



KINGFISHER



May 2004

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 53 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

May 4th Program

Please join the Chapter members and guests for our final program of the season on Tuesday, May 4th.

Daniel Huff is the Watershed Program Director of the Friends of the Mississippi River citizen group based in St. Paul. Daniel holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and will receive his Master's degree in Public Affairs from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota in May. He began his work at Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) last November and heads up the new Watershed Initiative, which he will speak about at our next program.

The Watershed Initiative focuses on policy, advocacy, and organization at the sub-watershed level in order to improve water quality and protect important resources. Presently, Daniel is focusing solely on the Vermillion River Watershed (south metro) and the Rice Creek Watershed (north metro). Both of these sub-watersheds are located on the fringe of the metro area—locations which are experiencing rapid development and urbanization.

Daniel will speak about both watersheds, the issues facing them, what strategy FMR is using to address these issues, and how Audubon members can become involved.

Our May program will begin with a cookie social at 6:30 pm, followed by Daniel's presentation at 7:30 pm. See you then!



In Memoriam—

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is sorry to report the death of a longtime chapter member and good friend...

Dorothy Breckenridge, age 94, passed away on March 28 and was a member of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, and the Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. She was married to Dr. Walter Breckenridge for nearly 70 years and together they traveled around the globe. Many members were able to attend her memorial service. We will miss her.

Wood Duck Jump Watch!

There will be a special field trip to Jerry Bahls' home to view the annual jump of the baby wood ducks. The trip (jump) will probably occur some time between May 10th and May 20th, between 7:00 am and 11:00 am, depending upon the hatch date.

Since there is a video camera in the box, a one-day notice will be given to those who want to participate. Wood ducks hatch and the next day, they jump. Reserve the whole morning to watch the babies in the box before the jump and then review the video (instant replay!) afterwards. Coffee and cookies will be provided. If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry at 763- 572-2333 to get on his call list.

The Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail

The Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail is a project of Audubon Minnesota and it spans the Minnesota River watershed from its headwaters near the South Dakota border to its confluence with the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. The Trail promotes the beauty, wildlife, natural habitats, and recreational opportunities of this unique region.

Using existing roads and facilities, the Birding Trail connects the best birding sites in the Minnesota River Valley basin. The Birding Trail serves to make birding more accessible, convenient, and educational. Detailed maps, directions, and site descriptions are available via the following website: <http://www.birdingtrail.org> as well as at most state parks in the Minnesota River Watershed or through the mail from Audubon Minnesota.

This Trail contains 132 prime birding sites and an additional 55 sites located in 11 regions and 17 loops. A printable "List of Valley Birds" compiled by Bob Jannsen is available on the website as well as his article about bird migration in the Minnesota River Valley. Check it out!



**BRING A PLATE OF COOKIES TO SHARE!
THE CHAPTER'S SPRING COOKIE SOCIAL BEGINS AT 6:30 PM PRIOR TO THE EVENING'S PROGRAM ON MAY 4TH.**

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Board Member	<open>	
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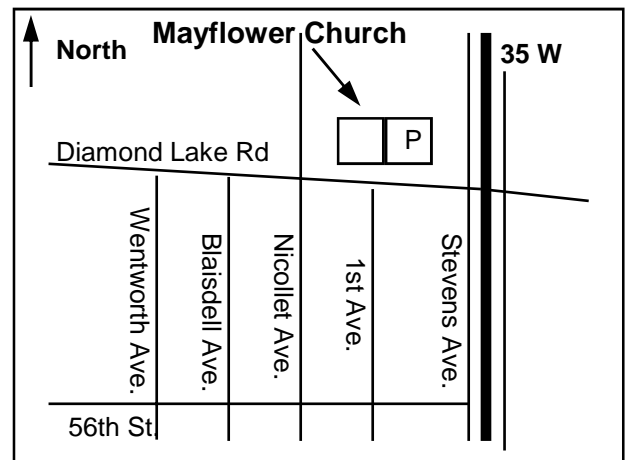
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

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

National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

Come to Our Next Program!

