



KINGFISHER



Summer 2002

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 51 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

FMR Birding Hikes

Join Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) and Audubon for a birding hike on the Mississippi River!

The birding hikes will be led by experienced guides from FMR and Audubon. Programs are free and open to the public, but space is limited and pre-registration is required. To sign up, please contact Alyssa at 651/222-2193 or ahawkins@fmr.org. For more information about other "Special Places Tours," please visit FMR's website at www.fmr.org.

The Mississippi is one of North America's most important flyways. Over 40% of North American waterfowl and millions of the continent's neo-tropical songbirds use the river corridor as a migratory route. In Spring in the Twin Cities area, parks along the river offer many of the best locations for spotting songbirds, wading birds and waterfowl that are passing through on their way to their summer ranges. As one species moves on, another arrives providing great variety and the promise of new sightings each day.

Birding Crosby Farm Regional Park Saturday, May 4, 7:30-9:30 am, St. Paul

Discover great birding in the urban wilderness! Nestled at the bottom of the gorge at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, this gem of a riverside park is a natural oasis in the heart of the city. Floodplain forests, small ponds and limestone bluffs make Crosby Farm one of the best places in the city to see birds.

Birding Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area Saturday, May 18, 7:00-9:00 am

Inver Grove Heights Katharine Ordway Natural History Study Area, which is owned and operated by Macalester College, is a 280-acre preserve located at the north end of the Pine Bend Bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. This very special place provides a variety of high quality natural areas offering great habitat for birds and other wildlife. We'll watch for birds in hardwood and floodplain forests, prairies and wetlands.

— Irene Jones
Outreach Director
Friends of the Mississippi River

May 7 Program

For over twenty-five years, the National Audubon Society has worked to educate citizens about the connection between population and the environment. In the 1980s, Audubon was successful in making sustainable development one of the fundamental tenets of U.S. foreign assistance.

Since then, Audubon has worked, both as a member of Planet Coalition and independently, to strengthen U.S. leadership in the arena of international family planning, arguing that healthier, happier and smaller families contribute to a healthier environment. In places where international family planning programs provide voluntary contraception, most women are choosing to have fewer children. This allows families to use their resources--both human and natural--more wisely. It also allows countries to reduce poverty in ways that cause less strain on the environment; including easing the pressure on the world's forests, ensuring that fresh water is available for future generations, alleviating the pressure on fisheries, reversing the trend towards global warming and preserving the precious variety of plant and animal species on our planet.

Desiree Sorenson Groves, Midwest Grassroots Coordinator for Audubon's Population and Habitat program, will join us on May 7 to discuss some of these issues, particularly the effects of deforestation in South America on the numbers of migratory songbirds we see each year here in Minnesota. This is a very complex and controversial, multi-pronged issue, so please join us and add your ideas to the discussion. We meet at 7:00 at Mayflower Church.

— Lisa McDonald
Program Chair



Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2000-2001 Contacts

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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/

Minnesota Audubon
www.audubon.org/chapter/mn/mn/index.html

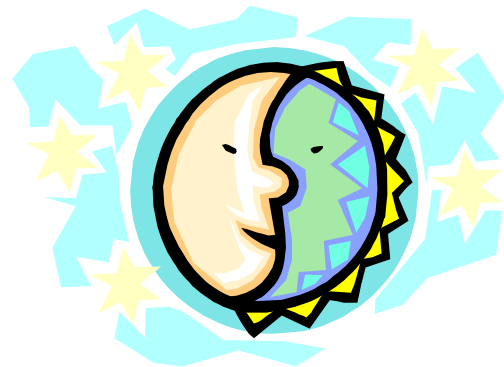
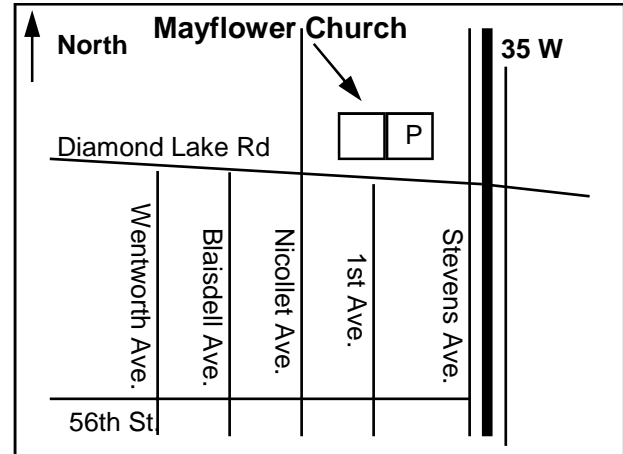
National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program

