



KINGFISHER



September 2007

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 56 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Birdscaping (Nature Matters)

Does one yard make a difference? Is an oasis in the suburban or urban desert important? In the land of "lollipop trees" and "gumdrop bushes," are native plantings worthwhile? Can we make a difference? Does removing buckthorn make a difference? I believe the answer to all of these questions is an emphatic "YES!" It might not make a large difference, but it will make a difference.

A small urban lot with native plants can provide habitat for many beneficial birds and insects. At the height of the season, just our few Rough Blazingstar plants attracted between 25 and 30 Monarch butterflies at a time. Our coneflowers attract goldfinches, which we see regularly feeding on these plants. In winter, our berry bushes bring in the chickadees, cardinals and the occasional cedar waxwing. In all, we have observed 29 species of birds in our small oasis.

Pollinators are a three-season delight. From the early spring, ephemerals that attract the bees to the anemones and ants to the wild ginger through the summer with the various butterflies, to the fall with the Locust Borer beetles, we have a constant parade of life.

With all of this pollen-fed life, we must have some predators. And, indeed we do! We have counted at least eight species of dragonfly and damselfly in our yard. Then we have a Cooper's hawk that visits our yard on occasion. We watched it eating a house sparrow for about an hour one day. Maybe the Cooper's is a stretch to prove our plantings make a difference as they are seen around much of the metro area, but we do get the birds and the bees.

True, in the case of buckthorn, some will argue that it is a losing battle in that the invasive tree is outrunning the control efforts, but not making the effort is admitting defeat. Not only is the battle lost, but possibly the war. Waiting for a biological control agent may be a long wait as none have been selected for testing yet.

One yard may not make much of a difference, but if your neighbors start planting natives and in turn their neighbors start, the small oasis becomes part of a corridor for wildlife and then...

—John Arthur

September Program

Return of the Wood Duck

September's featured speaker is avid birdwatcher and videographer Boz Metzdorf of Deer Park, Wisconsin. Boz will show highlights of his latest video production, *Return of the Wood Duck*, followed by a discussion on the wood duck and the making of the video.

A labor of love some eight years in the making, the video includes beautiful close-up photography of the wood duck, capturing the whole life cycle of one of nature's most beautiful water fowl.

It details the story of the near extinction of the duck in the late 1900s from over hunting, as well as the successful effort to return it to a stable population – an effort led by conservation leaders such as Minnesotans Art Hawkins and Walter Breckenridge, both of whom are interviewed in the video. Woven around the story of the wood duck's sudden decline, and its eventual recovery, is the history of the growth of the conservation movement in America. The complete, two-part video, which is 142 minutes long, will be for sale at the meeting. An hour-long version will be aired this fall on both Minnesota and Wisconsin public television. After an early career as a musician, Metzdorf took up nature film-making in the mid-80s. Among his available works are three videos on the eastern bluebird and a production titled *Common Birds of Your Backyard*, his most popular production to date. Originally available on VHS, and widely available in libraries and schools, all will be re-released this fall on DVD.

**Tuesday,
September 4
at 7:00 p.m.**

**Mayflower Church
(see page two for new directions)**

September Bird of the Month

"Migrating Swans with Neck Collars"

Presented by

Pamela Deerwood

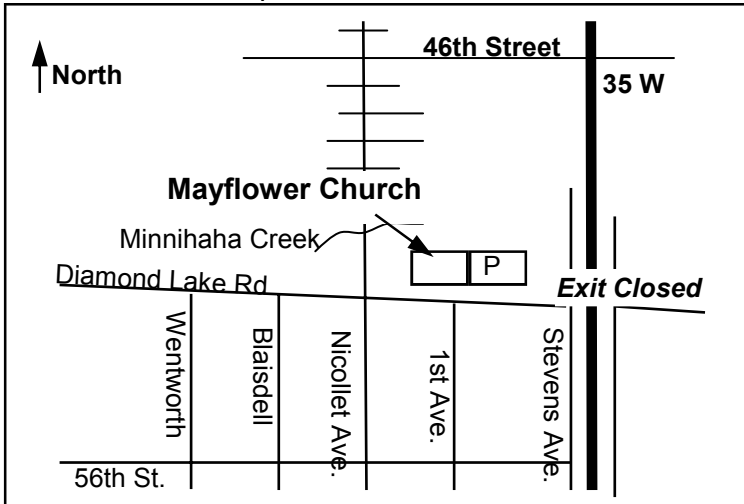
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 4, 2007

Return of the Woodduck

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



Mayflower Church Exit Closed

Diamond Lake Road Exit from 35W to Diamond Lake Road will be closed for the next year. Consequently most of us who usually take that exit to get to the Mayflower Church for our Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis programs will need to take an alternate exit this year. For those of us coming from the north of Mayflower Church, a convenient exit will be the 46th Street Exit. Go west to Nicollet, then south to Diamond Lake Road and east to the Church. This may actually be a convenient exit for some of you coming from the south also. Exiting on Lyndale Avenue and going north to Diamond Lake Road may also work.. Those coming from the east will need to cross 35W at either 46th or 60th Street to get to Nicollet and then proceed either north or south to Diamond Lake Road. Those coming from the west will not be affected. We hope the exit closing does not deter you from attending our fine schedule of programs.