- DATE:** Tuesday, May 4
Daniel Huff, "Friends of the Mississippi River
Watershed Initiative"
- TIME:** Cookie Social 6:30 pm
Program begins at 7:30 pm
- 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

Upcoming Chapter Field Trips for May and the Summer Months

The following is a list of field trips and events, some led by our own wonderful Chapter members. The Tuesday morning trips need no pre-registration but please contact the leaders of the other trips to let them know to expect you...

April and May—Every Tuesday, 9:00 am to 11:30 am, Roberts Sanctuary, Lake Harriet, Minneapolis
Meet at the East Gate on north side of the lake. The afternoon birding location will be announced that morning.
Bring a lunch and enjoy a whole day of birding, no registration necessary.

May 1

Stearns County/Clearwater West, 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. To form carpools, meet at the Park & Ride on Brooklyn Blvd. and 65th Ave. N. (Exit I-94/694 West to Brooklyn Blvd., south to 65th Ave.) Expect to see waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, forest and prairie birds. Bring a lunch. Leader: Sylvia Winkelman, 763-533-8381 sparrowsister1@att.net

May 8

Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds, Bloomington, 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Exit I-494 east at 24th Ave., south 1 mile to 86th St., left on 86th St. to dead end. See spring migrants, especially warblers. Leader: Tom Mahan, 763-588-5440 mahan-mail@att.net

May 9

Butler Wildflower Gardens, Theodore Wirth Park, Minneapolis, 7:30 am to 11:00 am. Hwy 55 west to Wirth Parkway, south ½ mile, cross Glenwood, entrance is on left. See wildflowers and migrating birds. Leader: Tom Mahan, 763-588-5440 mahan-mail@att.net

May 15

Rice Creek Park, Fridley, 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Exit I-694 at Hwy 65/Central Ave., north to 1st traffic light, right at Old Central Ave., north to 69th Ave. N.E., right on 69th, 1/8th mile to entrance. Walking trails cross Rice Creek; see migrant warblers, vireos, flycatchers, etc. Leader: Terry Brashear, 612- 929-1976 birdnird@yahoo.net

May 22

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, Grantsburg, WI 9:00 am. Call John to carpool or meet at the Crex Headquarters: Exit I-35 North at Hwy 70, go east to Grantsburg, then north on County Road F to County Road D, east on D to the Hdqtrs. Bring a lunch. Car caravan tour of the refuge for nesting Trumpeters and shorebirds. Leader: John Arthur, 952-931-0819 jarthur@visi.com

June 5

Lake Maria State Park, Monticello, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Exit I-94 west at #193, go right to 6th Street, left on 6th, north to Elm Street, left on Hwy 39 to County Road 111 to park entrance (7 miles from Monticello). Bring a lunch to picnic at Dorene's cabin (beverages provided). That afternoon, we will visit Dorene's bluebird trails to see nesting bluebirds. Leader: Dorene Scriven, 612-922-4586 scriv001@tc.umn.edu

SPECIAL : SUMMER DRAGONFLY WALKS
LEADERS: JOHN ARTHUR and PAMELA DEER-
WOOD 952-931-0819



June 12

Lone Lake Park, Minnetonka, 1:30 pm. Meet: Shady Oak (Hwy 61) south of Excelsior Blvd. or north of Crosstown Hwy 62. Use lower parking lot. We'll look for Chalk-fronted Corporals, Frosted White-faced, Dot-tailed White-faced, Twelve spotted Skimmers. If you have one, bring a canoe and tour the lake for more species.

July 10

Coon Rapids Regional Park, Coon Rapids, 1:30 pm. Meet: Exit I-694 at E. River Road, north to park entrance. Look for American Ruby Spots, Ebony Jewelwings, Cobra Clubtails, Eastern Pondhawks and Powered Dancers; also several species of damselflies.

August 21

Wood Lake Nature Center, 1:30 pm. Meet: Exit I-35 South at 66th St., east on 66th to 2nd light, then right onto Lake Shore Drive, or southwest of Lyndale and 66th St. Look for Meadowhawks-- White-faced, Yellow-legged, Band-winged and Cherry-faced. We should also find various species of darners.

Chapter's Annual Meeting

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will hold its Annual Meeting at the monthly program meeting on Tuesday, May 4, 2004.

The President, Tom Mahan, will give a brief summary of the Chapter's activities from the past year and the Treasurer, Phyllis Mahan, will present the annual financial report.

