



KINGFISHER



SEPTEMBER 2006

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 55 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

"Please allow me to introduce myself..." Famous words heard often in a mythical Minnesota town of Frostbite Falls and uttered by Boris Badenov. As the new president of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, this phrase has been reverberating in my head as a possible opening line to my introductory article (as president, that is—I have written several newsletter articles in the past). Since this line is now in print, I could not think of a better one.

'New' may not be the appropriate word to describe my transition from Vice President to President; however, I couldn't think of a better word, but the advertising phrase of "new and improved" comes to mind. 'Improved' is not a good word to use as I have a hard act to follow with the past presidents of Jerry Bahls, Dorothy Kuether and Tom Mahan.

As a long-time Vice President, it seemed a natural progression to move up to the top slot. Or, as some said when I accepted the nomination, "It's about time." I served under 3 different presidents in my history with the chapter and gained a different perspective from each. I thank them all for the experience. Serving on the chapter's board has been part of my life since at least the 1999/2000 season. Our board has seen many changes in that time and lots of improvements. I only hope that I can do justice to those that went before.

Several times people have asked, "What does the chapter do?" I talked about the field trips, the monthly meetings and the booth at the State Fair. I talked about the buckthorn wars that Jerry and Donna Bahls have been leading the charge on. With more volunteers, there could be so much more (that's a hint and an appeal for more volunteers). As President, I guess that when asked, "What does the chapter do?" I should ask back, "What would you like it see it do?"

'Doing' is how I envision the chapter. The meetings are great and the speakers inspiring, but action is what we have a potential for. We are always looking for project ideas and would love to hear from our membership.

(President's message continued on page three...)

September Program

Golf Courses and Nature

Karen Shragg, director and naturalist at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield, will talk about golf courses and their potential for wildlife habitat. Karen is a naturalist, an author and teacher, and she even writes children's books. She calls herself an activist in spirit and practice.

"I will never forget the morning I saw my first coyote within the city limits of the Twin Cities; it wasn't at the urban nature center, Wood Lake, which I have directed for over 12 years, and it wasn't in any of the other Twin City metro area parks. It was at a golf course," she said.

Karen has also written, "People who love to golf also love nature. People who maintain golf courses love nature, too. The traditional reputation of golf courses, however, is less than nature-friendly. Golf courses are frequently shunned by those whose job it is to defend nature. They believe them to be places which demand too many natural resources in order to play a game."

That has all changed. It has changed because of the very fact that we now live in a time when golf courses are often the most undeveloped areas in a community. In a time of exponential human population growth, they [golf courses] are being threatened with being turned into housing developments."

Join us for coffee and cookies before the meeting.

**Tuesday, September 5 at 7:00 pm
Mayflower Church**



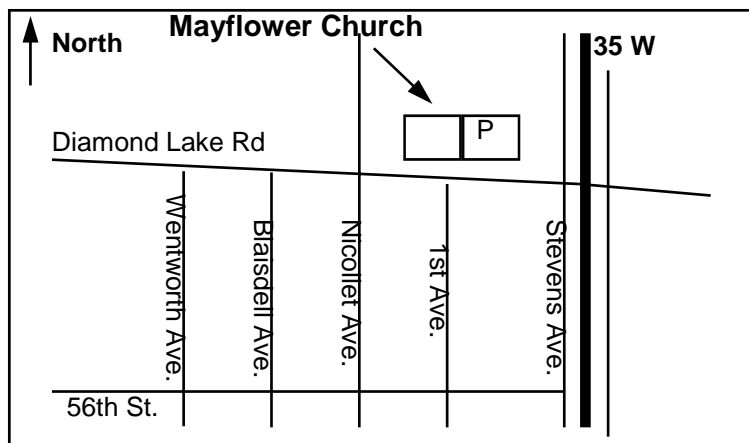
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2006

“Golf Courses and Nature” by Karen Shragg

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake Road—map below



Field Trip Chair Needed

The chapter needs someone to help set up the trips that helped launch the organization over 70 years ago. This is a opportunity to go to the birding spots *you* want to visit!

The Field Trip Chair need not be a birding expert, but is responsible for setting up the trips and contacting leaders to guide them. The Chair also arranges the publicity for the trip by writing brief descriptions of the trips for the Kingfisher and any other publication that is appropriate. Finally, the Chair reviews the trips with the leader after they are held.

Please let John Arthur know that you would like to become our new Field Trip Chair.

Electronic Kingfisher

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ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

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National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee will resume meeting on the second Wednesday of the month on September 13th. We will meet at the Uptown Lund's Store on Lake Street just off Hennepin at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to reorganize and choose some projects for the fall. We will also need to choose some legislative issues to nominate for the 2007 legislative session.

If you are interested in helping plan the next battle in the Buckthorn Wars or set another course in helping save the birds we all love, please join me on September 13th.

Springbrook Nature Center removes buckthorn every Thursday from 5:00—7:00 pm. Join them!

—Jerry Bahls
Conservation Chair

(President's message continued from page one...)

