



KINGFISHER



September 2009

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 58 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President...

I feel fortunate to follow Jerry Bahls, past President, with the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis in a healthy, active state. He will be a part of the board to keep things in the right direction. Also, Vice-President John Arthur will be a great help (also a past President).

Environmental advocates have done a great job of promoting natural areas and Americans have contributed much money and expertise to advance habitat preservation around the world. But having wildlife areas available and conservation programs in place doesn't mean much unless we can pass this aspect of our culture onto the next generation.

Audubon may lead all wildlife organizations in their emphasis on education. We have to get larger numbers of our kids, not only outdoors, but understanding nature and their role in it. Understanding leads to appreciation, which can lead to the kind of passion that it takes to sustain this dwindling resource.

I'm encouraged by reading about programs targeting youth such as "Project Venture North" near Ely, Minnesota. It was patterned after Project Venture in New Mexico. Once a month, local students in 5th through 7th grades visit camp Widjiwagan for a weekend of outdoor fun and experiential education. The program includes mostly American Indian students, other ethnic minorities, and low-income students.

These are kids who live in "Nature's Disneyland," the Quetico-Superior region, and have little experience with the wonderful natural area in their backyard. Along with the obvious impacts of such a program, educators have found that Project Venture youth have developed stronger relationships with adults, and have shown lower dropout rates. A national study of high-risk youth found that two years after enrollment, participants have shown a dramatic reduction in drug and alcohol use compared to their peers.

We live in a metropolis gifted with magnificent natural resources. Many of our local kids have had little benefit from our parks and preserves, mostly because of the need for mentors. Let's make the next year long-term productive for the natural world.

More information about Project Venture can be found in Wilderness News from the Quetico-Superior Foundation, www.wildernessnews.org

—Jim Egge



...and from the Conservation Committee

Now that it's fall, I hope many ACM members' fancy will turn to conservation. The committee could use a few (more) good members. We're going to continue to follow the board's meeting schedule (last Tuesday of the month) and location (Uptown Lund's); the next meeting is September 29. The meetings run from 6 to 7 p.m. Now would be a great time to join the committee because you can help determine where it focuses in 2010.

For those Tuesday nights when you're not attending an ACM chapter, board, or committee meeting, head over to Lake Nokomis to do some stress-reducing, nature-pleasing gardening. The Wild Ones organization will continue to work on the Naturescape on the east side of the lake every Tuesday evening through the fall (weather permitting). Vicki Bonk and her Wild Ones group welcome gardeners of any level. I've been showing up as often as possible and have really enjoyed myself. I've gained practical experience with native plants and it shows in my yard at home. I hope to see some ACM people at the Naturescape. If you have any questions, feel free to email Vicki at bonkry@core.com.

I did see some ACM members at the Eloise Butler Wild Flower Garden this past spring at the garlic mustard pulls. We worked under the supervision of Jim Proctor, a volunteer from the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. Again, the experience was an enjoyable one. I've never pulled garlic mustard and I was worried that I might pull desirable plants by mistake. No chance. I learned there are many ways to confirm that garlic mustard is garlic mustard and, yes, it does smell like garlic! The last time I visited the garden, I arrived on a large yellow bus. I'd forgotten what a beautiful place it is! It's worth a visit under any circumstances but when you're there as a volunteer, you have the chance to peek behind the curtain, so to speak, and see parts of the garden that are literally off the beaten path. I look forward to working with Jim and the Friends again and encourage everyone to check out the garden.

Something else to check out is the new ACM website. If it's not up and running by the time you read this newsletter, it will be soon. The site will be a useful tool for conservation activities. Please take advantage of it! As always, email me at heal0055@umn.edu.

—Kit Healy

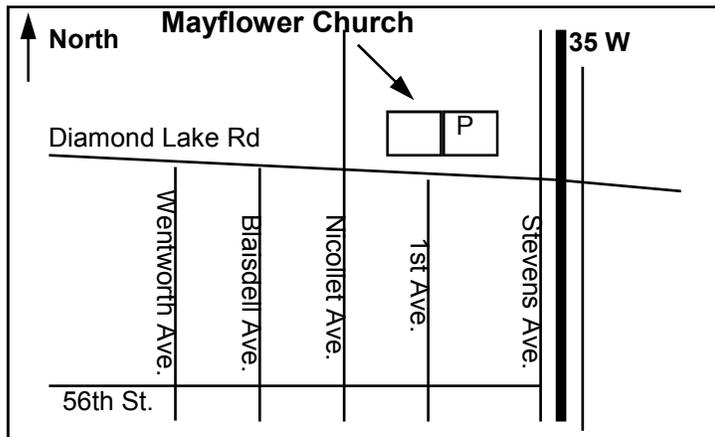


Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 1, 2009

TIME: Program at 7:00 PM
University of Minnesota Raptor Center,
Kestrel Program

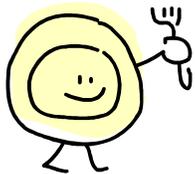
AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)



Minneapolis Audubon Society

Bryant Square (31st & Bryant Avenue S)

Friday, September 11, 2009, 12 noon



All are welcome to our first meeting of the season!
Pot luck at noon - bring a dish to share and your own utensils.
Program at 1 p.m. to be announced.

