



# KINGFISHER



SEPT/OCT. 2012

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 61 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## Fall Buckthorn Pulls

It's time to pull buckthorn – again. For people who aren't familiar with buckthorn and may be wondering why we want to remove it from our natural areas, parks and yards, here's some information from the MN DNR website:

*Why is buckthorn a problem?*

- Out-competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture
- Degrades wildlife habitat
- Threatens the future of forests, wetlands, prairies, and other natural habitats
- Contributes to erosion by shading out other plants that grow on the forest floor
- Serves as host to other pests, such as crown rust fungus and soybean aphid
- Forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation
- Lacks “natural controls” like insects or disease that would curb its growth

The dates and times for the 2012 pulls at Roberts Bird Sanctuary and William Berry Woods are listed on the ACM website along with directions and other information (<http://audubonchapterofminneapolis.org/>). If the dates or times for pulls at these sites don't work for you, check out the Friends of Wild Flower Garden website for pulls at the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden (<http://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/>) as well as your local park departments for other buckthorn pulls.

### Sept 4<sup>th</sup> – Member-Made Art Display

At the September 4<sup>th</sup> program, bring your personally made art objects of birds for all to admire. Art objects would include carvings, paintings, drawings, pottery, stained glass, or large photos, etc with representations of bird life. Tables will be provided for displays, but if you have other means for display you can bring those. If you have items for display, give me a call at 612 827-7629 to let me know what you have and how many, so we know what space to provide.

Plan to have your art displayed by 6:45. You are responsible for the safety of your own pieces. Coffee, tea and treats will be provided during the social time until 7:15. Come join us and be sure to invite family and friends for the art show.

## September Issue

**September 4th:**

Al Batt, “*Bird Stories*”

**October 2nd:**

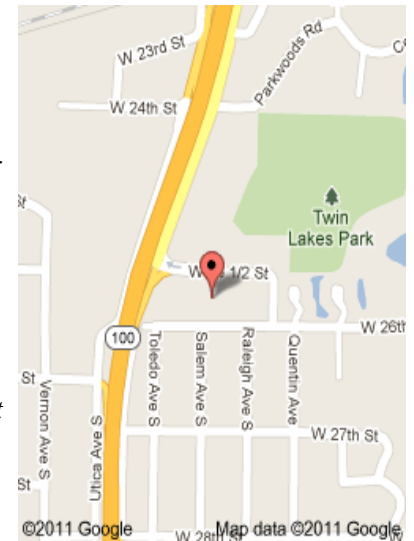
Mark Martell, “*Hawk Ridge*”

**November 13th:**

Craig Mandel, “*Birds of Ecuador*”

All programs are free and open to the public. Programs start at 7 p.m. and end by 9 p.m.

Program meetings are held at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park. *Please note: we are no longer meeting at Mayflower Church.*



### OWLS OF NORTH AMERICA—QUIZ!

- 1) Which 3 owls have feathers that resemble horns or ears?
- 2) Which 3 owls are known to nest on or in the ground?
- 3) Which 3 owls usually don't nest in Minnesota but are seen here regularly in winter?
- 4) Which owl can sound like an axe being sharpened?
- 5) Which owl has proportionately the longest tail?
- 6) Which 3 owls found in Minn. nest in tree cavities?
- 7) Which owl is most likely to be heard in the daytime?
- 8) Which owl's preservation has been responsible for changes in logging policies?
- 9) Which western owl nests at the highest elevations?
- 10) What is the smallest owl in the U.S.?

Answers on page 6.

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jim Egge

### DOES RECESSION HAVE TO CHANGE AMERICA'S VALUES?

During difficult economic times, many important societal values take a back seat. Extreme examples can be seen in recent times such as the loss of civility in Germany in the late 30's due to the total destruction of the economy. In America in the 30's, perhaps some values were diminished, but difficult times can also lead to bringing out the best in people. My parents talk about how folks took care of each other in the Depression, and stories of positive humanitarian behavior abound. One wonders if the underlying character of our society today would be strong enough to override a more severe economy.

If in fact, we are in for a prolonged downturn in the economy, as some pundits are saying, will we be able to sustain the environmental progress that has given us cleaner air and water the last 50 years? Will we be able to spend needed funds to preserve habitat and protect wildlife, or will those be casualties of redirected budgets? I think we may already be seeing the erosion of environmental safeguards as an ideological battle. Serious cuts have been made to National Parks and Forests' budgets, at a time when we see a greater need for outdoor recreation. Timber sales from public lands have been increasing. Permits for fossil fuel extraction have been issued with easier environmental review. Companies and families who have taken care of private lands for generations, have decided to sell off parts of their land for possible development.

