



# The REDHEAD



## Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery

Fall 2007

A Special Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 1 No. 4

### A Note from the Editor

Any organization that is formed needs to have some guiding principles. At our last meeting we approved the following to serve as a guide in the future.

**Project Goal:** To reverse the decline and encourage the recovery of Red-headed Woodpecker populations through the creation, preservation, and restoration of habitat, research, and public education.

**Objectives:**

1. Identify the specific habitat needs and evidence of the decline of the Red-headed Woodpecker (RHWO)
  - (a) Research habitat preferences/needs
  - (b) Gather evidence of species decline
  - (c) Identify state & national RHWO experts
2. Locate existing clusters (more than one breeding pair) of RHWO in Minnesota
  - (a) Visit and document cluster existence
  - (b) Document and photograph cluster habitat and nest sites
3. Encourage the preservation and restoration of existing RHWO cluster habitat
  - (a) Develop Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - (b) Distribute BMPs to appropriate landowners, golf course superintendents, nature centers, etc.
  - (c) Create an attractive 'appreciation certificate' for landowners, golf courses, nature centers, etc.
4. Encourage the creation of new oak savannah and other habitats conducive to nesting RHWO populations
  - (a) Work with state and national groups concerned with RHWO recovery
  - (b) Contact Audubon, Nature Conservancy, NWR, DNR, SNA, DNR Non-Game, etc.
5. Experiment with the creation and placement of nest boxes in appropriate areas to encourage RHWO nesting efforts.
  - (a) Design an appropriate nest box for RHWO
  - (b) Place and monitor boxes in a few select cluster areas
6. Raise public awareness of the plight of the RHWO
  - (a) Disseminate Information at venues such as the "Paper Session" at MN Ornithological Union
  - (b) Encourage newspaper/newsletter articles and other media attention
  - (c) Create an attractive patch or pin to be worn by birders

Since this is our "Congressional Record", we publish it here for our membership.

-Interim Editor—Jerry Bahls

### Habitat Information

#### Cedar Creek Visit Very Productive

On September 12th Chet Meyers and Keith Olstad visited the Cedar Creek Natural History Area near Bethel, MN. Dr. Jeffrey Corney, associate director of the Area, has been very cooperative in encouraging our exploration of the Red-headed Woodpecker population at Cedar Creek. Keith and Chet only spent two hours, but were excited to find twenty-one RHWO in three different clusters. We are exploring working with the Cedar Creek project by conducting nesting surveys there next spring.

#### RHWO Cluster Reporting

Objective 2 is to "Locate existing clusters (more than one breeding pair) of RHWO in Minnesota". To facilitate and make the report uniform, we have developed a *Red-headed Woodpecker Cluster Documentation Form* that we request you use when you locate a cluster. You can obtain a copy by contacting us or downloading it from our website [www.Redheadrecovery.org](http://www.Redheadrecovery.org).

#### Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Website

The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery now has a website. You can access the site by going to [www.Redheadrecovery.org](http://www.Redheadrecovery.org). Please look it over and give us your feedback on it. We would like to thank Kurt Klussendorf for developing the site. We would also like to thank Jim Williams for donating the pictures for the site.

This website will be our main contact with our members and the general public on our activities, so visit it often. It currently has six pull down menus—*The Problem, The Solution, How To Help, Red-head Info, FAQ and Contact Us*. We are particularly interested in having you ask us questions that we will use in our *FAQ* menu. We will also have Cluster Reporting forms online that you will be able to download to use when you locate a cluster (more than one breeding pair) of RHWO's. There is also a membership application form that you can download to join RhWR.

## Migratory Info about RHWO

The red-headed woodpecker is a short distance migrant or doesn't migrate at all. It is very difficult to clearly articulate their migratory patterns. In Minnesota and Canada they clearly go south. On the east coast and along the Gulf coast they appear to move inland and that means moving north in the Gulf coast area. From the historical records, the one thing is clear—they tend to move to food. In the past that has meant they moved to the beechnut forests to feed on beechnuts (a favorite food).

Another item that is not entirely clear is what time of day they migrate. It appears from records that in the Spring they are nocturnal migrants. In the Fall, however, they appear to be diurnal migrants. This may be explained by their movement towards food or their quest for food. Daytime would help in this search. They have been seen migrating with bluejays, also a diurnal migrant.

These questions about their migratory pattern emphasizes that they have not been studied to the extent needed to help their recovery.

## RhWR Contact Information

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

President John Arthur 952 931-0819  
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Website [www.geocities.com/audubon.geo](http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo)

### Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery

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## Next RhWR Meeting

The RhWR will meet January 9, 2008 (7:00 pm) at the Dunn Bros Coffee Shop at 34th & Hennepin Ave S in Minneapolis. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Check our website for current information.

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery  
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
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Place  
Stamp  
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## Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery at the rate of \$5/year! Please send my membership information to the address below.

Yes, I'd like to join! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis at the rate of \$13/year. Please send my membership information and *Kingfisher* to the address below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Send this application and make check payable to:**  
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
RhWR  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801