventures for area schools.

—Jerry Bahls

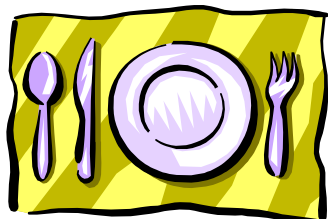


Potluck Supper! Tuesday, September 5 at 6 p.m.

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 & cold cuts, dessert.... Beverages will be provided by the chapter - coffee, tea, and apple cider. We will also provide plates, forks and cups, but you can help save on plastic and paper by bringing your own.

Following the potluck supper is our first program of the year.



We look forward to seeing you there!

—Phyllis Mahan

Letter from the President

Welcome to a new Audubon year. So many good things are happening--and new challenges to be met. Most committees have met, have planned for the year and set goals. We all want to see more members involved. There are opportunities both small and big. --from 1/2 hour a month at your home, writing a thank you to our monthly speaker to being chair of the Birdathon. Helping Audubon means knowing more about it, gives a special sense of "ownership" and pride in its achievements--and by helping you make possible better conditions for those birds we so enjoy.

The word Environment keeps coming up and sometimes people ask why we are concerned. Let me share my "enlightenment". I had wondered why Audubon was "so hung up on environment" until I went to Kearney, Nebraska one spring. There we saw the thousands of sandhill cranes, so thick they seemed like smoke on the horizon and learned that ALL those birds have only a few miles of the river that they can rest and find the food they need for the rest of the trip to their breeding grounds. Through use of pesticides to grow better crops, the nutrients the birds need to breed and produce healthy chicks have been killed. That means fewer birds, that means fewer "oohs" and "aahs" at the wonders of our world.

Do you remember when the bluebirds all but disappeared? Through the efforts of people in our chapter and our support of them, the Bluebird Recovery Program has brought them back. Now most of us see that flash of brilliant blue and enjoy watching them.

There is more to be done--so whether you can help with a few phone calls or whatever your talents are--let's be there, helping, encouraging and cheering the successes. Hope to see you at the State Fair--our booth is in the Education Building--and at our September meeting.

—Dorothy Kuether

Social Committee Participation

Each year, our Chapter's Social Committee organizes social events before that month's program meeting at the Mayflower Church. These events give chapter members the opportunity to mingle and enjoy refreshments. They have always been a great success.

Sep 5 at 6 p.m. Fall Potluck
Dec 5 at 6 p.m. Winter Potluck
Feb 6 at 7 p.m. Winter Cookie Social
May 1 at 7 p.m. Spring Cookie Social

We are currently looking for one or two people to take over the Social Committee. What will you need to do? Arrive at the Mayflower Church 45 minutes to an hour ahead of time to set up each event. The setup is simple and the Chapter provides everything that's needed.

1. Make a pot of coffee and a pot hot water for tea.
2. Set out plates, forks, spoons, napkins, cups, and condiments.
3. Pack up the supplies when the social is over, either before or after the program meeting.

Please call Tom or Phyllis Mahan at 612-588-5440 if you would like to be part of the Social Committee.

—Phyllis and Tom Mahan

Friends of the Mississippi Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed to help protect the Mississippi River and its watershed. Groups of 5 to 200 people can participate in a fun hands-on community service project.

Who: Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) and Your Group.

What: Friends of the Mississippi River Storm Drain Stenciling Project - volunteers paint the message "Please, Don't Pollute! Drains to River" (or creek or lake) next to storm drains and distribute educational doorhangers to neighborhood homes and businesses.

Where: Neighborhoods in Minneapolis, Saint Paul, and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

When: Mid-April through October 2000

Why: To prevent urban runoff pollution from entering the storm sewer system. Many residents do not realize that storm drains provide a direct route for pollutants to enter the river. This activity educates students and community members about the importance of protecting the watershed, and what we can all do to help keep it clean and safe for the future.

What Else: Activity ideas for leaders are also available!

For more info: Contact Kary Schumpert at Friends of the Mississippi River: 651/222-2193, kschumpe@fmr.org, or visit FMR on the web at www.fmr.org.

—Kary Schumpert





2000-2001 Audubon Programs and Field Trips



Presentations by topic experts are held the first Tuesday of each month (except Nov*) at the Mayflower Church at 35W & Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis. Each program runs from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Guests Are Welcome!