Field trip leaders are always welcome. Every member that I have talked with in the past has asked about field trips. I know there are other birders in the chapter who would love to share their knowledge with others. Being an "expert" birder is not a requirement for leadership and trips do not necessarily need to be bird-focused. Learning about the native plants and other fauna can be just as interesting and possibly more so. All ideas will be considered and probably accepted.

Many of you in the chapter know me from meetings and field trips as the "dragonfly guy." Dragonflies are a passion, but are not my entire focus on the natural world. Although dragonflies were a large part of the past summer, Pamela & I led three different outings with a focus on dragonflies, and native plants and birds were also part of that whole.

For the "listers," dragonflies can be a great reward as there are many counties that have few, if any, records. For example, up until early July 2006 Wright County had no records of damselflies. We were on a field trip there and had five county records in less than an hour (county lists can be found at www.odonatacentral.org). That same weekend, we found a new state record as well. How many times does that happen on a birding trip?

Audubon is about more than birds!

—John Arthur

MN State Fair Volunteers Needed

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking volunteers to work in the Audubon booth at the MN State Fair. We are responsible for providing the volunteers for Aug. 27, 29, 30 and Sep. 1. The shifts are for 3 hours and admission to the Fair is compliments of Audubon. For more information contact Jim Egge or any member of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board or call Jenny Vitale at Audubon Minnesota at 651-739-9332 or e-mail at jvital@audubon.org.

Brooklyn Center Swan Gets a New Home

On August 2, the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reported on the renegade bachelor swan named Lief [*sic*], who had taken up residence in the drainage pond at the intersection of Interstate 694 and Highways 94/252.

It seems many concerned bird lovers had contacted MNDOT or the DNR about Lief and due to the shallow pond conditions and the potential for car/swan accidents, he was captured, banded, and moved to Lake Rebecca in Rockford.

Here's hoping he finds a girlfriend and that he likes his new surroundings much better than the polluted, noisy highway underpass he was previously inhabiting!

Joint Summer Meetings Successful!

This past summer, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League held joint meetings at the "Ikes" chapter house, idyllically located on the Mississippi River in Brooklyn Park. The June meeting was very well attended and John Arthur shared a wonderful mix of beautiful dragon and damselfly pictures and information about each of them. John fielded many questions from the audience of about 50, which is always a good barometer of the interest. Our members nearly doubled the usual "Ikes" summer meeting attendance.

The second meeting took place in July and featured Siah St. Claire, Director of the Springbrook Nature Center, who spoke about the topic of "Nature and Your Health". The air-conditioned chapter house was a pleasant place to seek respite from the sweltering outdoor temperatures, which probably kept the attendance down to about 30. This was a very compelling topic and stimulated much discussion from the audience. The early research definitely indicates that experiencing nature has a positive effect on health. This research is clearly just beginning and more needs to be explored.

Our final joint meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22 with the program beginning at 7:30. Roland Sigurdson of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Section of Fisheries-MinnAqua Program will tell us about all about the fish in the part of the Mississippi River flowing behind the Breckenridge Chapter House. He will address some of the concerns about these fish and help us try to do something about the potential problems.

Audubon Adventures Available

Teachers and other educators: Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is looking for you to sign up for Audubon Adventures.

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, Audubon Adventures presents basic, scientifically-accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to you packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or an Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and home-schoolers.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has a limited number of these available for interested educators. Please contact Jim Egge at 612-827-7629 or Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail bahls001@tc.umn.edu.

7TH ANNUAL GREAT MN RIVER BIRDING DAY

The 7th annual Great MN River Birding Day will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2006. Birders will be encouraged to explore any and all good birding sites in the MN River Valley from Ft. Snelling in the east to Big Stone Lake in the west, and from Walnut Lake in Faribault County to Inspiration Point in Otter Tail County. This year, birders will be allowed into bird areas of the watershed that are west of Hwy 15 which runs from St. Cloud through Hutchinson, New Ulm and Fairmont to the Iowa border on Friday, September 15th as well as on Saturday, September 16th.

There will be 3 rallies that birders can attend. The first will be Friday evening from 4:30-6:30 at the Lac Qui Parle WMA Headquarters just NW of Watson off of US 59/Hwy 7 in Chippewa County. There will be a light dinner served at around 5 pm. On Saturday, there will be a rally in Mankato at Rasmussen Nature Center from 2-4 pm and a rally at the MN River Valley NWR Headquarters in Bloomington from 1-3 pm. There will be refreshments at both of these rallies.

Last year, we had over 100 participants who identified 181 species. This will be a difficult number to beat, but if enough of us get out there and if the weather cooperates, we may have a chance. For more information, contact Bob Williams at 612-728-2232 or bxwilliams@cbburnet.com or visit our website at www.birdingtrail.org

Arctic Explorer Will Steger Special Guest Speaker

Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter presents "Eyewitness to Global Warming" by Arctic explorer Will Steger. Mr. Steger has become an impassioned spokesman for the preservation of the Arctic and what we can do about global warming. His concerns led him and the Will Steger Foundation to launch the Global Warming 101 Initiative. The initiative hopes to educate individuals about every day decisions that can make a difference on this important issue. During the evening, you will have an opportunity to contribute to the Will Steger Foundation.

