



KINGFISHER



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 50 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society
in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

September 2001

President's Message

Hello again. Hope you've had a summer with many small bird delights and surprises: like walking up to a house with a non-birding friend, and hearing her say excitedly "Where's the wren?", surprised at her instant recognition of the sound. Driving along the North Shore I saw ducks that refused to look like anything in the book; have you had this happen too?

Please bring a photo or small object from your summer experiences to the September pot luck meeting, to share and talk about. It's such a good time to re-connect and share the joys of the summer. Vice-president Tom Mahan will conduct this meeting (I have the opportunity to go to Alaska with my son for 2 weeks).

We'll have a great year; Lisa has a fine program schedule; our committees have been working/planning; National Audubon has made changes that create opportunities for learning and service. Have you thought about joining a committee ? We'd welcome your ideas, and services. Look at the directory on page 2, call or drop a note to any committee you'd like to try. Also, our Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 7:15 p.m., at 4350 Brookside Ct., Edina. Call me for directions if needed, all are welcome.

Be sure to stop at the Audubon booth in the Education building at the State Fair, see our booth, meet other Auduboners, and learn what other chapters are doing!

—Dorothy

Upcoming Program

Tuesday, September 4

Uncommon Facts About Common Minnesota Birds

Stan Tekiela, naturalist, author, and "purveyor of gee-whiz nature stuff" will be coming to Mayflower Church for our September 4th potluck and program.

Tekiela is the author of Minnesota specific field



guides for birds, wildflowers, mushrooms, and, just this year, trees. He also produces a syndicated column of nature facts and news, and leads field trips to share his knowledge and curiosity with kids of all ages.

Tekiela will present a slide show and discussion of "Uncommon Facts About Common Minnesota Birds." Come join us for supper and ask the expert how long it takes to get a scarlet tanager to rest on the prepared perch for just the right photograph!

—Lisa McDonald

See You at the Fair!



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2000-2001 Contacts

President	Dorothy Kuether	952-926-4205
Vice President	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440
Treasurer	Kim Halek	763-427-8656
Secretary	Orell Jensen	612-781-4579
Board Member	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333
Board Member	Fran Duritsa	612-822-4822
Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Board Member	Tom Rice	952-887-3547
Board Member	John Arthur	952-931-0819
Board Member	Jim Sharpsteen	612-722-9109
Board Member	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421
Board Member	Bill Sipe	763-537-6397
Board Member	Lisa McDonald	612-721-2672
Birdathon Coord	<open>	
Bluebird Recovery	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
Camps/Hunt Hill	Marion Borell	612-866-1266
Camps/North Woods	Bob Nelson	952-933-7340
Conservation	Tom Rice	952-887-3547
Education Outreach	Mary Ellen Vetter	763-561-1761
Field Trips Chair	Terry Brashear	612-929-1976
Field Trip Leader	Don Wanschura	612-866-3276
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Wina Mortenson	612-825-2621
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Paul Kinzer	612-825-2621
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	Lisa McDonald	612-721-2672
Publicity/Exhibits	Bill Sipe	763-331-1223
Sales	Jim Sharpsteen	612-722-9109
Social	Phyllis Mahan	763-588-5440
MOU Rare Bird Alert		612-780-8890
Minnesota Audubon Office		651-225-1830

John Arthur	jarthu@qwest.net
Jerry Bahls	bahls001@tc.umn.edu
Terry Brashear	terence.p.brashear@cdc.com
Kim Halek	khalek@mninter.net
Paul Kinzer	winapaul@earthlink.net
Dorothy Kuether	dkuether@juno.com
Tom/Phyllis Mahan	mahan-mail@worldnet.att.net
Wina Mortenson	winapaul@earthlink.net
Tom Rice	trice@mail.donaldson.com
Dorene Scriven	scriv001@tc.umn.edu
Jim Sharpsteen	jsharpsteen@dcmdw.dcma.mil