Sept. 5 Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail

By Paul Konrad, coordinator of this trail, wildlife biologist, writer, editor, photographer, and eco-tour leader.

Oct. 5 Aftermath of the BWCA Blowdown of July 4, 1999

By Adam Sokolski of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

***Nov. 14** Pothole and Grassland Birds (Where Have all the Meadowlarks Gone?)

By Teresa Jaskiewicz, Environmental Education Specialist at the Fergus Falls Prairie Wetland Learning Center.

Dec. 5 Global Warming - Yes It's Real

By Dr. John Pastor, Ph.D. of the University of MN Duluth Biology Dept.

Feb. 6 Wildlife of the Minnesota River Valley

By Scott Sharkey, M.D., exploring the natural beauty of the Wildlife Refuge.

March 6 Birds and Flowers of Rocky Mountain National Park

By Don Bolduc, acclaimed speaker and all around naturalist.

April 3 Butterflies: Habits, Habitat and More

By Vera Krischik, Associate Professor at University of MN Entomology Dept.

May 1 Bird Nest Identification

By Christine Turnbull, Director of Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary.



Field Trips begin at 7:30 a.m. and are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Additional information will be available in the Kingfisher newsletter or on our web site. For more information call Terry at 612-929-1976. Guests Are Welcome!

September 2000

- 2 Rice Creek
- 7 Minnehaha Park
- 9 Old Cedar Bridge
- 14 Winslow Trail Mississippi Gorge
- 21 Mendota Heights / Fort Snelling
- 23 Roberts Bird Sanctuary
- 28 Ritter Farm Park, Farmington

November 2000

- 11 Weaver Bottoms
- 18 Chain of Lakes

December 2000

- 23 Christmas Bird Count, Springbrook Nature Center



March 2001

- 17 Wabasha - Eagle Trip

May 2001

- 5 Wood Lake Nature Center
- 10 Crosby Park
- 12 Rice Creek
- 17 Spring Lake Park
- 19 Springbrook Nature Center
- 26 Old Cedar Bridge

July 2001

- TBA Cottage Grove Sand Prairies

Clip and Save!



Audubon Advocacy: Your Support Makes a Difference

Advocacy has been the heart of Audubon's work in Minnesota for 20 years. It was the highest program priority when the Minnesota state office of Audubon was created. Today, Minnesota Audubon is a leading advocate for wildlife and habitat protection in Minnesota.

In recognition of this legacy of legislative achievement, a special campaign to fund Minnesota Audubon's critical advocacy work was launched at our June 17th membership meeting. The fund was also established by the Board of Minnesota Audubon in honor of Don Arnosti, who left the directorship this July for a yearlong adventure in Argentina with his family. It will also send a powerful message throughout the state reaffirming our commitment to sustain Minnesota Audubon's ongoing work to protect birds, other wildlife, and their habitats statewide.

We want to hire an experienced advocate in a timely manner for the next legislative session. This means that we would have a staff member fully dedicated and entirely focused on conservation advocacy. If we can raise the necessary funds through this special campaign by September, the Board authorized the hiring of a year-round advocate.

We will need the help of every friend of Minnesota Audubon to ensure that we can achieve a successful campaign and continue to carry out a first-rate advocacy program. Gifts of all sizes are important. The campaign goal is \$75,000, we have raised just \$42,000 so far. I urge you to thoughtfully consider what you can do and make an early pledge or gift that reflects your commitment to Minnesota Audubon, according to your individual situation at your earliest convenience.

I WANT TO HELP SUSTAIN MINNESOTA AUDUBON'S ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

My gift of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please make your check payable to the National Audubon Society, designate "Advocacy Fund" on the memo line and return to:
MN Audubon, 26 E. Exchange St., #207
St. Paul, MN 55101.

—Suzanne Plass



Speak Your Mind On Environmental Issues

Audubon members determine which environmental issues will be the focus of our advocacy activity during the Minnesota legislative session. What do you think are the most pressing conservation issues facing Minnesota? What actions should the legislature take to address the issues? Why should Audubon take the lead on this issue?

Issues nominated will be compiled into a ballot, and distributed to chapters, Audubon Activists and members requesting a ballot in early October. Please include the following information with your nomination.

Issue:

Contact person: _____

Chapter: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Provide a detailed but brief description of the issue (words you would like to see on the ballot).