DATE: Tuesday, May 7, 2002

TIME: 7:00 p.m. Cookie Social, bring some to share
7:30 p.m. **"Sharing the Earth:
Population and Habitat"**

AT: Mayflower Church (Lower Level)
109 E. Diamond Lake Road, Minneapolis
(35W & East Diamond Lake Road)



Electronic Kingfisher

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

Rookeries

On the last day of March I saw the first Great Blue Heron around the rookery at Islands of Peace Park on the Mississippi River. A rookery is a communal nesting location for mixed colonies of herons and egrets. The rookery in the Mississippi River has nests of both Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets. There may be some Black-crowned Night Herons as well, but I have not seen them. Most heron and egret rookeries are mixed, but the mix is not always the same. The rookery on the small island in Lake Alice in Fergus Falls is predominantly Great Egrets. There are, however, Black-crowned Night Herons among them. The night herons nest lower in the trees.

The rookery in the Mississippi River may be seen from the 694 bridge as it crosses the river. For better views go to Islands of Peace Park and walk down to the river's edge. With binoculars you can see the herons and egrets flying back and forth to their nests. With a scope you can watch some of the courtship rituals. When the birds are feeding young, there is a lot of flying back and forth. There are smaller rookeries around, for example, at Baker Park. And there is a large rookery on the Minnesota River, but it is off limits during the nesting season. Please respect the signs. Others exist on Pig's Eye Island and just north of the Twin Cities off of I-35. Rookeries are fascinating places. Many are islands for the protection of the nestlings from land-based predators. They are noisy and they can be smelly.

While I was in Florida in early March I had the good fortune to spend a whole morning very close to a heron and egret rookery photographing the birds. This rookery is on a tiny island in a tiny pond, behind a highway department building in Venice, Florida. It is world famous for wildlife photographers, but apparently not as well known among birders. The morning I was there I was surrounded by at least half a million dollars in photographic equipment. I would have been intimidated except for the fact that I was too interested in the bird activity.

First of all, the herons and egrets are very brightly colored during the nesting season. The Great Blue Herons had bright blue lores (the skin right behind the bill to the eyes). Those of the Great Egrets were bright chartreuse green. The lores of Snowy Egrets were almost magenta. The Great and Snowy Egrets had extra plumes grown for the season that they raised like veils when displaying. The Great Blues also seemed to have extra feathering, but their's was on the chest.

The birds were in all stages of courting, mating, egg laying and feeding young. The Great Blue Herons were the farthest along in the process. Most were feeding young, although some were still incubating eggs. Every time

that a Great Blue would come to the nest, he would bring an offering of a stick for his mate. This was true even if the pair were already feeding young that were almost adult size. When the birds came to the nest with food, the young would tug at the bill of the adult. This caused the adult to regurgitate the food right into the throat of the young..

The Great Egrets start later than the Great Blues. Most were still tending eggs although some were feeding very young chicks. I was surprised to see that the eggs of a Great Egret are Robin's egg blue. The nest I was able to photograph the most had four eggs in it. Another nest with young that I could see and photograph had two chicks. They are so ugly, they are cute. The egret chicks too would bite the bill of the adult when they wanted to be fed.



I have to tell you I shot about six rolls of film and had a wonderful time.

— Vija Kelly

Treasurer Needed

We don't need a Certified Public Accountant, but we do need a Treasurer, someone to keep an account of Chapter income and disbursements and present that information at the Board Meetings and to the general membership each May. It's not terribly complicated.

Out of our 2700 person membership there must be someone willing to fill this vacancy. Where are you? Who are you? The chapter can't function without support from its members. Ideally the nominating committee would call you and personally invite you to act as treasurer, but we don't know all of you. You need to come to us. Please think about this.

Kim Halek has done a great job as treasurer but will be our new Kingfisher editor if one of you can replace her as treasurer. She offers to assist her replacement in learning the Treasurer's role. Help Kim become our Kingfisher editor by freeing her from the treasurer duties.

Please call any Officer, Board Member or Nominating Committee Member. Thank you!

