



# KINGFISHER



September 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

## A Note from the President

As the new president of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, I want you to know that I am here to help make this chapter of the National Audubon Society everything that you want it to be. We will continue with the same great programs on the first Tuesday of the month, except we'll start at 7:00 pm instead of 7:30 pm to give our audience more time to ask questions of the speakers and to browse the offerings that we usually have at the meetings. We are bringing back the five minute "Bird of the Month" feature to help you understand more about birds and where to find them.

I'll continue to let you know about chapter insufficiencies such as: we still need a board secretary to record and distribute the minutes to the board members. The position requires only two hours for the monthly meetings and about one hour to write up the minutes and distribute them, or a total of 3-4 hours/month of your time depending on your typing skills. It is also highly desirable for the secretary to have access to e-mail, so that the minutes can be distributed inexpensively.

Finally, my phone number and e-mail address are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the *Kingfisher*, so if you have a comment, suggestion or complaint, contact me as soon as the issue comes out. Remember, the first program will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> about domestic parrots. That is also the time we have our first potluck dinner of the season. The potluck dinner will start around 6:00 pm, so bring a dish to pass and join in the fun and get to know your fellow members over a friendly breaking of bread.



Thank you,

—Jerry Bahls, President

## Fall Raptor Release, Gale Woods Farm, September 18

Watch in awe as raptors return to the wild at the annual Fall Raptor Release, 10:00 am—3:00 pm Saturday, September 18 at Gale Woods Farm in Minnetrista.

Co-sponsored by Three Rivers Park District and The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota, the Fall Raptor Release will feature releases at 11:30 am and 2:00 pm. The event is free and parking fees are waived. During this exciting celebration, participants can observe and photograph the Raptor Center's resident ambassador eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls up close and personal.

Participants can also hike the park's scenic trails, tour the farm's barn, and view farm animals. Visitors are reminded that dogs are not allowed at the event. For more information, call 612.624.4745 or visit [www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org](http://www.ThreeRiversParkDistrict.org).

## September Program

We have had many programs but none like the upcoming program on September 7<sup>th</sup> when Mary Karlquist brings her parrots to demonstrate their fascinating behavior and learning ability. Mary is the president of The Minnesota Companion Bird Association, an organization in existence for over twenty-five years.

Seventeen years ago, Mary met and lived with her first companion bird—a cockatoo—and eventually went into the bird-breeding business with partner, Dave Flom, establishing Best Bird, Inc.

Companion birds, such fantastic creatures, are now a huge part of her life. Building an aviary was a long and time-consuming job, but Mary spent that time reading and attending seminars on parrots as both pets and wild birds. Dave has spent time in Brazil gaining an appreciation for the birds in their natural environment and how that environment impacts companion birds.

It goes without saying that Mary and Dave do not support removing birds from the wild to a caged or companion bird environment. They do agree with the goals of The World Parrot Trust in promoting parrot conservation and welfare.

During the last twelve years, Mary has concentrated her efforts on the behavior side of the business. She teaches classes for her customers and the general public as well as the University of Minnesota Veterinary School and the Humane Society. She and Dave have coined the phrase for some behavior development as Habituate Enrichment.

"A parrot is so much more than a bird in a cage," says Mary.

.....  
**Don't Forget—Potluck Dinner Prior to Sept. Meeting**

Bring a dish to share and your own dining utensils, and the Chapter will provide the beverages and friendly conversation. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, Sept. 7.  
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## Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004-2005 Contacts

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Board Member	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586
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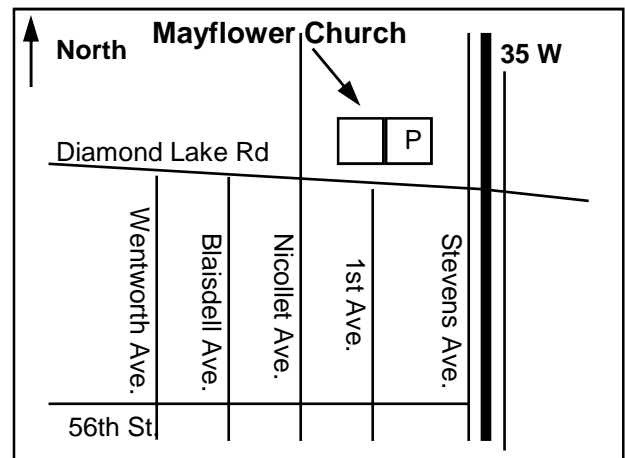
**Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis**  
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo  
**Minnesota Audubon**  
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html  
**National Audubon Society**  
www.audubon.org

## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, September 7  
"Parrots: Behavior, Learning and Intelligence," by Mary Karkquist.  
Mary, a breeder of parrots and the president of the MN Companion Bird Association, will bring several of her parrots to the meeting.

