



KINGFISHER



Sept/Oct 2014

Vol. 63 No. 5

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

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Upcoming Programs

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Program meetings are held at 7:00 PM at Beth El Synagogue, 5224 W. 26th Street, St. Louis Park 55416 (unless otherwise noted*).

Tuesday, Sept 2, 2014: "30 years of Osprey reintroduction"

Steven Hogg, Wildlife specialist at the Three Rivers Park District, will be talking about these regal birds and the Twin Cities' efforts to reintroduce them to the area.

Tuesday, Oct 7, 2014: "Pollinators and Native Plants"

Note* Location change- The October meeting will be held at the Brookdale Library on Shinglecreek Parkway.

Heather Holm will be talking about landscaping for wildlife to promote our precious pollinators.

Minneapolis Audubon Society

Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)

The Bryant Square Neighborhood Center, just one block south of Lake Street, is easily accessible via the #4 bus, which runs every 15 minutes.

Friday, September 12 , 2014 at 1 p.m.

"Places, Spaces and Birds in Between"

Everyone is welcome to our first Potluck meeting of the season! Bring a dish to share and utensils. The program at 2 p.m. will feature professional photographer Michael Shoop presenting "Birds and Other Animals." Please join us for food and fun. For more information call [763-533-8381](tel:763-533-8381).

Friday, Oct 10, 2014 at 1 p.m.

"Birds of the Bering Sea "

The Minneapolis Audubon Society will meet at the Bryant Square Neighborhood Center. David Cahlander from the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter will introduce us to "Birds of the Bering Sea". Please join us for this program and refreshments! For more information call [763-533-8381](tel:763-533-8381).

Poetry

A Fall Chance Acquaintance

What's hanging upside down
from that hackberry's low branch?

So intent on plucking
ripe fruit it almost

ignores my approach.

The Pileated Woodpecker
doesn't fly away - instead

moves to the far side of
the tree's trunk and
cautiously eyes me.

So close.

I back off and
quietly leave.

By Clem Nagel





From the President

This summer has seen a couple of disturbing things happen that could have a long term effect on the future of birds. The Minnesota Vikings have decided not to use bird safe glass in their huge glass sculpture on the new stadium. It is the opinion of National Audubon and Joanna Eckles of Audubon Minnesota that this sculpture, due to its location and the clear glass design, will result in many bird collisions resulting in large number of bird deaths. National Audubon has initiated an Action Alert targeting the Minnesota Vikings asking them to use Bird Safe Glass.

Thankfully the Minneapolis City Council has voted unanimously against Vikings' decision not to change glass. There was tremendous outcry from Audubon people and other like-minded bird lovers. The Council has said they will find funds to use frosted glass.

The second disturbing occurrence is the discovery by U.S. Geological Survey of neonicotinoids in six states and nine Mid-western rivers, including the portion of the Mississippi that drains southern Minnesota. They also found the neonicotinoids were universally present throughout the growing season in every watershed tested.

This is very serious. When wildlife at the top of the food chain disappears, there is not a lot of disruption in the rest of the animal kingdom. An example would be the polar bear. This would be a tragedy. But except for some seals not many animals would be affected. Elimination of a few species of common insects would cause severe ripples throughout the animal kingdom. This is what is at stake if the neonicotinoids concentration gets high enough to cause the die off of some aquatic insects. For example, the recent mass hatches of mayflies, which spend all their life in water and only emerge to mate, caused quite a stir along the Mississippi River. Mayflies are an important food source for many fish, especially pan fish and suckers, which are an important food source for predator fish such as northern pike and walleyes. Also think how important the mayfly may be for some of our birds, such as the swallows and other birds that frequent riparian habitat. The fish are also important for eagles and are essential for osprey and kingfishers.

The dragonfly and damselfly are other examples of insects that spend much of their life in water and may be severely affected. And don't forget that public enemy, the mosquito, that many birds, like the wood duck, depend on for food while the mosquito is in its aquatic phase.

Neonicotinoids don't need to be lethal to cause a major decrease of birds. We only have to remember the devastating effect that DDT had on our birds that entered through the food chain. Eagles were just removed from the Endangered Species List. Will we need to put them back on it and add many, many more.

What about us, the homosapien? Our pollinators are disappearing. They provided a necessary function for us. Will we need to start hand pollinating our crops that now come at a modest cost or free. It's likely that would reduce the world food supply and anything that disrupts food can be expected to cause instability in this already shaky world. Could the aquatic neonicotinoid contamination, reducing our fish supply by greatly reducing their food supply, also be contributing to this instability?