— Fran Duritsa
612-822-4822
fduritsa@aol.com

Audubon Center of the North Woods Summer Youth Camp Scholarships

Our chapter is providing \$500 worth of scholarships for students to attend summer youth camps at the Audubon Center of the North Woods, located in Sandstone, Minnesota. To apply, contact Bob Nelson at 952-933-7340.

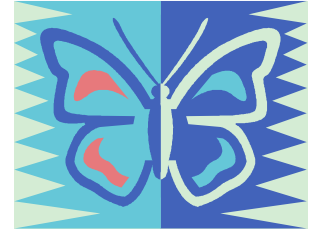


Audubon Center contact information:

888-404-7743

audubon1@audubon-center.org

www.audubon-center.org



Their Vision:

The environment is the blackboard for the center's educational programs; the common ground that brings us together with the natural world and people from around the globe to share our concerns for one another and the future. It is through positive and shared experience that we hope we can affect the values and actions of our people to create a world of harmonious diversity.

Level I Wild things: Ecology of the North Woods Wildlife

Ages: 10-12

Cost: \$390

Dates: July 6-13, 2002 and July 20-27, 2002

Experience the wonder of live wolves, birds of prey and songbirds. Get close to snakes, turtles and frogs in the wildlife classroom as you learn to understand the needs and unique characteristics of our wild neighbors. Nature activities include bird identification and banding, beaver studies, a bog walk, aquatic studies, and a nighttime frog hike. These wildlife explorations will be complemented by day hike adventures, Native American crafts, evening campfires and an overnight campout!

Level I Adventurers: Ropes, Rocks, and Rapids!

Ages: 12-14

Cost: \$390

Dates: July 6-13, 2001 and July 20-27, 2002

Join us for an adventurous week on our skywalk ropes course and climbing wall. Learn to use wilderness navigation skills while exploring wild lands and rivers. Experience the fur trade history of Minnesota and learn outdoor survival skills. Practice camping skills during an overnight canoe trip on a historic fur trade route. These exciting activities will help develop self confidence and teamwork, while exploring the beauty of the North Woods.

Level II Aquaventures: Aquatic Adventure Week

Ages: 12-15 (students must have attended an Audubon Camp in a prior year)

Cost: \$445

Dates: August 3-10, 2002

This exciting week of camp will build upon your prior NWWWS camp experiences. Campers will hone the moving water skills that they started in Level 1 in order to participate in the following exciting water activities: moving water canoeing on the Kettle River, rafting on the St. Louis River, a sea kayaking trip on Lake Superior, a trip to the Lake Superior Center and an overnight canoe trip adventure. These activities will provide campers with a fun-filled and high adventure look at one of the world's most important resources - water.

Hunt Hill Nature Center and Audubon Sanctuary

Summer Youth Camp Scholarships

Our chapter is providing \$250 worth of scholarships for students to attend summer youth camps at the Hunt Hill Nature Center and Audubon Sanctuary, located in Sarona, Wisconsin. To apply, contact Marion Borell at 612-866-1266.



Audubon Center contact information:
715-635-6543
hunthill@spacestar.net
www.audubon.org/local/sanctuary/hunthill/



Youth Ecology Adventure

Ages: 9-13

Dates: July 21-26

Cost: \$330; Members \$320

Youth are invited to participate in a fun learning adventure at Hunt Hill while they explore, paddle, hike, and enjoy our 500 acre Audubon Sanctuary. The majority of camp life centers on our crystal clear glacial lakes. Campers board our "Lake Lab" to study the hidden underwater of glacial lakes, don masks and snorkels to view underwater plants and wildlife up close, and venture onto floating bogs in search of insect-eating plants.

The adventure continues all week with canoeing, swimming, and an overnight campout. Evenings are filled with campfires, night hikes and guest visitors as campers enjoy nature and forge new friendships. New activities are offered each year to add appeal and new learning opportunities for returning campers. Friendships, learning, laughter and growth make this experience last a lifetime.

Teen River Ecology Adventures: Canoeing on the Namekagon

Ages: 13-15

Dates: July 21-26

Cost: \$375; Members \$365

This adventurous camp is designed to help teens discover their connections to the earth, develop outdoor skills and learn what it means to be a team player. Teen River Ecology incorporates our traditional ecology theme into an exciting week of adventure and challenge. Whether you are a first-time explorer or an expert paddler, this trip is geared towards those interested in exploring the beautiful Namekagon River.