But one of the most surprising twists has come in areas that one would think are somewhat exempt. That is the area of vocabulary. I saw the term "environmentalist" come to be used derogatively as though caring about the environment was a negative. What would you call someone then who didn't care about taking steps to preserve the environment? The word "green" seemed to be universally adopted as a term that would indicate a more natural benefit for user and environment alike. Now there is a reluctance to use that word, as it may elicit a negative response. Even a term such as "sustainability" which would appear to be about as neutral a term as one could use, has found a cadre of antagonists, especially in the corporate world. There are those who believe that to promote a lifestyle that can be sustained long-term, must be a plot to undermine capitalism.

*Continued on following page*

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	Www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		<b>MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890</b>
Audubon Minnesota	Www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

## **Member Poetry Corner**

### *Lacewing*

In the autumn dusk,  
a bush harbors the call  
of some diminutive being.  
A sign of fall –  
a change signaler.  
Its incessant call  
is without pause.  
Throbbing, heart-like,  
comforting, assuring,  
quiet, muffled.  
More felt than anything,  
the sound wanders  
into the night.  
What awe and mystery  
there is in life –  
if one but  
pays attention.

### *Jeweled Ephemerals*

Late afternoon ruby throats  
skim  
blossom to blossom.  
  
Their shapes caught  
by a lowering sun.  
They twist and turn –  
a ballet of feasting.  
Garden phlox their  
favorite this day.  
  
Little tolerance for  
encroaching butterflies . . .  
  
or  
any hapless winged crea-  
ture  
  
that comes near.

No harm done, but  
the message goes out.  
*just humming birds al-  
lowed . . .*  
*come back another mo-  
ment of time.*  
  
Just as quickly as they ap-  
peared,  
they are gone. Perhaps  
to grace another garden?  
  
Or, settle down for the  
night.

~ Both poems courtesy of  
Clem Nagel

### *President's Note—continued*

There is a book titled "Prosperity Without Growth" by British economist Tim Jackson. The British government's program to develop long-term solutions became a casualty of David Cameron's austerity program. The author states that even questioning growth in some circles, is deemed to be an act of idealists or lunatics. But it has been repeatedly shown that channeling funds into energy-efficient buildings and vehicles, will create jobs by freeing up money. It's interesting that South Korea targeted 80% of its stimulus funds toward environmental goals. In the U.S. the figure was 12%. I wish that our government knew the difference between actually "creating jobs" vs. just putting people to work.

One thing is sure. The whole world cannot raise its people out of poverty by emulating a Western style consumption model. China seems to have early realized that. China has made great strides in 20 years in bringing down the energy intensity of its economy. It's the West that has suffered the most from the economic crisis. I believe we must in America continue to think about alternatives to a growth-based economy. I don't want to give up on my belief in American ingenuity.

## 2012 - 2013 Programs!

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is proud to announce the following programs and speakers for the 2012 - 2013 Season. All Programs will convene at 7:00 pm with the guest speaker beginning about 7:30 pm. *Most Program meetings are held at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park.* See directions in Programs page 1. A couple of Programs are planned to be held at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center to accommodate our northern metro members. Be sure to check our website, [www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org](http://www.AudubonChapterofMinneapolis.org), for up-to-date information.

Tuesday, Sept. 4. Al Batt, "Bird Stories", Beth El

Tuesday, Oct. 2. Mark Martell, "Hawk Ridge", Brookdale Library

Tuesday, Nov. 13. Craig Mandel, "Birds of Ecuador", Beth El

Tuesday, Dec. 4. Sher Curry, "Birding Close to Home: A Photographer's Journey", Beth El

Tuesday, Feb. 5. Bill Steiner, "Original Audubon Prints", Beth El

Tuesday, March 5. Sharon Stiteler, "Bird Banding", Beth El

Tuesday, April 2. to be determined, Brookdale Library

Tuesday, May 7. Clay Christensen, "Nests", Beth El

*Bird of the Month presentation before each program.*

## Audubon MN Annual Bird Conservation Celebration

Date: Saturday, October 20, 2012

Time: 9 am to 5 pm

Location: Audubon Center of the North Woods

Make plans today to attend this year's Audubon Minnesota Annual Bird Conservation Celebration. The event will feature recent bird conservation milestones and success stories. Hear from special guest speakers and have fun in an informal atmosphere at the beautiful Audubon Center of the North Woods on the shores of Grindstone Lake near Sandstone, MN. Come for just the celebration on Saturday or bring the whole family and spend the weekend. Event registration form and rates are at [mn.audubon.org](http://mn.audubon.org) (exact link is <http://mn.audubon.org/events/audubon-minnesota-annual-bird-conservation-celebration> ). Registration deadline is October 5. To learn more about the Audubon Center of the North Woods, visit <http://www.audubon-center.org/>

The following is reprinted with permission from Iowa Audubon in their December 2011 newsletter "Iowa Audubon".

