



# KINGFISHER



September 2002

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 51 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Letter from a Camper

The following letter was submitted to Marion Borell by Sarah Burdi of Burnsville. Sarah attended Hunt Hill's "Herps!" program last summer and was sponsored by our Chapter. She had this to say about her experiences:

*"Dear Ms. Borell,*

*I wanted to thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to Hunt Hill.*

*I really enjoyed going to Hunt Hill because there were lots of fun things to do and cool things to learn. Also, we got to catch and make habitats for "herps" (salamanders, snakes, frogs, and fish, mostly). My favorite parts were going to the peat bog and canoeing. We were lucky because we had so few people and were good canoers. We got to go to the bog from the water. We all even got to go on it (usually only one person got to jump on it). Also, we got to see some plants on the bog that other groups didn't! It was so cool! And I love canoeing.*

*I really want to thank you for allowing me to go."*

Sincerely,  
Sarah Burdi

## September 3<sup>rd</sup> Program

### Fall Potluck and Presentation: Dragonflies in MN

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis invites you to kick off the Fall season with our annual potluck dinner on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share, as well as your own plate and utensils (we're not being cheap, just environmentally-conscious!) Beverages will be provided.

Immediately following the dinner, Joel Chirhart from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will present our September program titled, "Dragonflies of Minnesota."

Welcome to the 2002-2003 season of interesting program topics and speakers (see page 4 for a comprehensive list), potlucks and cookie socials, friendly fellow birders and conservation-minded folks. We look forward to seeing old acquaintances and meeting new friends!

## North Woods Center Annual Fall Open House Saturday, September 28, beginning at 9:00 am

The Audubon Center of the North Woods is an environmental education sanctuary located near Sandstone, MN. The Center is nationally known for its school and adult programs, family and youth camps, college courses, teacher training, and international intern programs. The annual Fall celebration will include Native American crafts, nature hikes, wildlife programs with live animals, canoeing, a climbing wall, and a high ropes course. The public is invited to participate in the activities. There will be a small charge for meals and the Irish Dance.

*We issue a special invitation to our Chapter members to help honor Marion Borell, who will receive the North Woods Borell Award this year. The award is named for Marion's husband, Marv Borell. Both Marv and Marion were instrumental in the establishment of North Woods 30 years ago and they devoted many years developing the site into a unique place that encourages naturalists of all ages and backgrounds to learn cooperatively.*

- 9:00—11:30am Canoeing, ropes course, climbing wall (first come-first served basis, register in the Office)
- 11:30—noon Grand opening of the Sustainable Forestry exhibit
- 12:00—1:00pm Lunch and door prizes
- 1:00—2:00pm Marion Borell and Jim Obey receive the Borell Award; official naming of the Marv Borell Raptor Center
- 2:00—4:30pm Repeat of morning activities
- 5:00 pm Dinner and silent auction
- 7:00 pm Irish Fold Dance, followed by a bonfire

The Audubon Center of the North Woods is located just west of Sandstone. For more information call 1-888-404-7743 or e-mail [audubon1@ece.net](mailto:audubon1@ece.net) or access the website at [www.audubon-center.com](http://www.audubon-center.com)

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Board Member	Bill Sipe	763-537-6397
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Board Member	Dorothy Kuether	952-926-4205
Board Member	Mary Ellen Vetter	763-561-1761
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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
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**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)

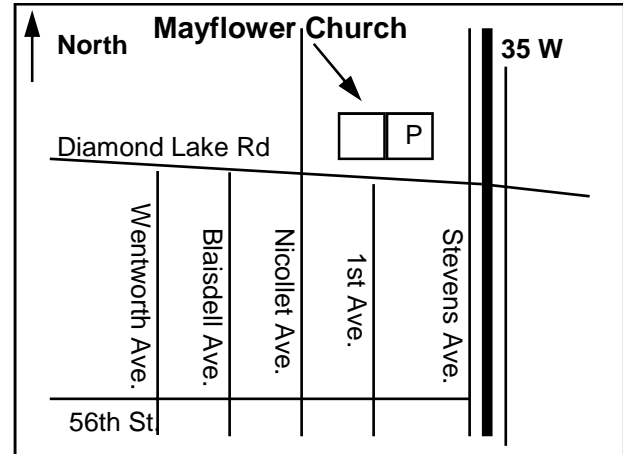
**National Audubon Society**  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