The adventure begins at the Audubon Sanctuary, learning the basics of low impact camping, safe paddling and outdoor cooking skills while campers forge strong friendships and a team orientation for the days ahead. Afterwards the group sets out for a four/five day canoe trip where they uncover mysteries of the river, explore the ecology of the region and gain confidence with outdoor skills. Group sizes are small and campers fully participate in camp life as they paddle their way downstream.

The Namekagon National Scenic Riverway is home to bald eagles, soft-shelled turtles, and a variety of other northern wildlife. Experienced staff, trained in outdoor leadership, safety skills and team building guide campers. New friendships, learning adventures, and personal growth make this a memorable and fun week!

Let's Hear It For Herps!

Ages: 9-13

Dates: July 28-August 2

Cost: \$330; Members \$320

This youth camp returns by popular demand! Join campers and instructors in exploring the world of herpetology up close. Campers will learn who is slimy and who is not as they take close-up looks at the differences between reptiles and amphibians. The camp will make a splash as we explore what lives in and around our crystal clean glacial lakes. Setting up live aquariums, snorkeling to view the underwater world up close, and exploring the elusive floating bog for insect-eating plants are only a few of the week's highlights.

River Otter Canoe and Mini-Camp

Ages: 12-14

Dates: July 29-31

Cost: \$200; Members \$180

This introductory residential camp will teach campers the basics of canoe and low impact camping skills. Campers will begin at Hunt Hill learning the art of canoeing (including some advanced strokes), learn basic camping and cooking skills, and water safety. Afterwards the group heads out for an overnight canoe trip on the scenic Namekagon River. This is an excellent primer for Teen River Ecology Adventure.

Beginning Birding Class

Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 a.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center
St. Louis Park, MN

Classroom session starts at 9:00 AM
Field trip follows at about 10:00 AM

For details, call Jerry at 763-572-2333.

— Jerry Bahls

Rice Creek Field Trip

Saturday, May 4th, 7:30 a.m.

Rice Creek Nature Area
Fridley, MN

Bird watching at its best! Join us at Rice Creek for a morning of birding. If you haven't been to this nature area yet, this is the time to go. We will meet at the main parking lot. Visitors are always welcome!

For details, call Terry at 612-929-1976.

— Phyllis Mahan

Crex Meadows Field Trip

Saturday, May 11th, 8:45 a.m.

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area
Grantsburg, WI

Meet at Crex Meadows Nature Center at 8:45am for a 2 hour tour led by James Hoefler who was our March program speaker. Crex Meadows is located 85 miles from Minneapolis near Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

For car pooling and other details, call John Arthur at (952) 931-0819 or e-mail jarthur@visi.com.

You should see Trumpeter Swans, Sandhill Cranes, loons, Red-necked Grebe, lots of shore and prairie birds, maybe Sharp-tailed Grouse and maybe an eagle. Plan on picnicking at the park, and inside the building if it's raining. See you there!

— John Arthur

North Woods Adult Education

Hamline University and the Audubon Center of the North Woods have joined to offer a Master's Level Certificate in Environmental Education. Hamline, located in St. Paul, MN, was founded in 1854. Its mission is to prepare students for leadership and service. Hamline's Center for Global Environmental Education is committed to supporting the personal and professional growth of teachers across the country. The following courses are taught at the Audubon Center by professional instructors.

Below is a sampling of the classes being offered. For more information or to register, contact:

Audubon Center of the North Woods
PO Box 530
Sandstone, MN 55072
888-404-7743
audubon1@audubon-center.org
www.audubon-center.com

Hamline EE Certificate and EE Master's Program Areas:
EE Fundamentals
Earth Systems and Ecology
Environmental Issues
Special Topics - Electives
Teaching Methods for EE

Interdisciplinary Environmental Education - 3 Credits

Dates: July 15 - 19, 2002

Cost: \$270 (\$567 with credit)

A survey of available curriculum activities and projects for the classroom and the field.

Instructors - Mike Link, Clarissa Ellis, Craig Prudhomme, Tracy Moore, Kate Crowley

Landscapes and Geology of Minnesota - 3 Credits

Dates: July 28 - August 2, 2002

Cost: \$470 (\$767 with credit)

A camping course exploring the bedrock and glacial landforms of Minnesota from the Mississippi River Valley to the Canadian border. Map studies followed by field investigation.