Return your nomination(s) by September 29th to Suzanne Plass, Minnesota Audubon, 26 E. Exchange Street, #207, St. Paul, MN 55101 or splass@audubon.org. **Thank You!**

—Suzanne Plass



Minnesota Environmental Fund And Minnesota Audubon

Growing, successful fundraising coalition seeks active Audubon volunteers to introduce employees to the Minnesota Environmental Fund and Minnesota Audubon. While this isn't a classified ad, it might as well be, we have open positions that need to be filled and you are the perfect candidate.

You may or may not have heard of the Minnesota Environmental Fund (volunteering is a unique way for you to learn more about the Fund and our impact on Minnesota's environment). The Minnesota Environmental Fund is a coalition of environmental nonprofits raising money through workplace or employee giving campaigns. Minnesota Audubon is one of 17 members. Currently we are in over 90 workplaces and in 1999 raised more than \$530,000 for environmental efforts in Minnesota.

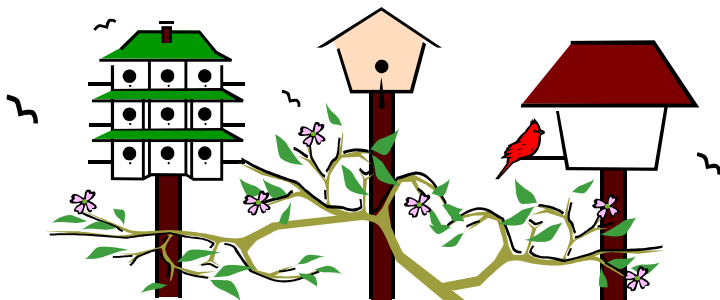
Minnesota Audubon receives money from the Fund by completing a series of activities:

- 1) contacting Minnesota companies to encourage them to include the Minnesota Environmental Fund in their workplace or employee giving campaign;
- 2) attending board and committee meetings and;
- 3) by doing at least 5 presentations to employee groups and by completing 5 hours of collating and pledge processing—this is where Audubon volunteers come in.

Presentations and tabling sessions (staffing an information table at a workplace) are a fun way to get out into the community to meet new people. Typically presentations and tabling sessions take place between late August and into November and are during the day. Presentations are normally no more than 10 minutes and tabling sessions usually last about two hours. Collating and pledge processing sessions are held during the day and follow a similar timeline of August through November.

If you are interested in volunteering on Audubon's behalf, please call Cynthia Malmrose (Minnesota Audubon, Development Director) at 651/225-1830 and provide her with your mailing address, phone number and email (if you have access to email). We have planned Volunteer Training sessions for August 15 and August 23. If you are interested in attending one, please call Amy Sokolski (Minnesota Environmental Fund, Campaign Manager) at 651/917-1876. Please feel free to call Amy if you have any questions about volunteering.

—Amy Sokolski



Adaptations

My family is not nearly as thrilled about wilderness camping as I am. A couple of times a year, however, we head out to one of the Hennepin Regional Parks for the kind of camping they can handle. Fortunately, the Hennepin Parks are some of our treasures. There are excellent hiking trails and there are plenty of birds to watch.

The last time we went camping, I was pretty much confined to the campsite and my lawn chair. This mild restriction provided me an opportunity to study the adaptability of our fine feathered friends. My husband and I arrived by ourselves early on Friday afternoon. The campground was still quiet and relatively empty. Sitting still a while, watching and listening, netted quite a list of birds: there were Cedar Waxwings in the cedars (really), Chipping Sparrows, American Robins, Red-eyed Vireos, Black-capped Chickadees, American Crows, Gray Catbirds, American Goldfinches, House Finches, Indigo Buntings, Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, Common Yellowthroats, House Wrens, American Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Canada Geese, Mallards, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Green Herons. I'm sure I haven't listed all of them.

As afternoon turned to evening and the campground filled up, the birds seemed quietly to fade away. And they were not nearly as visible during the rest of the weekend. But came Sunday evening, when the campground began to clear out, the bird activity increased once again. Monday morning, when the campground was largely empty, the activity and bird count was much like it had been Friday afternoon. Clearly, the rhythm of the birds lives was adapted to the ebb and flow of campers.