**TIME:** Potluck dinner at 6:00 pm  
Program at 7:00 (note new time)

**AT:** Mayflower Church, map below



## Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER  
ELECTRONICALLY!  
Contact Jerry Bahls at  
bahls001@tc.umn.edu

# 2004-2005 Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Programs

The following is a clip-and-save listing of upcoming Chapter programs for the 2004-2005 season as well as a sample of other field trips, Audubon events, and other outings of interest...

## Chapter Programs

### **September 7**

"Parrots: Behavior, Learning and Intelligence"

by Mary Karlquist, president of the Minnesota Companion Bird Association. See page one for details.

### **October 5**

"Lead and Loons"

by Pam Perry, Department of Natural Resources, Brainerd. Ms. Perry has studied the damaging effects of lead on our precious loons.

### **November 9 (note: second Tuesday in Nov.)**

"Buckthorn: Biology, Ecology and Control"

by Janet Larson, landscape design consultant and forestry specialist. Ms. Larson will report on removal of and acceptable replacements for buckthorn.

### **December 7**

"Adventures in Argentina, Patagonia and Chile"

by Don Arnosti. Mr. Arnosti is the past Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota. In 2000, he and his family spent a year's sabbatical in Argentina.

### **February 1**

"Drainage Tile and Ditches, Streams and Riverbeds: Reaching a Balance Between Wetlands and Farming"

by Mark Holsten, Minnesota DNR Commissioner. Mr. Holsten shows both sides of the debate and emphasizes the need for a change in values.

### **March 1**

"Sea Bird Mortality and Our Ocean Legacy"

by Pam Blackledge, National Environmental Trust, Carbondale, IL. Ms. Blackledge explains the habitat and migration issues threatening sea birds today. Both the National Audubon and Audubon Minnesota support this campaign.

### **April 5**

"Can Urban Greenways Provide Avian Habitat? Yes!!"

by Jamie Mason, Ph.D. Ms. Mason shows how careful planning of forest structure and greenway design can promote bird diversity.

### **May 3**

"Achin' to See Aitkin"

by Warren Nelson. Mr. Nelson is a premiere birder and photographer who will bring us his "Show and Tell" presentation in May.

## Fall Field Trips

### **Hawk Ridge Weekend, September 17-19, Duluth MN**

#### **Friday, Sept. 17:**

Registration at 7:00 pm, UMD Life Sciences. Evening Speaker will be Eric Forsman, Wildlife Biologist, USFS, Corvallis, OR.

#### **Saturday, Sept. 18:**

Birding field trips 7:00 am. Locations and leaders announced at Friday evening program and also posted at the Ridge. At Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve: all day hawk watching, nature programs and hikes, optics display. Refreshments available.

Evening Program (location TBA) 6:00-8:00 registration, social, silent auction.

8:00 pm speaker: Kim Eckert "Answering the Call of Nature: One Naturalist's History of the Ridge." Kim Eckert has 40 years of experience of birding US and Canada, is the author of "A Birder's Guide to Minnesota" plus many articles for MOU publications and serves as Naturalist for Hawk Ridge. At the Nature Reserve.

#### **Sunday Sept. 19:**

Birding field trips 7:00 am and Hawk Ridge all day—same as Saturday.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual MN River Valley Bird Count, September 18**

Teams will conduct counts in specific locations along the MN River Valley. A count tally and reception for metro area counters will be held from 2-4 pm in Shakopee and for rural area counters from 2-4pm at the Ney Nature Center in Hutchison. Team leader at Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve will be Terry Brashear. (612.929.1976) Please call Terry for information and registration at Murphy-Hanrehan.