Instructors - Mike Link, Craig Prudhomme

Biomes of Minnesota - 3 Credits

Dates: August 4 - 9, 2002

Cost: \$470 (\$767 with credit)

A camping course that includes a field survey of the three biomes of Minnesota - prairie, deciduous, and boreal. Field research, data collection, plant and animal identification.

Instructors - Mike Link, Craig Prudhomme

— Mary Ellen Vetter
Education Chair

Membership Chair Needed

Jerry Bahls announced at the last Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board meeting that he is stepping down as the Membership Chair for the Chapter. He has agreed to continue to serve on the Committee to maintain the data base for the Chapter, but will no longer be responsible for other membership duties. He is looking forward to assisting the Chapter in other activities that are more suited to his interests.

The Membership Chair is responsible for answering questions from members concerning membership in Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM) and the National Audubon Society (NAS). A major responsibility is the recruitment of new members for the Chapter. This has become a very important responsibility because of the change that was implemented last July by NAS. This change reduced the payments for existing members to the chapters and gave them the full first year dues for chapter recruited members, thus shifting the responsibility for recruiting members to the chapters from NAS. The recent dropping of the July/August Kingfisher from publication, among other cuts, is a result of that change.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is looking for someone to Chair the Membership Committee that involves assuming the duties of membership maintenance and new member recruitment. Membership maintenance involves answering members' questions about the Chapter and NAS. This involves very little time. New member recruitment is a major change for the Chapter. With the new policy, recruiting new members has a major impact upon our budget. It will be the responsibility of the new chair to plan activities that will entice people to join ACM. NAS has supporting programs that help with this. Two recruiting drives a year affect the time commitment accordingly. It is hoped that the new chair will have many new ideas for recruiting members. The ACM Board recognizes this as a priority and will support as many activities as it can finance.

Please help us by donating your talents to give us a firm foundation to work from in the future.

— Jerry Bahls
Membership Chair



Thanks to Mailing Team

Another mailing season is coming to an end. The mailing team will meet for the last time on April 15th before a Summer break. As you all know Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has dropped the July/August issue as a cost saving measure, so the next (after April) mailing team get together will be in August for the September mailing. Therefore it is time to thank the following for their dedication for helping get the Kingfisher to you: Dorothy Brindle, Fran Duritsa, Dorothy Lindeen, Darlene and Don Olson, Lois Dick, Mary Ellen Vetter, Jean King, Brenda Reishus, Allan and Alice Fagley, Marianna Tiller, Clara Dahle, Darlene Pfister, Bill Caverly, Jean Beale, Kathy Smith, Ann Leycom and Bernie Lindquist. I would also like to thank Doris Grambow for her help in the past. I know she would be there if she were able to. If you see any of these members, please thank them personally.

— Jerry Bahls
Mailing Chair

Westwood Hills Field Trip

Saturday, May 11th, 7:30 a.m.

Westwood Hills Nature Center
St. Louis Park, MN

Join us on this spring day and catch those spring migrants during the peak of migration. We will meet at the main parking lot and spend the morning birding. Bring your sharp eyes and keen ears!

For details, call Tom at 763-588-5440.

— Phyllis Mahan

Eloise Butler Field Trip

Sunday, May 12th, 7:30 a.m.

Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden
Minneapolis, MN

Treat Mom to a bird walk! Join us on Mother's Day for spring migrants and blooming wildflowers. Eloise Butler has long been a popular spot for Mother's Day walks. We will meet at the main parking lot, which has self-pay slots for a dollar.

For details, call Tom at 763-588-5440.

— Phyllis Mahan

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KINGFISHER
Summer 2002



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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
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

May

- 4 FMR Birding Hike, 7:30—9:30 a.m.
Crosby Farm Regional Park:
- 4 Rice Creek Field Trip, 7:30 a.m.
- 7 Chapter Program, 7:00 p.m.
"Sharing the Earth:
Population and Habitat"
- 11 Westwood Hills Field Trip, 7:30 a.m.
- 11 Crex Meadows Field Trip, 8:45 a.m.
- 12 Eloise Butler Field Trip, 7:30 a.m.
- 14 Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 15 Kenn Kaufman, 7:30p.m.
Macalester College
- 18 FMR Birding Hike, 7:00—9:00 a.m.
Katharine Ordway Natural History
Study Area

June

- TBD Chapter Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m.

Have a Great Summer!
See you on the birding trails!

All are welcome to the Chapter Board Meetings!
Call the president for details.