Please join us.

Program Committee Update

Hello! We are the new chairs of the Program Committee for the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and are responsible for arranging the programs presented at the regular meetings of the chapter.

We are excited to be more involved with the chapter. The Board has put together a list of possible topics for programs, but we would also like to hear from you as to what your ideas are for programs. If you have a suggestion, please contact us at 612-922-6980, or mickey@usinternet.com.

Thank you! Marji and Bill, Program Committee Co-Chairs.

Here is a list of the possibilities for upcoming programs:

October 6, 2009: Legislators discussing upcoming issues

November 3, 2009: Minnesota Flyway

December 1, 2009: Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas Project

January 5, 2010: Possible joint meeting with MRVAC, Isaac Walton League and St. Paul Audubon Chapter

February 2, 2010: Swans

March 2, 2010: Birding sites

April 6, 2010: Beginning Birding

May 4, 2010: Wetlands and bird habitats



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Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890**

A FALL PRELUDE:
CARLOS AVERY

We explore silent mazes of
soft roads of sand. Butterflies
dart and grace milkweed, sweet
Clover, bee balm, fleabane, yarrow,
mare's tail, and purple thistle.

Purple vetch clamors sunward.
Vervain's tiny pyramids of blue
pierce the sky. White bindweed
curls its way around whatever
it touches.

Sandhill cranes scavenge among
barely submerged islands. A heron
Stands portrait-still, poised to
suddenly spear hapless prey.

Yellow spatterdock, white lilies,
blue-flag iris, swamp milkweed
edge the gentle Sunrise River
as it slows into a bed of rushes to —
emerge somewhere else
without fanfare.

May there always be water.
May there always be wild places.

—Clem Nagel

Did you know...

That Minnesota has a nationally-recognized birding trail just a few hours northwest of the Cities? According to the Audubon Society, the *Minnesota Pine to Prairie Birding Trail* is a local treasure. Here's what the Audubon Society says about it:

Minnesota's first birding trail consists of 43 sites spanning more than 200 miles from pine to prairie in the northwestern part of the state—through pine forests, deciduous woodlands, tall grass prairie, aspen parklands, calcareous fens, bogs, and marshes. The greater prairie chicken and the three-toed woodpecker are just a few of the numerous species that can be seen along the way.

Look for: Greater prairie chickens

Contact: Fergus Falls Convention and Visitor's Bureau
800-726-8959, www.mnbirdtrail.com

Environmental Roundup

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver is an active organization. To celebrate their 40-year anniversary, they held a big Nature Festival in June. Exhibits, music, treasure hunts, food and refreshments, and NSI (Nature Scene Investigations) were part of an all-day celebration at the Audubon Center.

Most of the activities of Denver-area Audubon center around the Nature Center at Chatfield State Park. This was the site of an old farm, with two rundown stone buildings which the Society renovated and occupied. This was a huge project but resulted in the Discovery Pavilion, where school groups attend educational field trips. Trails, a dock, and a boardwalk were built and volunteers made "Walk the Wetlands" a monthly highlight. The second building was turned into a workshop, meeting space, and a bird-banding station. This led to the development of a Naturalist in Residence program. An amphitheater was added to serve as an outdoor program, capping 20 years as an organization focused on environmental education.

An interesting program in Denver—and beginning its third year—is the Master Birder Program. This is an advanced birding course including 17 requirements for completion and is run by some of Colorado's best birders. Perhaps we should investigate the interest in such a course in Minneapolis?

We have a top-notch nature center in Audubon Center of the North Woods, specially serving that part of our community which has limited exposure to the outdoors. If more funds became available, the ACNW programs could have an even greater impact on youth education. If you have never visited ACNW, you could be in for a the same treat that lucky campers and school groups have throughout the year.

Golfers are being asked to report any sightings of Red-headed Woodpeckers on or near a golf course. Many courses have oak savanna habitat which could be conducive to nesting of RHWWPs. Pass the word along to fellow golfers to be on the lookout and to report sightings to Bonnie Sample at basample@visi.com.

This note comes from the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society newsletter. Many court decisions, as well as failure of the environmental agencies to properly interpret and enforce the Clean Water Act of 1972, have led to a weakening of the original Act. The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 is an attempt to restore the coverage that the Act originally intended. For example, Minnesota has many waters that are excluded from protection because of the word "navigable" in the Act. Please let your Senators know your feelings about the Restoration Act.

—Jim Egge



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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
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250



LOCAL CHAPTER
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO BOX 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Incentive Code:
C9ZM020Z

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

- 1** Chapter Program at 7:00 pm
29 Conservation Committee, 6:00 pm, Uptown Lund's
29 Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Uptown Lund's

OCTOBER

- 6** Chapter Program 7:00 pm

Board meetings are held every month on the 4th Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the Lund's store on Lake Street just west of Hennepin (except in July).

All are welcome to programs, trips and board meetings. Call Jerry Bahls for details!

The *Kingfisher* is published monthly September through December and February through May.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER ELECTRONICALLY!
Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net