Because birding has trained me to be a keen observer (and because I get up before everyone else) I know that the birds were all around us even when the campground was a solid city of tents and trailers. Early in the morning, juvenile crows were crying out to their parents who were trying to train them to feed themselves. The young ones would pursue their elders begging loudly. When no one was looking, the Chipping Sparrows would fly under the picnic tables and gather whatever crumbs had dropped from the campers meals. Blue Jays had learned to look in the campfire rings for food that had been tossed, but had not burned up. Several of the insect eating birds had learned that the grills of automobiles were an excellent source of food.

The adaptability of the birds was truly amazing. We even had a pair of Red-eyed Vireos building a nest right over the picnic table on which we cooked our meals. They were easy to see in the morning when it was quiet. They would seem to disappear when we were cooking meals. Then reappear after the fuss and bother was over with. I have never watched vireos from that close a distance before. The birds had not lost their fear of human disturbance, but they had learned to work around the disruptions that we presented.

—Vija Kelley

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 20 schools in our Chapter area.

A subscription packet costs \$40.95, 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 August 31, 2000. For more information, please call Brenda Reishus, 763-420-2814.

YES, I would like to help our chapter support *Audubon Adventures!* Enclosed is \$40.95 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 Brenda Reishus, 9478 Minnesota Lane N., Maple Grove, MN 55369

Minnesota Audubon's Birdseed Sale

October 14, 2000

Feed your neighborhood birds this winter and support Minnesota Audubon's conservation work throughout the state. Place your orders by using the form at right. Orders will be accepted until October 4, 2000. **Prepaid orders only please.** You can pick up your seed between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on October 14 at one of SIX convenient locations.

Maps to the pick-up sites will be mailed one week before the sale.

Bloomington - MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge (3815 East 80th St.)

Saint Paul - 737 Aldine Street*
*Friday pick-up available here.

New Brighton - Driftwood Park
(Near 5th Ave NW and Silver Lake Rd)

Lake Nokomis - Mother Earth Gardens
(3738 42nd Ave South)

Plymouth - 11410 49th Place N (house)

White Bear Lake/Birchwood
- 176 Wildwood (house)

*Pick-up available Friday AND Saturday at
Saint Paul location only (house).

Return order form to: **Minnesota Audubon,**
26 E. Exchange St. #207
St. Paul, MN 55101

Audubon Birdseed Sale

Order **deadline** is October 4th, 2000.

Prepaid orders only please.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Eve Phone _____

Email _____

I would like to volunteer to help out on the day of the sale.

Seed Type	Size	Cost	Quantity	Total
MN Audubon Mix	20 lbs	\$ 9.00		
Cardinal Mix	50 lbs	\$16.00		
Black Sunflower	50 lbs	\$10.00		
Wild Bird Mix	50 lbs	\$10.00		
Cracked Corn	50 lbs	\$ 8.00		
Finch Mix	8 lbs	\$ 7.00		
Finch Mix	50 lbs	\$25.00		
Shelled Sunflower	25 lbs	\$13.00		
Shelled Sunflower	50 lbs	\$26.00		
Thistle	8 lbs	\$10.00		
Thistle	20 lbs	\$25.00		
Safflower	5 lbs	\$ 3.00		
Suet Cake	12 oz	\$ 2.00		
2001 Audubon Songbirds Calendar		\$ 8.00		
➔ NEW MN Audubon T-shirts		\$15.00	S: M: L: XL:	
I would like to join Minnesota Audubon (\$20.00).				
Here is an extra contribution for Audubon in MN.				
(make check to: National Audubon Society)				TOTAL

I will pick up Bloomington Lake Nokomis
my order in Saint Paul Plymouth 9130
(check one): New Brighton White Bear Lake



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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KINGFISHER
September 2000



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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 _____



LOCAL CHAPTER
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Chapter Code: **CM02**
9M99

Calendar of Events

September

- 1 State Fair Booth volunteering
- 5 Chapter Pot Luck, 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail"
Mayflower Church
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Location TBD
- 15-17 Upper Mississippi River Regional
Conference, Dubuque, Iowa

October

- 5 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Aftermath of the BWCA Blowdown"
Mayflower Church
- 12 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Location TBD
- 14 Bird Seed Sale

November

- 4 "This Benefit is for the Birds", 9:00 a.m.
- 14 Chapter Program, 7:30 p.m.
"Pothole and Grassland Birds"
Mayflower Church
- 21 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Location TBD