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/

Minnesota Audubon

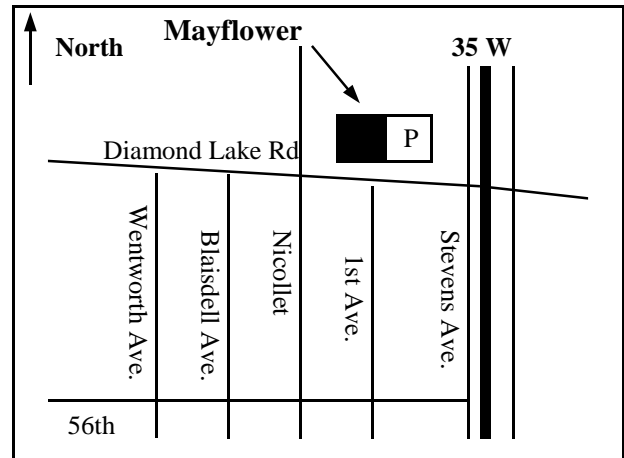
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

National Audubon Society

www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 4, 2001
TIME: 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck (bring something to share)
 7:30 p.m. **“Uncommon Facts about Common Birds of Minnesota”**
AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
 109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
 (35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Free Workshop in October “Nature’s Diversity”

Our Chapter will join with the St. Paul Chapter to offer hands on activities, resources and the use of Audubon Adventures in the classroom. The workshop is for Teachers, grades 4-8. and will be offered twice.

Dates: October 13 OR Oct. 27

Location: Ft. Snelling State Park

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No charge

Registration in the October Kingfisher

Electronic Kingfisher

SAVE A TREE! SAVE US SOME MONEY!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER

ELECTRONICALLY.

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu today!



Prairie Pot Hole Country

In June I had to be in Fargo and Minot to do some training so I took the opportunity to add an extra day to my trip in order to do some birding in prairie pothole country. I started out early so I could visit Rothsay Prairie before training in Fargo and Felton Prairie after training.

I could not have timed my trip better. At Rothsay, the small white Lady Slippers were in bloom and my only challenge was to photograph them in between the winds that constantly gust on the prairies. I also encountered a pair of Marbled Godwits. Godwits are very territorial, but their territoriality confounds credulity when they begin to attack my van. They bluffed the van to a standstill, although they had no way of knowing that I was thrilled for them to do so. I was able to make a few portraits. Further down the road a Killdeer also took on the van trying to lead it away from its nest and offered me a wonderful opportunity to photograph this defensive behavior inherent to the species. Also seen at Rothsay were Greater Prairie Chickens and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, specialties of the area.

In the late afternoon and evening I visited Felton. I was lucky to encounter Upland Sandpipers on the fenceposts and singing Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the grass. More Marbled Godwits provided the evening comedy show while over and over they flew around the van, scolding all the while.

The following morning the sun rose as a golden globe in a red sky. The old rhyme about red sky in the morning held true, for it rained most of the day. Undeterred I took my time driving section roads west of Jamestown. All of the ditches were filled with water, and in each, there were ducks. Blue-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup were the most numerous, followed by Northern Shovelers. Canvasbacks were the rarest. They were all quite skittish, but I got some nice photographs of teal and scaup.

I observed a very strange association. Wherever there were Western Grebes there were Ruddy Ducks. I stumbled upon a Western Grebe nesting colony. And there, among the grebe nests, blithely swimming around were Ruddy Ducks. I took a number of pictures of both and got a few good ones of each. A grebe nesting colony is an exceedingly noisy place. The birds converse constantly. Across from the grebe colony I encountered a family of Black-crowned Night Herons. One of the adults captured a Mud Puppy and I watched it struggle to swallow the whole thing.

Of course, one of the true joys of pothole country is observing the nesting shorebirds. American Avocets were very uncommon, but I did encounter about eight of them. I think there was just too much deep water everywhere for them. The Wilson's Phalaropes, on the other hand, were abundant. I was able to photograph a number of them in spite of the rain. I also ran into a very cooperative Willet. It posed for me for quite a while.