## **BIRDING IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE**

Thirty or forty years ago, virtually the only tools for birders consisted of binoculars, a Peterson field guide, and perhaps a low-quality spotting scope. How times have changed!

Along with precision optics and a huge library of field guides, today's birders have an ever-expanding selection of electronic tools, from computers to hand-held devices with a growing number of applications to assist in bird identification.

Perhaps the most useful new high-tech tools are the so-called "smart phones", iPods, iPads and their kin. It's now almost unusual to find birders, especially younger ones, without some kind of electronic birding aide in the field.

For PC and laptop, there are several record-keeping programs, available at a cost, to install and use on your own computer. There are also websites where one can keep his or her own lists and records for free while also adding to national or world-wide records. An example is eBird ([www.ebird.com](http://www.ebird.com)), run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. This site, and some others, also have many ID tools, mapping tools, tracking tools and more, all free and available to every computer-savvy birder.

It's probably the portable, hand-held devices that to-day's birders find most useful. Several field guides, including Sibley, Peterson, National Geographic and others, are now in downloadable apps for your iPod or smartphone. Now you can carry these electronic field guides in a shirt pocket and dispense with carting along a book. For a comparison of field guide apps, check the following website: [www.ibird.com/compare](http://www.ibird.com/compare).

While I personally still prefer to have a book handy for reference, one tool I've embraced is an application for bird songs and calls, installed on my iPod. The first available, and still considered by many the best, was BirdJam ([www.birdjam.com](http://www.birdjam.com)). A rather expensive app, I used that for two years before switching to a current personal favorite, BirdTunes, available for \$9.99 from iTunes and featuring 2,400 songs and calls of 674 North American species. I'm seldom without this tool in the field, mostly to verify a song ID, but sometimes to bring a bird in closer for viewing or a photo. One must use much care, however, not to overly disturb birds with an app like this, especially during the nesting season.

There are some wonderful other things to be found online, of interest to both beginning and experienced birders. National Public Radio has a daily 3-minute program called "Bird Notes", with a feature about a different bird each day. Unfortunately, none of Iowa's NPR stations carry this program. But you can subscribe (free) and get a weekly email with a list of all the current programs—just click on each and listen on your computer or download to an mp3 player. The website is [www.birdnote.org](http://www.birdnote.org). Beginning birders, or anyone wishing to improve their skills, should check out another Cornell Lab of Ornithology offering of short online videos called "Inside Birding" at [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org).

This is but a very *brief* overview of some of the great new tools that help expand the world of birding, and which may make birding of more interest to a younger generation. Take some time to peruse the multitude of new electronic aides to birding. You will surely find some-thing you like.

—Doug Harr

## More Information On Upcoming Fall Programs!

### September

Tuesday, Sept. 4. **Al Batt**, "Bird Stories", Program at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park.

We all have stories. So do birds. Al Batt of rural Hartland, Minnesota, is a writer, speaker, storyteller, and humorist. Al writes four weekly humor and nature columns for many newspapers, and does a show about nature three times a week on a number of radio stations. He writes popular cartoon strips that are syndicated nationally. He has written for a number of magazines and books, including the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. He is a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and has written for the movies. He speaks at various festivals, conferences, and conventions all over the United States and Canada. He has received a number of prestigious awards, including Birder of the Year from Wild Bird magazine, the Hero Award from the National Eagle Center, and the T.S. Roberts Award from the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union.

### October

Tuesday, Oct. 2. **Mark Martell**, "Hawk Ridge", Program at Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center.

Mark Martell is Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Minnesota. He has been involved in bird conservation and studies for more than 30 years, serving as co-ordinator of the Midwest Peregrine Falcon Restoration Program and the Minnesota Osprey Reintroduction team, and as a member of the National Bald Eagle Recovery Team. He was the former Coordinator of Conservation/Research Fellow at The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota. He has an M.S. in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Minnesota and has published more than 40 articles in scientific journals. He served as an advisor to reintroduction programs in Germany and England, and has studied a number of birds including Burrowing Owls, Bald Eagles, Goshawks, and Ospreys. He has been visiting Hawk Ridge since first coming to Minnesota in 1980 and has been involved in various research projects here since that time. He is currently on the Hawk Ridge Board and will speak to us about the history and current vision of Hawk Ridge, what one might see there, and what has been learned at Hawk Ridge over the years.