To join a team at a different count location, please call Bob Williams (612.728.2232) or check [www.birdingtrail.org](http://www.birdingtrail.org)

### **SPECIAL—Bird Walk at North Woods Audubon Center, October 2**

Join Tom and Phyllis Mahan at North Woods from 9:00 to 11:00 am. We can expect to find residents and late migrants in the Center's varied habitat – woods, lake, stream, wetlands and prairie. Then stay and enjoy the afternoon fun and activities at North Woods Annual Open House. Please call Tom to register: 763.588.5440

For more information or directions, call Mary Ellen, Field Trip Chair, at 763.561.1761

## Special Field Trip Report: Wood Duckling Jump

Last May, a special field trip was held at Jerry and Donna Bahls' house to view the emergence of the young wood ducks from their nesting box. A total of 27 people signed up to be called on a day's notice. It was anticipated that the jump would occur on a weekend and therefore would allow all to attend the blessed event. Unfortunately, Mother Duck didn't cooperate with us. The hatch occurred on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>, which meant the jump would occur the next day—on a Monday. While one person called in to work saying they had a meeting, many others could not attend because of work obligations. A couple had doctor appointments, and two were able to see only the last two ducklings jump. For that event, there was an audience of thirteen.

Fortunately, Jerry was able to predict that the jump would occur early in the morning. Mother Duck called the ducklings out at about 7:57 am. The event was very successful based on the "ooing" and outbursts of laughter. There were 23 eggs in the nest indicating there were, in fact, multiple mothers—probably three. After nineteen babies made their maiden flight (albeit uncontrolled), the mother took them down to the river. Because Jerry had a video camera in the box, he was able to see that one duckling had been left behind. He quickly went out to retrieve it and rushed down to the river to send it on its way with its siblings. Alas, there were no ducks in sight! Jerry returned to the house with the orphaned duckling. After a very short discussion of what to do, one happy observer, Sue Keator, stated that she volunteered at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota and consequently rushed it down to the center and put it in their incubator. She reported a couple of days later that the duckling was doing fine.

Thus culminated a very exciting morning and it was only 8:30 am. Jerry and Donna enthusiastically stated they will do it again next spring!

Footnote: Sue Keator reported that the duckling, along with his newly adopted siblings, were released on June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Carpenter Nature Center. Jerry reported that around June 17<sup>th</sup>, he observed about eight one month-old Wood Ducklings on the river. He likes to think they were part of the brood that jumped on May 17<sup>th</sup>!

I value my garden more for being  
full of blackbirds than of cherries,  
and very frankly give them fruit  
for their songs.

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

## Bird x Bird 2004 Project

Nearly 100 of this region's most notable artists will be making art in response to bird data collected at the Audubon Center of the North Woods and the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary, Theodore Wirth Park.

The project artists will meet with naturalists at North Woods and Butler Garden, participate in bird banding and learn about the natural habitat of indigenous species.

The art created will be exhibited in the Fine Arts Building on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds with an auction of the work on October 5, 2004 (preview 4-7 pm), auction 7 to 9 pm. Proceeds from Bird x Bird 2004 will benefit North Woods banding and wildlife rehabilitation and the sanctuary at Eloise Butler.

Here is a nice website from the MOU that has information about Hawk Ridge in Duluth, MN  
<http://www.cbs.umn.edu/~mou/ridge.html>



### The Raptor Center's Fall Sunday Lecture Series

**"Raptor Migration"**  
Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004  
1:00—2:30 p.m.

Learn about Hawk Ridge in Duluth, MN, one of the major raptor migration sites in North America. Find out why this is so, what raptors can be seen there, and how to identify them. The Raptor Center's resident birds will be on hand to meet and help in identification.

**"Bird Feeding 101"**  
Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004  
1:00—2:30 p.m.

Discover what foods are best, how to peacefully coexist with the wildlife that may show up at your feeder, and other helpful hints to make your yard the envy of the neighborhood.

**"Why Do We Band Birds?"**  
Sunday, Dec. 5, 2004  
1:00—2:30 p.m.

Learn how and why researchers band birds, what types of birds are banded, and what we can learn from them about survival rates, behavior, disease, and more.

All lectures take place at:  
The Raptor Center  
1920 Fitch Ave.  
St. Paul Campus University of Minnesota

The Sunday lecture series costs \$7.50 per adult, \$5 per student or senior, free for members of The Raptor Center. To reserve a seat, call 612.624.9753.

## A NEW SPECIES: CAMOUFLAGED BIRDS— EMBRACE AND COVET THEM

It is a quiet day out on the marsh. The birds we see are the ones we're used to seeing. But wait. There is a different bird out there. It looks like one of the regulars but its costume is different.