It is my opinion that modern agriculture is leading us down a path that could result in a great reduction in everyone's quality of life. The introduction of toxins (to insects) into our food supply needs to be very closely examined by everyone! A good start would be to read or reread Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring"!

Jerry Bahls, President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Audubon Chapter is to inform and educate our members and the public about birds and other wildlife and the demands that a large metropolitan center puts on their habitat, to engage in advocacy to preserve, protect and improve existing habitat and to develop and maintain new bird and wildlife sanctuaries, including backyards, to enhance the human experience.

Volunteers

Volunteers Needed

Board Members - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking qualified persons to serve on its Board. The two new Board members would serve 3-year terms expiring in May 2017. It is estimated that the time required would be about 4 hours/month. The Board meets every month except in December and July.

Webmaster - The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is seeking a qualified person to be our webmaster. The webmaster would manage all of our electronic communications sites. The webmaster would update and post new material on our Website and Facebook pages.

If you are a newly retired, empty nester or just want to help out, contact Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail at jobaud@comcast.net. Or contact any Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board member. Thanks for helping us!

BirdSafe Volunteers needed

Audubon Minnesota's Project BirdSafe is an effort to reduce bird-window collisions. Part of the project is made possible by a stellar team of volunteers who walk research routes in Minneapolis and St. Paul every morning during spring and fall migration. Any birds found, alive or dead, are collected and either released, taken to rehabilitation or logged into the University of Minnesota collections. Interested in learning more? Please contact Joanna Eckles at (651) 739-9332 x 111 or jeckles@audubon.org.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2013-2014 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	(763) 572-2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Vice President	John Arthur		jarthur@visi.com
Treasurer New!	Judy Hamm		judybirds@att.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Cathy Bailly	(612) 267-9098	eaglessoar1964@gmail.com
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org		MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

2014-15 Chapter Officers & Board

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board elected the following officers for the 2014-2015 fiscal year –

President	Jerry Bahls
Vice-President	John Arthur
Secretary	Martha Allen
Treasurer	Judy Hamm

The following were elected to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board at the May Membership meeting – Madeleine Linck and Kit Healy.

Please welcome the new Officers and Board members. The Board still has two Board vacancies and would welcome anyone interested in serving. Contact Bob Papke (763 545-8072) or Jerry Bahls (763 572-2333).

Meet our new Conservation Chair- Elise Morton

Hello, my name is Elise Morton and I am volunteering to serve as the Conservation Chair for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. I am currently a postdoctoral associate at the University of Minnesota, specializing in microbiome research. Although I am still rather new to the region, I fell in love with Minneapolis and the surrounding area several years ago when I was visiting for a conference (in the summer). It is undeniably a magnificent place and there is no question that a large part of what makes this city so special is its river. The longest and largest in the continent, the Mississippi River and its adjacent wetlands, forests, and grasslands provide unique and essential habitats for a diversity of plants and wildlife. In addition, it's the flyway for many species of migratory birds. I have been a casual birder for about 10 years, and although I love the game of finding and identifying birds, the largest impact that birding has had on me is a deep appreciation for their diversity, behaviors, and ecology. Not only are they remarkable in their very existence, they are an essential component of a healthy ecosystem. Despite this essentiality, and in part because of it, they are extremely vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts.

There are many factors contributing to the rapid declines in the population sizes of native birds including but not limited to climate change, habitat fragmentation, environmental pollution, reflective windows, feral and outdoor domestic cats, and competition by invasive species. As conservation chair, my goal is to identify ways that we as individuals, and as a community, can be the most effective in minimizing the negative impacts of human behavior and develop new strategies for protecting our birds. There are already great projects underway such as the window treatment study and others that I am still learning about. I would like to propose a meeting on August 24th (Sunday) at 3PM, to discuss some of the key issues. Some of the topics I would like to address include responsible bird feeding, the potential for an outdoor cat study with community volunteers (trying to find realistic ways to minimize the negative impact of cats on bird populations), education and outreach objectives, and recruitment to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Conservation Committee. Please feel free to email me with ideas or questions at elise.audobon@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you! Elise Morton

Book Review:

Rosalie Edge, *Hawk of Mercy* by Dyana Z. Furmansky

Here is a fascinating historical account of a woman who did not become a serious birder until middle age, but who greatly impacted the preservation of birds and their habitats. Although the book was published in 2009, I learned about it only last fall. I highly recommend it as a must read to others interested in wildlife conservation. As Audubon members and environmentalists, we all owe a great deal to Rosalie Edge. Mrs. Edge was born in to a wealthy New York City family and began her birding in Central Park, but ended up preserving the treasures of Kings Canyon and Olympic National Parks along with acres of old growth forests in Yellowstone by her tireless lobbying efforts. She formed a conservation action committee to educate and motivate thousands of citizens via pamphlets. On a shoestring budget, she took on politicians with her writing campaigns.