The Chapter members present at this meeting will vote to elect candidates for the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for election at the Annual Meeting:

Candidates to be elected as directors for a three-year term:

- ◆ James Egge, Minneapolis
- ◆ Michael Flannery, Orono
- ◆ One position remains open

(Submitted by the Nominating Committee of Louise Cameron, Allan Fagely, and Jerry Bahls, Chairperson.)

The Nominating Committee is actively seeking additional candidates for the open Director position (a three-year term); a candidate for appointment to fill a two-year vacancy; and a candidate for appointment to fill a one-year vacancy.

A Personal Note...

"I have agreed to serve as President of the Board for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and I look forward to the opportunity to serve you.

However if you check the list of positions in the chapter, you see my name far too often. It is not that I don't want or like to do these things—the problem is it is not healthy for an organization to have the same people holding so many of the chapter leadership positions.

An organization can stagnate or, worse yet, that person can suddenly leave and then there is chaos! Please don't wait to be asked to serve, **ASK** to serve!"

—Jerry Bahls



Sixteen participants attended the Chapter's bird identification class on Saturday, March 27 at Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park. Instructor Terry Brashear outlined the major observation points to use when identifying birds. Terry and Tom Mahan then led the group along the trails to practice their new skills. Look for similar upcoming events next season!

Chapter member Fran Duritsa recently returned from a trip to Durham, North Carolina, and shared an interesting newspaper article from Jordan Lake, NC about the 2003 Christmas Bird Count held in that area. The event identified 90 different species of birds and 15,943 individual birds, which was down substantially from the record numbers (27,162) in 2002. Despite the lower number of birds, record high numbers were reported for horned grebes, snow geese, wild turkeys, Carolina chickadees, and yellow-rumped warblers. But there were species missing from this year's count including the Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Palm Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, and the Savannah Sparrow. Why? For more information about these results and others, check <http://www.duke.edu> or <http://www.audubon.org> on the web.

Questionnaire Results

Here is a summary of the results from the questionnaire that was included with the March Kingfisher mailing. We received a total of 110 responses.

Because the printing of the Kingfisher newsletter is the Chapter's largest expense, the membership indicated it would be willing to reduce the number of Kingfishers they receive to six per year instead of the current eight.

Members responded that they find articles about environmental preservation valuable, followed by science articles about birds, stories about birds, and program information.

Assisting with the newsletter mailing was chosen as the most popular method of contributing to the Kingfisher, and others indicated an interest in writing articles and being an assistant editor (hooray!)

Many members did not attend any Chapter programs last year, with a conflict on Tuesday evening being the primary reason. Chapter and legislative issues didn't generate much interest as program topics, but there is much interest in attending joint chapter programs and responders indicated they would like to watch our recorded programs on cable TV or check them out at the library.

All of the chapter activities listed such as the Bluebird Recovery Program, field trips, educational programs (like the Bird ID Class) all received nearly equal support as "most important." However, when asked which programs they would really like to participate in, field trips were the clear winners.

Finally, we received some good leads on those who might volunteer for our activities in the future. We thank you for your help!

—Jerry Bahls

A Lovely Bird Book Recommendation...

I'd like to share one of my favorite books: The Bird House by Cynthia Rylant. You'll most likely find it in the children's section of the bookstore, but I bought it for myself. The story is about a young girl who has no home or family and happens upon a country house that is a haven for many different birds and, eventually, for her.

The colorful illustrations by Barry Moser are done in transparent watercolor on linen; my favorite is of the barred owl "who never moves."

I (and my daughters) recommend this book to anyone who is seeking a different "birdy" book for a young (or not-so-young) person in their life.

—Kim Halek

2004 Adult Summer Programs

Investigate some of the interesting summer programs available to adults through the Audubon Center of the North Woods this year!

Minnesota Aquatic Systems July 11th – 17th, 2004

Lakes, rivers, and wetlands – how do they work, what lives in them?

We will compare different wetlands, streams, and lakes via plankton, chemistry, macro invertebrates, fish, and plants. We will measure temperature and oxygen, turbidity and pH, and conduct other chemical tests in addition to the biological surveys. We will look at these systems in both horizontal and vertical profiles. Come and get wet and learn with Mike Link and Wayne Pikal.