Electronic Kingfisher

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ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

EAM TO WALK FOR AUDUBON

On Sept. 16, Chapter member Mary Ellen Vetter will join the Walk For Justice in Minneapolis. Her team will raise funds for the state office, Audubon MN.

Please go to her web page
www.walkforjustice.kintera.org/mevetter to learn about the event and to pledge for her team.

Funds collected will be used to continue and expand Audubon's IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM, which has begun to identify and plan for preservation of the most critical bird habitats in Minnesota.

Minnesota River Valley Field Trips



August 28

8:00 am Miesville Ravine, Miesville, MN
Steve Weston 612-978-3993

September 7-9

Whooping Cranes, Neecedah NW, WI
George Skinner 952-936-0811 \$65

September 8

Hawk I.D. class NVNWR Visitor Center
Craig Mandel 953-546-3407

September 15

8th Annual Great Minnesota Birding Day
7:00 am Metro Area Bob Williams 612-728-2232
9:00 am MVNWR Center G. Skinner 952-936-0811
1:00 pm MVNWR Center MVNWR staff

September 21 -23

Hawk weekend Duluth Area (www.hawkridge.org)
Dave Baden 952-445-4353

September 22

7:30 am Louisville Swamp Unit, MVNR, Jordan
George Skinner 952-936 0811

September 22

3:00 pm Beginning Bird Walk Old Cedar Ave. Bridge
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

September 29

7:30 am Cannon River Wilderness Area, Faribault
George Skinner 952-936-0811

And coming up

October 28 - November 3

Eco-Tour to Rancho Los Ebanos, Mexico
Marie Digatano 763-315-1749 \$1199

Please contact the trip leader for further information.

MOU Fall Field Trips

September 1—Lake Mille Lacs area

7:30 am to noon, led by Al Schirmacher. Meet at the Mille Lacs Kathio State Park entrance off Hwy 169 northwest of Onamia.
This trip will focus on migrating warblers and passerines. Participants will need a \$5 entrance pass to the park unless they have an annual park pass. Space is limited. Contact Al Schirmacher at pastoral@princetonfreechurch.net.

continued next column

Continued ...

September 16th—Little Falls Area, Morrison County
7:30am to afternoon, led by Frank Gosiak and Milton Blomberg. Meet at the Royal Café on Hwy 27 in Little Falls, just west of the bridge over the Mississippi River.
Birders will visit various locations in the Little Falls area including Charles Lindbergh State Park and Crane Meadows NWR. There will be some hiking involved and the focus will be on migrating species. Younger birders are encouraged to participate. There is plenty of space available for this trip. For more information contact Milton Blomberg at mjblwrmt@msn.com or at 320 656-5272(home) or 320 828-1171 (cell).

October 13th—Lake Lille Lacs Shorline

8:00am to moon, led by Al Schirmacher. Meet at the Dairy Queen on Hwy 169 in Onamia, MN and carpool from there. This trip will focus on the west and north shores of Lake Mille Lacs and migrants and vagrants such as red-throated and Pacific loons. There is limited space available for this trip. For more information contact Al Schirmacher at pastoral@princetonfreechurch.net.

These MOU Field Trips are free and open to the public.

AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS

2007 Open House and Sustainable Living Expo

Saturday, September 29
9 am to 4 pm

There will be activities and programs for all ages!

Learn more about the concept of Sustainable Living and how small changes in your lifestyle and your home can save money, simplify life, increase self-sufficiency, and help protect the earth.

Take advantage of adventure opportunities like the climbing wall and zip line, a nature scavenger hunt, face painting, creating recycled artwork and pressing apple cider.

Lunch and live music will be available.

There will be a dedication of the new raptor mews and wildlife programs all day long.

The Audubon Center Fall Yard Sale run from 9 to 4 that day.

Save the Date
Audubon's Annual
Fall Members Meeting
Saturday, November 10, 2007

Each fall, on the second Saturday in November, Audubon members from all over the state gather to socialize and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the State Capitol. Mark your calendars!

We'll meet at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from 9 to 4, have bird watching both before and after, guest speakers, lunch and more!

HAWK RIDGE

Fall funneling of
feathers on the move!
Swirling kettles of
migrating hawks
lofted upward on
winds of warmth—
tracing the
Superior shore.

-Clem Nagel

Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference

October 12 to 14

Everyone who cares about birds and their habitats is invited to attend the **Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference**; "Declining Species, Declining Habitat: Reversing the Trend" and "Mississippi River: America's Flyway." This important three-day conference runs October 12 to 14 at the Embassy Suites in Bloomington, Minnesota, and features researchers, authors and policy-makers discussing the good, the bad and the ugly in our region's ecosystems. The Conference, sponsored by Audubon Minnesota, is open to the general public.