*Please note the November Program will be on November 13<sup>th</sup>, due to the Election on November 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Plan to VOTE!*

#### *Answers to "Owls" Quiz From Page 1!*

- 1) Great horned, Long-eared, Screech
- 2) Snowy, Short-eared, Burrowing, and sometimes Barn owl
- 3) Snowy, Great Gray, Hawk
- 4) Saw Whet
- 5) Hawk owl
- 6) Boreal, Eastern Screech, Saw whet
- 7) Barred
- 8) Spotted
- 9) Northern Pygmy
- 10) Elf

### Conversation on Climate Change

The Izaak Walton League of America is sponsoring a Conversation on Climate Change, Thursday, September 27, 2012 at Champlin Park High School, 6025 109th Avenue, North Champlin, MN 55316.

6:30 – 7:00pm Social in Cafeteria – Area Legislators and Candidates are Invited

7:00 – 9:00pm Presentations, Dialogue, and Conversation in Auditorium

Meteorologist Paul Douglas will be the host and moderator; Dr. Lee Frelich from the University of Minnesota will give a presentation; and Dr. John Abraham from the University of St Thomas will give a presentation. The program will end with a question and answer session from the audience. What do we really know about Global Warming and Climate Change? Come hear the experts talk about global warming, climate change, and consequences. Bring your tough questions and enter into a dialogue with experts. For more info contact: [imgahn2u@yahoo.com](mailto:imgahn2u@yahoo.com) 763-202-3346 (John)

## **Joint ACM – Ikes Programs This Summer!**

### **Final Program is Tuesday, August 28:**

### ***The 2012 Farm Bill – Its Effect on You & the Environment***

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League (Brooklyn Park) will hold joint program meetings again this summer. Meetings will be on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Breckenridge Chapter House, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. The third & final program is Tuesday, August 28 and features Adam Warthesen speaking about the 2012 Farm Bill. Mr. Warthesen serves as lead organizer for the Land Stewardship Project's work on federal farm policy. He also serves on MN NRCS State Technical Committee and the CSP Subcommittee. All program meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about Mr. Warthesen and ACM programs, click [here](#). For more information about the Ikes and directions to the Breckenridge Chapter House, click [here](#).

### **Join Audubon At Two Upcoming Festivals:**

#### **East Harriet RoseFest, Aug. 25 & Minneapolis Monarch Festival, Sept. 8**

**East Harriet RoseFest** on Saturday, August 25 from 12pm to 6 pm  
Lyndale-Farmstead Park, 39th St W & Bryant Av S Minneapolis

The seventh annual RoseFest in the East Harriet neighborhood of Minneapolis offers something fun for all ages. There will be live music, the return of the popular classic auto show, food on the grill, inflatables, lots of new games, face painting, Twin Town Guitar "musical petting zoo", local bands, the popular classic car event, inflatables, carnival games and the food tent! Audubon volunteer Steve Greenfield will lead a free bird walk – more details soon. Click [here](#) for more information about the festival.

**Minneapolis Monarch Festival** on Saturday, September 8 from 10 am to 4 pm  
Nokomis Naturescape, NE side of Lake Nokomis at E 50th St & East Lake Nokomis Parkway, Minneapolis

The fourth annual festival celebrating the Monarch butterfly has everything from food, to music and art highlighting the Minnesota – Mexico connection that the Monarch butterfly creates. Among the events will be the release of about 400 butterflies raised by the U of Minnesota's Monarch Lab. Watch the Monarchs start their amazing 2,300 mile migration from Minnesota to the mountains of Michoacán Mexico where they will spend the winter. Many bands & food vendors and a lot of kid-friendly activities make this a great family event. Audubon will share a booth with Wild Ones. Click [here](#) for more information about the festival.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

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Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 90280



KINGFISHER  
September/October 2012

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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

P.O. Box 422250

Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250



**LOCAL CHAPTER**

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

PO BOX 3801

Minneapolis, MN 55403

Incentive Code:

**C9ZM020Z**



**Calendar of Events**

August

28: Board Meeting, 6:30 @ Izaak Walton League

September

4: Program: Al Batt, *Bird Stories*, 7-9PM @ Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park

25: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

October

2: Program: Mark Martell, *Hawk Ridge*, 7-9PM @ Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Center

23: Board Meeting, 7 to 8:45 pm @ Roosevelt High School at 4029 28th Av S in Minneapolis

*The Kingfisher is published every other month beginning with the January issue. All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings! For more information on upcoming events please check out our website at : [www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org](http://www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org)*

**Electronic Kingfisher**

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