Other species in abundance were Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Black Terns, Common Yellow-throats and Yellow Warblers. I left pothole country in an eerie mist that muted everything.

On the way back from Minot, on a bright and sunny day, I drove back through Sullys Hill wildlife preserve. I caught some

strutting tom turkeys trying desperately to impress a hen who simply ignored them. Then I spent a delightful half hour photographing Prairie Dogs who seemed to enjoy hamming it up before the camera.

I was shooting slides on this trip so I could share the delights with others, for delights they truly were.

—Vija Kelly



Audubon Minnesota Staff Change

Due to budget constraints, Audubon MN needed to cut a staff position for fiscal year 2001-2002. The position of Director of Education, Membership, and Chapter Development, formerly held by Suzanne Plass, was reluctantly selected.

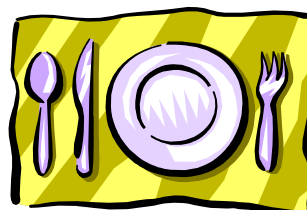
Responsibilities of this position are being assigned to other staff in Audubon Minnesota, wherever possible. We may rely on the Chapter Services office in Montana and the Membership office in New York to fill in other duties. Some activities will simply have to be put on hold.

The Mpls. Audubon Chapter thanks Suzanne for the hard work and the personal enthusiasm which were evident in all she did. We hope to see her in the future.

Potluck Supper!

Tuesday, September 4 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 a dish to share; beverages will be provided by the chapter: coffee, tea, and lemonade.



Following the potluck supper is our first program of the year. We look forward to seeing you

Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is the National Audubon Society's interdisciplinary environmental education curriculum for grades 3-6. Each year our Chapter sponsors the program in 12 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 would be excited to share this gift with their classmates. Or you can choose a teacher or a school that is special to you, or you can let us choose.

Adventures is also excellent for Home School or youth groups such as Scouts or Campfire (the packet can be sent directly to the leader's home.) The enrollment deadline for the coming school year is Sept. 15, 2001. 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

Legislative Issues Nominations Requested

Each year Audubon Minnesota begins a process to determine the top priority issues that will be pursued at the Legislature the following January. This process begins by soliciting nominations of issues from Audubon members from around the state. These nominations are then consolidated into like or similar issues and put on a ballot for members to vote on. The top 10 issues in this selection are then debated and pared down to about 4 issues at the Fall Membership Meeting of Audubon Minnesota. All National Audubon Society and its chapter members in Minnesota are also members of Audubon Minnesota and thus are eligible to nominate and participate in the selection of the issues.

The nomination process begins now, and ends on September 28th. Try to make the nominations general to the state and not concentrate on a very local issue. For example, don't nominate "Save Frost Lake", but do nominate "Save urban wetlands, such as Frost Lake". Unless the issue affects a large region such as "Stop polluting Lake Millacs". Also, over-general issues like "Stop urban sprawl" are very difficult to translate into legislation. Nominate an issue like "Limit acres of agricultural land that can be developed for housing in the Metro area".

After the nominations are received and consolidated into like and similar issues, a ballot is prepared and sent to members on the Audubon Minnesota Activists list, all who submitted nominations, all chapter officers and board members and other interested members. If you wish to participate in the ballot selection process, but are not on one of the previous lists (if already on, reply anyway), send an e-mail to Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu, or call the Audubon Minnesota office at 651 225-1830. Please note if you would like to be added to the Audubon Minnesota's Activist list. This will insure that you will be contacted with future ballots.

As noted above, the process is culminated in the Fall Mem-

bership Meeting of Audubon Minnesota, which will be on Saturday, November 17th. For more details, contact the Audubon Minnesota office at 651 225-1830. This process has been a very good method of getting the grassroots issues to the Legislature. Please participate!