## Come to Our Next Program

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 3, 2002

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. Fall Potluck  
7:30 p.m. **"Dragonflies of Minnesota"**

**AT:** Mayflower Church (Lower Level)  
109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis  
(35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



## Electronic Kingfisher

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

# Families

I use to tease my daughter that birds did the family thing the right way: they had the little ones, taught them how to function on their own, kicked them out, and then didn't even recognize them a few weeks later. None of this "running to Mom" even after you are thirty years old. Not that birds do not have to work hard to raise their families—they do. Moreover, they have to do it every year, year after year, for the rest of their mortal lives.

I have had the privilege of watching many bird families this summer. I have had nuthatches, Chipping Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Grey Catbirds, Blue Jays, Black-capped Chickadees, American Crows, Baltimore Orioles, House Finches, and four families of three species of woodpeckers that I can recall off the top of my head. All have successfully raised families and, in the case of the Chipping Sparrows, a stepfamily—just like me!

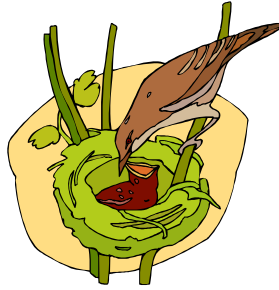
I have one family of Hairy Woodpeckers, two families of Downy Woodpeckers and one family of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. Only the Downies are still coming to the feeder at the same time. When the woodpeckers first fledged, the parents would bring the little ones to the tree on which the feeder hangs. The little one would be left on the tree while mom and dad went to the feeder for mouthful after mouthful of seeds, peanuts or suet to bring to the fledgling. After the first few days, the young were encouraged to come to the feeders. They were still fed by the parents, but while on the feeder. After about a day of that, mom and dad ceased to listen to their begging cries and the young ones had to learn to pick their food out of the feeder themselves.

This was pretty much the pattern with all the birds. Some were quicker about forcing the young to feed themselves, others were slower. This variation is what let me know that I had numerous oriole families coming for the grape jelly. One of the little orioles was being fed long after the parents had deserted a number of other juveniles to fend for themselves. It was really quite interesting, because the last young oriole did not leave the yard until about a week after the others had gone on their way. Actually, watching the juvenile orioles trying to come down the wire that held the jelly feeder was pretty amusing. Watching the adults try to bring big gobs of jelly to the young was rather funny as well. There is nothing like the antics of begging birds to make one chuckle.

One of the families I didn't chuckle much over was the poor little Chipping Sparrow trying to meet the nutritional needs of a Cowbird. The poor mama tried valiantly to keep up with the demands of the Cowbird. I was re-

lieved when the Cowbird finally found the platform feeder. Once this discovery was made, it just sat in the feeder for hours chowing down seed. Fortunately for the future of Chipping Sparrows, there was a second nesting and now my yard is full of juveniles.

Crow and jay babies are very noisy. Perhaps because of the native intelligence of these birds, the young really put on a show for their parents trying to con them into feedings that are no longer necessary. Chickadee young are very difficult to distinguish from the adults. They may be at the bottom of the pecking order, however, once the feeder location has been disclosed. I notice that quite frequently a bird will chase another one off the perch. Nuthatch parents are very aggressive in defending the rights of their young ones. One of the nuthatch parents faced down a grackle with its threat display so its young one could feed undisturbed. If you have never seen a threat display, the bird lowers and fans out its wings, puffs out its little body to twice normal size, and rocks back and forth from one foot to the other.



The last of the families to come to the feeders are the Northern Cardinals. The dark-beaked young are just now (end of July) beginning to feed without their parents. I believe the parents have a second brood somewhere.

Although the living is pretty easy around *this* yard, it is not all sunshine and roses. Every once in a while, a Cooper's Hawk comes cruising through looking for an easy meal. He has yet to get one here—I provide plenty of cover. His presence, however, is a reminder that raising families is never easy.  
—Vija Kelly

*The very idea of a bird is a symbol and a suggestion to the poet.  
A bird seems to be at the top of the scale, so vehement and intense his life...  
The beautiful vagabonds, endowed with every grace, masters of all climes, and knowing no bounds — how many human aspirations are realized in their free, holiday-lives — and how many suggestions to the poet in their flight and song!*

John Burroughs, 'Birds and Poets,'  
1887

## 2002-2003 Programs

Slide and video presentations by topic experts are held the first or second Tuesday of each month at the Mayflower Church at 35W and Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. Special events precede some programs.