Join experts as they discuss the latest information on grassland, forest, wetland and neighborhood birds. Learn about how changes in the environment affect birds and current efforts to preserve them. Hear keynote speaker Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, noted scientist and author, probe whether migratory songbirds are "canaries in the coal mine." A full day devoted to the Mississippi River spotlights the importance of this major flyway, culminating in a excursion on a Mississippi River sternwheeler. Kenny Salway, a true "river rat," will be on hand and humorist Al Batt entertains luncheon guests.

Field trips and a special presentation on global warming, featuring John Flicker, president of the National Audubon Society, and Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota climatologist and Minnesota Public Radio weather commentator, round out the weekend's events. Find out more and get registration materials at <http://mn.audubon.org/> or call 651-739-9332 for information about registering. This is a "don't miss" event so mark your calendars now.

It's time to start planning . . . for the 2008 State Legislative Session!

Audubon Minnesota is a member-based organization. Our contribution in the conservation community is truly unique. Our members tend to be educated activists – they bring skills, years of experience and opinions to the table on a variety of policy issues. In fact, in 1979, Audubon chapters created the state office in Minnesota primarily for the purpose of consolidating advocacy efforts at the State Capitol. Audubon's power at the state legislature relies on our grassroots base and their willingness to influence and affect legislative outcomes. For this reason, members help the Audubon Minnesota Board select and prioritize state legislative issues for the following spring's legislative session. Audubon's typical state legislative agenda consists of two to three issues, with the caveat that priority issues in previous years will be again prioritized if under attack.

Issues nominated must adhere to Audubon's mission statement: *Working with others to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.*

In addition, nominated issues must address one or more of the following points:

- Presents a law or policy change that has a reasonable chance of legislative or administrative success and will achieve measurable conservation results
- Protects and restores essential sites, especially Important Bird Areas, for vulnerable species
- Stabilizes and increases populations of at-risk species of birds
- Prevents declines in numbers or range area in common native birds
- Improves and protects the health of landscapes that support or could support native birds.

In 2007, issue nominations are due by Wednesday, August 29th. Issue descriptions should be about a paragraph in length and include the nominator's name and contact information. Nominations can be e-mailed to ssolterman@audubon.org or sent to Audubon Minnesota, attn: Susan, 2357 Ventura Dr. #106, St. Paul, MN 55125.

Audubon Gleanings

Cooper's hawks used to be uncommon around the Twin Cities, but now are often seen lurking on power poles and trees in many back yards. Last summer a flock of sparrows was making a lot of racket in the neighbor's bush. All of a sudden they became silent, and soon I spotted a Cooper's hawk motionless in a tree 60' feet away. On Nicollet Avenue I was picking up a prescription when a CH landed in the middle of the street with a grackle in its talons. July 20th, 2007, I had a CH shoot across in front of my car on Highway 35W at 58th Street. He was after a sparrow against the wooden wall, but at 55 mph I didn't see if the hawk scored.

Ask for the Nature Series wildlife stamps at your Post Office next trip. Out now is the "Pollination" set, four stamps including flowers and their pollinators – bat, bee, butterfly, and bird. The Alpine Tundra Series featuring Rocky Mountain Park is spectacular and will be out in September.

Audubon's Agassiz Chapter is benefiting from Boy Scout Troop 202 in Grand Forks. An Eagle Scout contacted the Wetlands, Pines, and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary about a conservation project. The project ultimately involved at least 6 Scouts, leaders, and staff, and resulted in new railings and repair to bridges that connect the hiking trails. They made the Sanctuary handicapped-accessible, and completed the project in time for the invasion of school groups for conservation classes.

Coca Cola Company has partnered with the World Wildlife Fund to improve water efficiency and energy usage. Coca Cola uses 300 billion liters of water each year to produce its beverages. Their goal is to replenish every drop of water used to make packaging and product in the entire line of beverages. They want to become the most efficient user of water and energy in the beverage industry.

I would like feedback on the shade-grown coffee purchased this spring as to quality and type of coffee desired. We may sell coffee again this fall if the demand is there. Price is \$7.50 regular (12 oz. bean or ground) and \$7.80 for decaf. 10 % of price goes to the chapter. Don't forget to ask for "shade-grown" coffee at Dunn, Starbucks, etc, to let them know folks are looking for it.

This summer at least 10 students from Aurora Charter School received scholarships to go to Audubon of the North Woods. We hope to have some of these students tell us about their outdoor experiences. This is a program I would like to see expanded as more funds become available. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis serves some of the neediest kids in the state, when it comes to outdoor educational experiences. Perhaps some of our members could help find grants, endowments, or other resources as we seek new ways to serve the youth today.

- Jim Egge

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KINGFISHER
SEPTEMBER 2007



**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

- 4 Chapter Program
- 16 Walk for Justice
- 29 ACNW Open House

OCTOBER

12-14 Upper Midwest Regional Conference

MRV field trips are held throughout September
Please check page 3 for complete list

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 meet-
ings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!