Initially, the book's first chapters may seem rather detailed and slow to read, but you will soon become fascinated and immersed in learning so much about the birders and scientists of the early 20th Century. Ludlow Griscom, Roger Tory Peterson, Aldo Leopold all came to greatly respect her dedication to birds. Famous ornithologists from the American Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian provided her with accurate science, but they themselves had to hide behind the scenes to save their jobs. Rosalie Edge single handily took on early conservation groups such as the National Audubon Society that were ineffectual because of strong pressure from trophy hunters, gun clubs and other special interest groups.

In one gripping chapter, you will learn how she stopped the massive slaughter of hawks on Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania (www.hawkmountain.org), by first renting the land and convincing locals (who loudly protested their loss of target practice) that live hawks would promote tourism. She initiated hawk migration counts contributing significantly to valuable survival data. Until her death in 1962, she lobbied to protect the unpopular raptors (the Bald Eagle was considered an evil predator and killed by the thousands for bounties). Rosalie Edge did not live to see the 1972 Federal Law to protect raptors, but we all owe her a huge debt of gratitude for standing up for the birds and wild lands we love.

Advocacy & Activities

Roaming Cat Research

Here is an opportunity to participate in some research that will answer some of the questions about birds and cats. North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and North Carolina State University are working on a project that will track cats outdoors to observe their behavior. The cats are fitted with tiny satellite tracking harnesses and they hope to add a tiny video camera later. "The researchers started the project in response to a 2012 study that contended outdoor cats annually kill between 1.4 million and 3.7 million birds and 6.9 million to 20.7 million small mammals."^{1,2}

If you allow your cat outdoors or if you caretake some feral cats, go to <http://cats.yourwildlife.org> and register. The study does involve the purchase of a small GPS unit and cat harness at a cost of about \$56.

1. Jay Price, <http://www.newsobserver.com/2014/07/11/4000595/nc-project-exposes-the-secret.html#storylink=cpy>
2. Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, Peter P. Marra "The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States"; Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Nature Communications (2013).



THE FEEDING STATION

By Bob Dunn



The past issue of Kingfisher had a list of bird feeds and indicted which birds favored which seeds. That certainly was informative and appropriate, for a major topic when viewing birds or discussing birds, is the feeding habits and the backyard feeding of birds.

Many people have bird feeders out and there is a great variance how folks manage the process or why they are involved in the first place. A majority probable feel they are assisting in the birds finding a source of food, while most others put out feeders merely to draw in the birds for viewing up close. No matter the reason or motivation, the results are the same and good is being done.

For some time, I have had the thought to do a series in the Kingfisher on this subject and here is the start. I have been feeding birds in my back yard for 44 years. There are around 25 feeders in 7 stations most of the time. That does not mean I am an expert on the subject, but I do have some experience and I wish to share that experience and open these articles up for your input also.

There may be some controversy in which seeds to feed or not. I will not sort that out but allow others input and share with the readers. And the most crucial issue of all this will probably be – how to squirrel proof the feeders.

I have had many conversations with folks who no longer have bird feeders out, simply because of the problems with squirrels. But feeders can be squirrel proofed and done so inexpensively. The main thing to remember is 5-7-9. Feeders need to be 5 feet off the ground or squirrels can simply jump up from the ground. Then squirrels can jump 7 feet across from tree branches to grab a feeder. And, squirrels will jump down 9 feet to any feeder platform. The use of empty 2 liter pop bottles or used gallon cider bottles can be used to deter squirrels from climbing up or down to get at feeders.

Hopefully this series will get into some of the home made feeders and the important of keeping the feeders clean... **Continued on page 6**

Field Trips

Bird Hikes for Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, Fall 2014

Come join in chapter bird hikes set for this fall.

Springbrook Nature Center September 13, 2014
 Westwood Hills Nature Center September 27, 2014



All hikes will begin at 8 AM and will last approximately 90 minutes. Binoculars are helpful. Trails may be muddy. Times may change if severe weather. We would like to limit each hike to 15 people, so signing up ahead is requested. Sign up by calling Siah St. Clair at 763-234-6146 or emailing stclairs@comcast.net or Madeleine Linck at 763-475-0485; or emailing Madeleine.linck@gmail.com.