### Guests are Welcome!

#### September 3

Fall Potluck at 6:00 p.m.

"Dragonflies of Minnesota" by Joel Chirhart,  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

#### October 1

"Protecting Our Environmental and Cultural Resources"  
by Whitney Clark, Friends of the Mississippi

#### November 12

"Identifying Frogs and Toads" by Randy Korb,  
Author and Environmental Educator

#### December 3

Holiday Potluck at 6:00 p.m.

"Phosphorus: Results of Lawn Fertilizer Study"  
by James Johnson, Three Rivers Park District

#### February 4

Cookie Social, 6:30 p.m.

"Owls in Winter" by Steve Weston,  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon and  
Minnesota Ornithologists Union

#### March 4

"Backyard Wildlife Habitat" by Vija Kelly, Photographer

#### April 1

"Monarch Migration" by Prof. Karen Oberhauser,  
Director of Monarch Lab, MN (tentative)

#### May 6

Cookie Social at 6:30 p.m.

"Endangered Species Act" by Rick Baker,  
Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources

## 2002-2003 Field Trips

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Field Trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats, but you needn't be an expert birder to enjoy the trips! Whether you are a beginner looking for expert pointers, seeking new species to add to your Life List, or an experienced birder looking for some company, come and join some new friends on a field trip.

All field trips begin at 7:30 a.m. unless other stated. Additional information will be available in the *Kingfisher* newsletter and on our web site.

### Guests are Welcome!

#### September

7: Roberts Bird Sanctuary, contact Tom Mahan

13-15: Hawk Ridge Weekend, Duluth, contact Tom

21: Great Minnesota River Bird Count, contact Tom

#### October

Date to be announced: Trip to western Minnesota to look for longspurs, contact Terry Brashear

#### November

Date to be announced: Trip to Wabasha, MN to view eagles, contact Terry

#### December

Date to be announced: Christmas Bird Count at Springbrook Nature Center, Fridley

#### February

Date to be announced: Trip to Sax-Zim Bog (Aikin County) to look for owls, contact Terry

#### April

Date to be announced: Trip to Black Dog Fen (Dakota County) to look for woodcocks (evening trip)

#### May

10: Roberts Bird Sanctuary, contact Tom Mahan

11: Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, contact Tom

17: Woodlake Nature Center, contact Tom

*Thank you to our field trip leaders/organizers,  
Terry Brashear and Tom Mahan  
and to Lisa McDonald for coordinating this year's program speakers and topics...*



DO YOU KNOW OF A DESERVING STUDENT, TEACHER, OR SCHOOL FOR AUDUBON ADVENTURES?

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is the National Audubon Society's environmental curriculum for grades 3-6. Teachers receive a Classroom Resource Kit with lesson plans for 4 nature-study topics with materials for 32 students. Students participate in several citizen science programs such as the Great Backyard Bird Count. This curriculum is aligned to national standards for science and language arts. AUDUBON ADVENTURES is also excellent for home school programs and youth groups!

Each year, our Chapter sponsors 12 classrooms in our area. The cost of a Resource Kit is \$40.95. We invite our members to help us reach more children by sponsoring a classroom or youth group. This gift can go to the student, teacher, or school of your own choice, or you can let us choose. If you would like to sponsor a recipient this school year, please respond by October 15, 2002. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Vetter at 763/561-1761.

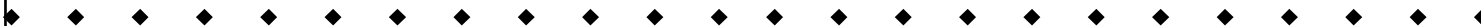
YES, I would like to help our Chapter sponsor AUDUBON ADVENTURES! Enclosed is \$40.95. Please send an Audubon Adventures Resource Kit to:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ circle one: student teacher school Chapter's choice

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Audubon Chapter of Mpls. and mail to Mary Ellen Vetter, 7715 York Lane N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55443



### Bylaw Changes to Comply with NAS

The National Audubon Society (NAS) made a series of policy changes in the last year, thus requiring chapters to make conforming changes to their Bylaws. Therefore, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis' Board recommends the following Bylaw change to conform to NAS policy:

#### **Bylaw 10 Discontinuance**

This chapter reserves the right to terminate its National Audubon Society chapter status on sixty (60) days written notice, given in writing to the State Director of Audubon Minnesota, a representative of the National Audubon Society, in which case all allocation of dues by the National Audubon Society to this chapter will cease on expiration of the six (6) month sixty (60) day period. If this chapter is inactive or not in compliance with the Chapter Policy, after an attempt has been made by the State Director of Audubon Minnesota to restore this chapter to full activity or to compliance, *This chapter* it recognizes the right of the National Audubon Society to terminate the chapter relationship on six (6) months sixty (60) days written notice, given by it the National Audubon Society Senior Vice President for Field Operations to this chapter, in which case the members of this chapter shall continue as members thereof of the National Audubon Society for the balance of the term for which dues have been paid.

Please note that the underlined words are the added/changed language and the italicized words are the deleted language.

This Bylaw change will be voted on at the September 3rd meeting by members.

—Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board



## Field Trip to Crex Meadows, Wisconsin

On June 11th, we had the privilege of "leading" a trip to Crex Meadows in Grantsburg, WI. By leading, that means that Pamela Deerwood & myself (John Arthur) were the contacts for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. The guided tour was led by the Crex Meadows refuge manager, James Hoefler. We arrived about 9:00 am and members of the group found a Pine Warbler almost in the parking lot.

We loaded into two vehicles and went into the refuge. At our first stop, we found a Greater Yellowlegs and Trumpeter Swans. Warblers were everywhere. In all, we observed nearly 60 species of birds.

Jim did an excellent job of leading the group to the best birding spots and showed us where a pair of Trumpeter Swans had a nest only about 100 feet from the road. We were also lucky enough to see some Red-necked Grebes and an American Bittern that was out of the reeds and standing at the water's edge. Jim tried to find an Upland Sandpiper that had been there the day before, but didn't succeed. He did show us where the pasque flowers were blooming.

It was the height of the warbler migration and therefore the most common bird seemed to be Yellow-rumped Warblers. Common Yellowthroats and Palm Warblers were also frequently seen, as were Yellow-throated and Black-throated Green Warblers.

The birding was not only a treat for the eyes, but for the ears as well. The Red-necked Grebes were kind enough to call while we were watching and the loons called as well. The Sandhill Cranes weren't shy about calling to the world, either. Probably the most memorable sound was the Trumpeter Swans taking off from the lake. When they are working to reach takeoff velocity, they slap their outrageously large feet on the water with a sound that can be heard for incredible distances. I will never forget that sound.

At another location, the chorus frogs drowned out the birds, and spring peepers added to the soprano section of the symphony. Some of the birds that were only heard and not seen were Snipe, White-throated Sparrows, and Sora Rails.

After the guided tour, Pamela & I went to another refuge just to the south of Grantsburg and found an occupied eagle nest and some Yellow-headed Blackbirds. An osprey was soaring overhead near the eagle's nest. We also found another nesting pair of Trumpeter Swans— worth the extra drive!

A couple of days later, Pamela, Dorothy Kuether, and myself returned to Crex Meadows where we had a blind re-

served. The intent was to observe dancing Sharp-tailed Grouse. We left the Cities about 2:00 am and arrived at the blind before dawn. We waited patiently for the sun and the birds. No birds appeared, but we were treated to the calls of Bitterns and Sandhill Cranes who could be heard for what seemed like miles.

We were a little disappointed when we left the blind, but changed our attitude when a Horned Lark hopped across the road. We continued birding in the Crex Meadows area and once again went south to see the Eagle's nest. The Eagle and the Osprey were there to greet us and the Yellow-rumped Warblers were once again the most common bird. Driving away from the lake, we had to stop the car for a Black-throated Green Warbler and an American Redstart as both insisted on staying in the road.

If two trips to Crex Meadows were good, then three had to be better! Pamela and I returned to Crex at the beginning of June to see if the Trumpeter Swans had hatched. We were early, but weren't disappointed in the birding this time, either. The Swans were there as was a Common Loon that was fishing nearby. The lupine were blooming everywhere as were many other wild flowers; prairie phlox, hoary puccoon and interrupted ferns could be found along nearly every road. We couldn't find the Red-necked Grebes again, but there many Blue-winged Teal and Ring-necked ducks. The Canada Geese were escorting their young across many of the roads in the refuge.