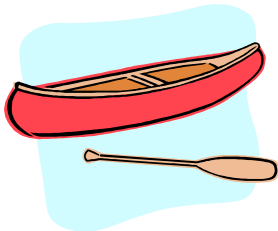
Cost: \$650 Lodging & meals included

Boundary Waters Field Studies August 9th – 13th, 2004

Sample the nation's premier water-based Canoe Wilderness. Look at rock structure, fire ecology, plant communities; identify plants and animals, study the geologic and topographic maps.

Discover the ecological web of one of our most pristine environments. This will be by canoe and wilderness camping. Led by Mike Link and Craig Prudhomme.

Cost: \$750 Camping fees & meals included



Lake Superior Studies June 20th – 26th, 2004

Lake Superior is more than a landform; it is a geographic region that encompasses three states and one province; it is the world's largest freshwater body (area), a place of commerce, economics, culture, and environment that is unique in the world. Here is a place where the lake creates weather and affects the everyday life of people who live within 50 miles. This program is one of a sequence of Lake Superior explorations that will attempt to look at the lake, the people, the geology, and the biology as a set of interacting systems. Instructor: Mike Link.

Cost: \$750 Camping fees & most meals included

"Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences."

Behavioral Ecology: The Mammals of the Badlands June 28th – July 1st, 2004

Bison, prairie dogs, tall grass prairies and a multicolored landscape – what a setting for discovery!

This program combines the natural history of large mammals and techniques for research and inquiry. Four days in the Badlands National Park in South Dakota will provide an opportunity to use a variety of sampling methods, mapping, ethograms, prediction and observation as we study bison, pronghorns, mule deer, prairie dogs, coyotes, and bighorns. There will also be a breeding bird survey conducted each morning and vegetative surveys to create a plant community key. We will discuss the animals, the geology, the plant communities and the complex systems that we are able to observe. This will build skills in research and inquiry that will enhance the participants' natural history knowledge. Instructors: Mike Link & Kendra Pyle.

Cost: \$750 Lodging & some meals included

*Note: Meet us in the Badlands or contact ACNW for transportation at an additional fee.

REGISTRATION

Contact the Audubon Center of the North Woods at 1-888-404-7743 or

Audubon1@audubon-center.org

You can also visit the Audubon Center's web site at www.audubon-center.org

STILL Have Some Time on Your Hands?

The Friends of the Mississippi River organization (see page one for info. about our May program speaker, Daniel Huff) has a number of interesting spring events on its calendar. Visit the website for more information.

- * **Sunday, May 2** "Gardening for a Rainy Day: Native Plants, Rain Gardens, and Lawncare for Water Quality," MN State Fairgrounds, 2:00 pm
- * **Saturday, May 8** "Birding at Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area," Inver Grove Heights, MN
- * **Saturday, May 22** "Birding at Springbrook Nature Center," Fridley, MN
- * **Saturday, June 5** "Prairie Planting." Families and children are welcome to help plant several species of forbs and grasses at a remnant prairie and oak savannah along the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Tools, training and lunch provided
- * **Tuesday, June 22** "Wildflower Walk at Grey Clouds Scientific and Nature Area," Cottage Grove, MN
- * **Saturday, June 26** "Paddling the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes," Lino Lakes, MN, 10:00 am, small fee
- * **Saturday, August 21** "Exploring the Geology of Minnehaha Falls," Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, 10:00 am

For more information and to register for events, see <http://www.fmr.org/calendar>

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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KINGFISHER
May 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

May

- 1 Sterns County field trip, 7:00 am
- 4 Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
Chapter social/program, 6:30/7:30 pm
- 8 Cedar Bridge/Bass Ponds trip, 7:30 am
- 9 Butler Wildflower Garden trip, 7:30 am
- 11 Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
Chapter Board meeting
- 15 Rice Creek Park field trip, 7:30 am
- 18 Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am
- 22 Crex Meadows field trip, 9:00 am
- 25 Tuesday field trip, 9:00 am

June

- 5 Lake Maria State Park field trip, 10:00 am
- 12 Lone Lake Park field trip, 1:30 pm

July

- 10 Coon Rapids Reg. Park field trip, 1:30 pm

August

- 21 Wood Lake Nature Ctr field trip, 1:30 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) for more details.

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