From the years when Marjorie Stoneman Douglas (1947) and Rachel Carson (1955) presented their magnificent ecological theses, it has been vogue to assail and pillory business organizations, their directors, officers and managers, as evil dark forces casting their shadow over the earth. Clearly our venom has been appropriately directed at those mountain top blast off coal mining scions, PCB and PBB dumping transformer folk, sugar growers and their fertilizer kin, and more recently, livestock manure slurry masters.

One telling mark of the intellectual station of a society is its ability to differentiate between those whose corrupt values must be met on a battlefield and those highly valued, principled leaders in our industrial communities who sense responsibility and duty toward future generations. In piercing the veil of camouflage worn by this last group, it makes very good sense to appreciate those who participate, whether on personal or company time (it does not matter which) in the preservation of vital wetlands, other fish and bird breeding grounds, tidal ponds, forests, prairies and river banks.

Take a look around you at your friends and acquaintances. Quietly and gently measure their ecological participation barometer against yours. You may be surprised at how many business people embrace trout stream fishing, bird watching and wildlife photography. And notice how many of them take their children and grandchildren to bird and wildlife sanctuaries, to coral reefs for snorkeling, or mountain hiking in the Rockies or Tetons.

Take time to embrace these people and their values. Let them know you appreciate those values. Remember, we will never enhance the population of the species if we do not help the species feel safe and secure in existing habitat. Embrace, particularly, those whose job it is to balance corporate sales and profit with the needs of the communities to which they belong. And remember, it is your job and mine to help them visualize the air they breathe, the real estate they occupy and the creeks and rivers they adjoin as part of the communities they dwell in.

The camouflage they wear many have evolved as a defense to the condemning bullets and arrows we fired at them earlier. Perhaps it is time organizations such as Minnesota Audubon invite them to design—with us—some guidelines and examples of ecological parameters that

business leaders might apply to current and future business decisions. To begin, we should be in dialogue so they might come to see us less as anti-business terrorists and more as constructive resources to them as they ponder their strategies. We cannot expect them to strip away their camouflage jackets and helmets until we doff our own battle costumes.

There is room in the marsh for all of us. Our shared goal should be to preserve the marsh for everyone.

—Robert C. Onan, Jr.  
Contributing Writer

## Birdseed Sale!

Audubon Minnesota's annual Bird Seed Sale is back this year, and 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, the special Audubon Minnesota Mix, and several other choices.

**Seed orders must be placed and prepaid by October 8, 2004.** Customer pick-up of seed orders will be on Saturday, October 16, between 9 am and 2 pm, at six convenient locations around the Twin Cities. The seed pick-up sites will be:

**Bloomington:** Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (3815 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Saint Paul (north):** Tamerack Nature Center (5287 Otter Lake Rd, White Bear Lake, just east of 35E on 96)

**Saint Paul (east):** Audubon Minnesota office (2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106, Woodbury – just off I-494 at the Lake Road exit)

**Lake Nokomis:** Mother Earth Gardens (3738 – 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. South)

**Plymouth:** 11410 – 49<sup>th</sup> Place North (private home)

**Roseville:** 2949 Farrington St. (private home)

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**Early pick-ups** may be made on Friday, October 15 *only* at Audubon's Woodbury office, between 9 am and 5 pm. Seed may also be picked up at the Audubon office during business hours (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) of the following week, October 18-22.

To receive an order form and more information, contact Jenny Vitale at the Audubon Minnesota office, 651.739.9332, or e-mail her at [jvitale@audubon.org](mailto:jvitale@audubon.org). Maps and directions to the pick-up sites will be mailed to seed purchasers 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.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
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KINGFISHER  
September 2004



### 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

- 7** Fall potluck dinner, 6:00 pm  
Chapter program, 7:00 pm
- 12** Raptor Center Sunday Lecture (page 4)
- 17-19** Hawk Ridge weekend (page 3)
- 18** Fall Raptor Release, Gale Woods Farm (page 1)

#### October

- 2** Bird Walk at North Woods (page 3)
- 5** Chapter program, 7:00 pm

Field trips are led by expert birders to some of Minnesota's finest natural habitats. Please see details inside this issue or call Mary Ellen (763.561.1761).

See you on the birding trails—  
guests are *always* welcome!