Once last time, we went to observe the Eagle at the nest and once again the Osprey was there, just where we left it a couple of weeks prior. This time we found a fairly good-sized Snapping Turtle sunning itself, and some Earthstar Mushrooms on the shore.

On the drive home, it seemed like we were chasing a Red-tailed Hawk as it stayed in front of the car for several hundred feet.

We plan on taking a group of birders back to Crex Meadows next year. Stay tuned!

—John Arthur



## YOU, TOO, CAN BE A BLUEBIRDER — RIGHT IN MINNEAPOLIS!

Melissa Winn and Mary McGee have monitored Bluebird nesting boxes right in Minneapolis for several years—Mary since 1987. They both need help with their trails in 2003 and will train monitors now. The commitment requires checking the boxes once a week from early April through mid-August. Backup people are available when needed. The boxes are in three various locations:

### Cedar Lake

This trail is on the north end of Cedar Lake, within sight of downtown Minneapolis. Mary has faithfully cared for 16 nest boxes since 1987. She expects to have at least four successful nestings this year. Please call Mary at 612/922-4586 if you would like to assist her in this very rewarding and important work.

### Francis Gross Golf Course

There are currently six boxes in a wildflower area at Gross. The course has gently rolling hills but is fairly flat and considered walkable by most golfers. Gross is on St. Anthony Blvd. in Minneapolis, bordered by Highway 35W on the south. There has been a problem with house sparrows, but the situation could be corrected by regular monitoring. Despite the sparrows, there were two successful nestings of Bluebirds this year.

### Theodore Wirth Golf Course

There are 16 Bluebird boxes on this course, four of which are located in the area known as "The Back 40" which has lovely prairie-like vegetation as well as birds, dragonflies, butterflies, wildlife, and mature trees. Bassett Creek runs through the course. The Bluebird trail is located off Wirth Parkway and is bordered by Highway 55 on the south and Golden Valley Road on the north. Its western border abuts Golden Valley. Melissa has enjoyed seeing newborn fawns and baby foxes on this trail.

If you are interested in helping Melissa monitor Bluebirds on either of these two golf course trails, please leave her a message at work (612/766-8814) or home (612/529-8490).



## **Audubon Minnesota News: Fall Membership Meeting**

**Saturday, November 16, 2002**

*St. John's University, St. Cloud*

## **Legislative Issues Selection for 2003**

Each fall, Audubon members from all over the state gather to get the latest information on chapter programs, socialize with one another and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the state capitol. Join us Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> to select the conservation issues that Audubon Minnesota will work on during the 2003 legislative session.

### **Become an Expert**

Audubon members will provide lively, informative presentations on topics that the membership voted as their top concerns. The top five issues will be reviewed and discussed at the meeting. Members will vote for three issues to be our focus at the Minnesota Legislature. Resolutions of support for other issues will also be considered and voted on.

### **Fun and Fellowship**

Enjoy meeting and socializing with Audubon friends from across the state.

#### **Proposed Agenda (subject to change)**

<b>Morning:</b> 8:30	Registration	<b>Afternoon:</b> 1:00	Guided Tour of St. John's Wetlands
9:00	Welcome	2:00	Issues Selection
9:15	Issue Overview Session I	4:00	Break
10:30	Break	4:15	Resolution Selection
10:45	Issue Overview Session II	5:30	Farewells
12:00	Lunch (provided)		

**A map and further program details will be mailed to pre-registrants.**

**For more information, contact Susan Solterman at the Audubon office 651/739-9332**

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
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**KINGFISHER**  
September 2002



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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.
- 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

#### September

- 3 Fall Potluck, 6:00 p.m.
- 3 Chapter Program, 7:00 p.m.  
"Dragonflies of Minnesota"
- 10 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

#### October

- 1 Chapter Program, 7:00 p.m.  
"Protecting Our Environmental  
and Cultural Resources"
- 8 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

#### November

- 12 Chapter Program, 7:00 p.m.  
"Identifying Frogs and Toads"
- 19 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

See you on the birding trails!

All are welcome to the Chapter Board Meetings!  
Call President Tom Mahan for details...