—Jerry Bahls

Audubon Minnesota 2001 Issue Nomination Form

Below are issues I am nominating for consideration at the 2001 Fall membership Meeting. (Please copy the portion below if you need more nomination forms.)

Issue:

Contact Person Name:

Contact Phone:

Contact Email:

Detailed but brief description of the issue (words you would like to see on the ballot):

I would like this to be a primary issue.

I am interested in passing this as a resolution.



2001-2002 Audubon Programs

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

4 September Uncommon Facts about Common Birds of Minnesota
Stan Tekiela, Author/Naturalist

2 October Prairie Potholes
Vija Kelly, Chapter Member, Kingfisher Contributor

***13 November** Wind Energy
John Dunlop, P.E., American Wind Energy Association

4 December Wildlife Enhancement on Farmlands
Tony Thompson, Southwest MN Farmer, Botanist

5 February Monitoring Minnesota's Common Loon Population with Citizen Observers
Richard Baker, Research Coordinator/Zoologist, MN DNR

5 March Trumpeter Swans at Crex Meadows
Jim Hoefler, Wildlife Biologist, Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

2 April Locks and Dams on the Mississippi: a Panel Discussion
Dan McGuinness, Director, Audubon's Upper Mississippi River Campaign
Mark Muller, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Gary Loss, Army Corps of Engineers

7 May Sharing the Earth: Population and Habitat
Speaker to be announced.



Fall 2001 Field Trips

Most trips meet at 7:30 a.m.. Call the trip leader to reserve a spot and get directions on where to meet.

Saturday, September 8 Bredesen Park Edina, Tom Mahan – 763-588-5440

A mixture of wetlands, riparian areas, and deciduous trees attract a wide variety of migrants to this local park. Join Tom to see a collection of migrants.

Saturday, September 22 Fort Snelling State Park, Tom Mahan - 763-588-5440

Tom is leading a group that will participate in the Greater Minnesota Birding Day.

Visit: <http://www.birdingtrail.org/Birding%20Day.htm> for more information.

Sunday, September 23 Rice Creek Park, Terry Brashear - 612-929-1976

This long stretch of riparian habitat is an ideal migrant trap. This trip usually turns up something unusual.

September 14-16 Hawk Ridge Duluth, MN - The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union's(MOU) annual event.

Hawk Ridge is situated at the Southwest tip of Lake Superior and acts as a natural funnel for migrants heading south. There will not be trip leaders from our chapter for this event. Visit the MOU's web site for more information: <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/~mou/>

Saturday, November 3 Weaver Bottoms/Alma Wisconsin Tundra Swans, Terry Brashear – 612-929-1976

This is one of our more popular trips. We will make a number of stops along the Mississippi River on our way down to Weaver Bottoms. We can expect to see Bald Eagle, various gull species and of course Tundra Swan.

Saturday, November 17 Minneapolis City Lakes, Terry Brashear – 612-929-1976

Gulls will be the primary species we will be searching for. We can expect to see Herring, Ring-billed, Thayer's, Glaucous, and if we are lucky we might find Lesser Black-backed and Iceland Gull.



We hope you can join us!



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 280



KINGFISHER
September 2001



Printed on recycled paper



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 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

September

- 1-3 Minnesota Audubon State Fair booth staffed by our chapter
- 4 Pot Luck Supper 6:00 p.m.
Chapter Program 7:30 p.m.
"Uncommon Facts About Common Birds of Minnesota"
- 8 Field Trip: Bredesen Park
- 11 Chapter Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.
- 14-16 Hawk Weekend in Duluth
- 22 Field Trip: Fort Snelling State Park
- 23 Field Trip: Rice Creek

October

- 2 Chapter Program 7:30 p.m.
"Prairie Potholes"
- 9 Chapter Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.

Field trips usually begin at 7:30 a.m., call the Field Trips Chair for details.

All are welcome to the Chapter Board Meetings!
Board Meetings are held at
4350 Brookside Ct., Edina
Call the president for details.