Learn more at www.globalwarming101.com

Date: Thursday, September 28

Time: 7:00 pm Refreshments

7:30 – 9:00 pm Presentation by Will Steger

Where: Christ the King Lutheran Church

8600 Fremont Ave S., Bloomington MN

Take the Audubon Healthy Yard Pledge:

I pledge to the best of my ability to reduce pesticide use, conserve water, protect water quality, remove invasive exotic plants, plant native species, and support birds and other wildlife on my property.

Audubon Minnesota Announces the 2006 Bird Seed Sale

Audubon Minnesota's annual Bird Seed Sale is back this year. Bird-lovers are invited to stock up for winter feeding while supporting Audubon's conservation work in Minnesota. All popular seed varieties are offered at competitive prices including sunflower, Niger, suet cakes, and the special Audubon Minnesota Mix.

Why should you buy your seed at the Audubon Minnesota Bird Seed Sale?

The seed quality is excellent and thanks to the generous contribution of Performance Seed in St. Cloud, 100% of the purchase price goes to support Audubon programs in Minnesota. To find out what Audubon Minnesota is doing around the state, visit our website at <http://mn.audubon.org>

Seed orders must be placed and prepaid by October 5, 2006

Customer pick-up of seed orders will be on Saturday, October 21st, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at six convenient locations around the Twin Cities. Not in town on the 21st? That's okay—seed can be picked up at our Woodbury office the following week. If you miss the October 5th order deadline, give us a call; there may be an opportunity to purchase remaining seed.

For more information or to receive an order form, contact Jenny Vitale at the Audubon Minnesota office, 651-739-9332, or e-mail jvitale@audubon.org. Maps and directions to the pick-up sites will be mailed one week before the sale date. Volunteers are needed to help at the pick-up sites on the date of the sale. Anyone interested should call Jenny Vitale at 651-739-9332.

Audubon Minnesota is the state office of the National Audubon Society and is dedicated to protecting birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. This annual birdseed fundraiser is made possible through the generosity of **Performance Seed of St. Cloud.**



September Bird of the Month:

American Goldfinch

Presented by Ernie Gunderson

Learn about this “canary” and its activities.

A Poem by Clem Nagel

GOLDFINCH

*Sun sets low
over
fall flower garden.*

*In hammock comfort,
without glasses,
my eyes nearly close.*

*Garden shapes blend with
Monet-like blurriness*

Cicadas call.

*Aglow in descending gold,
a tall bush is
sunflower tipped.*

Yellow abounds.

*Then—
one flies
away.*

Audubon Center of the North Woods

**ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE/SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FAIR
Saturday, September 30, 2006**

Join us for a full day of FREE family-friendly activities and learn about alternative (real) energy systems while basking in the blazing glory of colorful autumn oaks, aspens and maples.

9:00-11:30 Visit energy sites (ground source heat, solar units, wind generator)

9:30-12:00 Native American twining and fire-building

9:30-12:00 Wildlife classroom open: meet our education animals

9:30-12:00 Climbing wall

10:00-11:30 Land management walking tour

Noon Introducing Carl Long, stained glass artist

12:00- 1:00 Lunch (\$5/person)

1:15 Unveiling of ECO-RV

1:45- 3:30 Visit energy sites (ground source heat, solar units, wind generator)

2:00- 4:00 Wildlife classroom open: meet our education animals

2:00- 4:00 Zipping the high ropes course

2:00- 3:30 Land management walking tour

2:00- 4:00 Native American twining and fire-building

2:30- 4:00 Fun with real energy (activities) at the ECO-RV

9:00-4:00 pm Grand Garage Sale (sports equipment, computer stuff, etc.)

WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF GRANPARENTS DAY

SEPTEMBER 9&10, 2006

The little-known but important national holiday, Grandparents Day, happens every September 10th. This year, celebrate it by coming to the Audubon Center with your Grandchildren. A variety of activities are planned, designed to accommodate the interests and abilities of both generations. The main focus will be on birds, our most beautiful and easily seen wildlife. Bird-banding, a bird of prey program, crafts, guided hikes and treasure hunts will be included, along with other special programming. This is a chance to spend some quality time with your special grandchildren, learning and discovering the beauty and mystery of nature together. Options are available for staying over on Saturday night, or just coming during the day Saturday or Sunday for activities. Call the Center for more information or check our website www.audubon-center.org

The Audubon Center of the North Woods is a 535 acre wildlife sanctuary located on the shores of Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, MN. It houses a variety of habitats including old-growth red and white pines, restored wetlands, prairies, and hardwood forests and is an easy 90 miles from the Cities.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
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KINGFISHER
SEPTEMBER 2006



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

AUGUST

- 22** Joint Chapter Program, see page 3
27 through Sept 1: Audubon at State Fair

SEPTEMBER

- 5** Chapter Program—Golf Courses and Nature
10 Field Trip—Bird Banding at Springbrook Nature Center
16 Great MN River Birding Day
26 Will Steger at MN River Valley

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!