Springbrook Nature Center: 100 85th Ave NW , Fridley, 55432 September 13

Wetland edges, open water in ponds and creeks, prairie, forest, oak savannah. Birds possibly migrating will be waterfowl and warblers, green herons, thrushes, and migrating hawks. Meet in the parking lot at the main entrance.

Westwood Hills Nature Center: 8300 West Franklin Ave, St. Louis Park, 55426 September 27

Wooded hillsides with long floating boardwalk around lake. Good chance to see migrating waterfowl and wood warblers and migrating hawks. Meet at the main entrance to the park.



THE FEEDING STATION Continued from page 5

A few years ago I set up a spread sheet on my computer to be better informed on my bird feeding program. I now monitor the amount of each kind of feed that I use. Here is last year's tally and you may note that I put out 50 suet cakes. I make my own suet cakes and the birds like it 4 times more than the store bought suet. In the past I would put out around 12 cakes a year, and now the birds are eating 50 cakes a year.

You can see that I feed mixed seed and that is the highest used feed of all. That is the only feeder with mixed seed but it does attract a variety of birds, mostly sparrows and it is the least cost seed also.

	Sparrow Seed	Hearts & Parts	Golden Safflower	Sunflower Oilers	Thistle Seed	Peanuts	Suet Cakes	Total
Pounds	369	229	100	123	88	55	50	939
	39%	24%	11%	13%	77%	6%		100%

The intent of the "Bird Feeding Station is to share information and your input. Should you have questions, please ask. Should you disagree with something, please do respond. If you wish to share how you feed the birds or why, please share that. Contact me at bobcharlesdunn@aol.com.

Please read the next edition of the Kingfisher, where I will share my suet recipe. Happy birding! Bob Dunn

Conservation



CLIMATE: LEGACY FOR OUR CHILDREN PART I - By Jim Egge (Part 2 in next edition)



The obscure term “junk science” has wormed its way into the national vocabulary in the past 20 years. I’ve found that its use is often by people who are not in the science field, or otherwise unqualified to make such a judgment. To add to the vagueness of the term, it has been my experience that perhaps most academics don’t really understand what science is, including folks trained in the traditional science fields. Science is not a course of study, nor a wing of a school building. It is more properly, a way of thinking. A true scientist more frequently questions his or her own conclusions than those of others. Consequently, the surer one is of one’s conclusions, perhaps the less scientific he or she becomes.

I place this umbrella over the entire discussion raging in America regarding climate change. It is possible that, with one or two exceptions, that the international research going on now, is the most extensive and sophisticated effort in the history of research. The conclusions proffered, for the most part, have been careful and measured. This is not some whim or unfounded theory that can be easily dismissed. There is little question that researchers have seen climate shifts in many places of the world. One of the most scholarly discussions on changing climate was done by Richard Alley and aired on public television. It should be televised prime time on network and cable TV, opening up a realistic national debate.

What will be the legacy we leave to our heirs? Extinctions and loss of biological diversity are not the legacy our descendents are likely to forgive. Without getting into the specifics about current research, some scientists suggest we will see an accelerating warming trend worldwide. Not all places on earth will see warming every year. The 2012-13 winter was severe in Eurasia, but mild in North America. The reverse was true this winter. During the Olympics they were having trouble in Russia with melting snow.

So what do wildlife experts expect if their conclusions are on track? We currently are seeing the extinction of at least 2-3 plants and animals per day worldwide. Much of this is due to habitat alteration. Scientists believe we have seen about 500 bird species disappear since 1500. (1) Of the 10,000 + bird species in the world about 12% are in danger of near term extinction. If we add in climate changes to the equation, some habitats will simply be eliminated, taking the adapted wildlife with them.

Changing climates may also make it easier for invasive species to gain a foothold, exacerbating the problem of maintaining ecosystems. CO₂ is today more than 100 ppm higher than it was in 1750. (2) If you’re tempted to dismiss this as merely a normal cycle, this appears to be a 650,000 year high. Our local tree swallows are nesting earlier, which may seem to be a benefit. However, the change in natural rhythms may affect the insect populations, and also cause the birds to lay more eggs, stressing the birds’ ability to feed. Rising water temperatures have attracted invasive sea squirts to northeastern Atlantic waters, and have covered large areas of ocean floor. This may be of concern to those who like seafood such as lobster.

Sources:

1. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
2. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
3. Defenders Magazine, “Countdown to Meltdown” Fall 2006, Winter 2012

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JULY/AUG 2014

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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

As of this printing, the Board Calendar for the remainder of 2014, has not been set yet.

Please see the ACM website:

www.audubonchapterofminneapolis.org

before the next edition for updates and details

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.

Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net