



KINGFISHER



May 2007

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 56 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

This issue of the *Kingfisher* marks the start of our summer break. Many consider this a time where birding falls by the wayside. Spring migration is past and the fall is yet to come. I encourage people to just get out in Nature as there is so much to see. This is where I usually insert a plug for my passion for observing dragonflies. So I will.

Pamela and I are leading several field trips with an emphasis on dragonflies at a few different venues this summer. Our typical trip involves asking people to bring along their digital cameras. We start the program with a "Dragonfly 101" talk, where we talk about our subject and some basic field identification skills. This part of the program takes 10-15 minutes. Then we head out to a wetland or other place where we might see some dragonflies in their natural habitat, taking photos as we go. For those without cameras, we suggest close-focusing binoculars for better observation. After a while, we head back to the classroom and download our pictures to a computer and project the images on a screen. It's so much easier to identify a dragonfly from a 5-foot image instead of a 1-inch critter in the field. (Locations and times for these events will be posted on the web site.)

OK, why study dragonflies? First, for those birders who feel that there is not much in the way of birding in the summer, dragonflies are out en masse. Next, they are wonderful creatures with fun names like, "Stygian Shadow-dragon", "Hine's Emerald" and "Ruby Meadowhawk" to mention a few. Identifying them can be challenging. Some can only be differentiated with a hand lens or microscope.

Field guides are available from many book sellers and more are in the works. Some of the best regional guide are published by Adventure Publications in Cambridge, MN. Look for, "Dragonflies of the Northwoods" by Kurt Mead and "Damselflies of the Northwoods" by Bob Du-Bois. Both are illustrated and full of information about habitat and habits. Birding has been a popular recreational pursuit for many years and "dragonflying"(?) is said to be where birding was 25 years ago.

So, if you want to expand your horizons beyond birds, join us this summer.

—John Arthur

May Program

Get Off Your Couch and into Nature!

Getting out and enjoying the renewal that spring brings to the Minnesota landscape can also bring renewal to our own bodies and spirits. May's program features a slide presentation titled, "Nature and Health," from Siah St. Clair, director of Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley.

Mr. St. Clair's presentation will offer recent research results demonstrating specific benefits of nature on the physical, mental, and emotional health of people. Taking to heart the findings of the research could have significant effects on the health care industry, on business practices, on government services, on child development, and our own wellness. He will discuss the barriers to realizing these benefits that are put in place by our community's laws and policies and by our own lifestyles, as well as how specific aspects of nature can reduce pain medication needs, shorten healing time, and increase cognitive function.

Mr. St. Clair has been director of Springbrook Nature Center for the past 29 years and has been directing nature centers for 35 years. He has a master's degree in Environmental interpretation from Michigan State University. A highly respected environmental educator, he is past president of the Minnesota Naturalist Association and the Minnesota Association for Environmental Education.



**Tuesday, May 1
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**

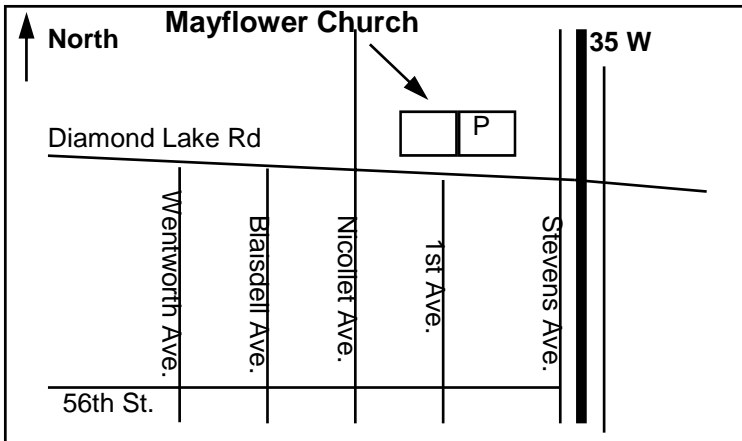
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, May 1, 2007

“Get into Nature,” by Siah St. Clair

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake Road—map below



Reports from the Christmas Bird Count

Agassiz Chapter

27 species
16 Short-eared Owls
21 Sharp-tailed Grouse
4 Magpies

St. Paul Chapter

62 species
1 Hummingbird (!)

Mississippi Headwaters

37 species
1 Rusty Blackbird
1 Grackle

Austin Chapter

46 species
1 Eurasian Collared Dove
1 Saw-whet Owl

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at bahls001@tc.umn.edu

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

SUMMER'S COMING . . .

Audubon Center of the North Woods

Absolutely Awesome Adventure Camp
Ages: 10-13

June 24-29, 2007
\$430

Outdoor adventure awaits you!
Challenge yourself on our high ropes
course and climbing wall.
Canoe beautiful Grindstone Lake.
Learn about teamwork on our low
ropes course.

Pitch a tent for an overnight sleep-out.
Develop new abilities, push your limits
and make new friends while exploring
the beauty of the North Woods!

Contact information: 888-404-7743
or go to our
website at
www.audubon-center.org

Minnesota River Valley

Field Trips



May 2

6:30 pm. French Regional Park, Plymouth.
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

May 5

7:30 am. Hok-Si-La Park, Lake Pepin.
Steve Weston, 612-978-3993

May 7

6:00 am. King Blind, Carver Park Reserve, Victoria.
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

May 8

6:00 pm. Wildflower Walk. Eloise Butler Garden.
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

May 9

9:00 am. Lake Susan bluebirds, Chanhassen.
Phyllis Bofferding, 952-975-0971

May 9

3:00 pm. MVNWR Visitors Center, Bloomington.
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

May 12

7:00 am. 7 Mile Creek, Swan Lake, Nicollet County.
George Tkach, 952-975-2972

May 13-15

6:00 pm. Martin/Faribault Counties, Fairmont.
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

May 15

6:00 pm. Wildflower Walk, Eloise Butler Garden.
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

May 19

8:00 am. Murphy Hanrahan, Savage.
Cheri Fox, 952-469-5664

May 20

10:00 am. Wildflowers, MN Arboretum, Chanhassen.
Mary Brown, 952-885-0913

May 23

6:30 pm. Old Cedar Ave. Bridge, MVNWR Bloomington.
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

May 26

7:30 am. Nine Mile Creek, Harrison Park, Bloomington.
Steve Elkins, 952-835-2118

May 30

6:30 pm. Bass Ponds, MVNWR, Bloomington.
George Skinner, 952-939-0811

Please contact the trip leader for further information.

FIELD TRIPS AVAILABLE

Chapter Field Trip Leader Don Wanschura will arrange field trips for individuals or for small groups. You can customize your own trip - choose your own location or let Don suggest one. Don has all around identification expertise - birds, wildflowers, herbs, and wild edible and medicinal plants. All ages welcome. Just contact him to discuss the date, time and location.

Don Wanschura 612-866-3276 djwi@internet.net

Visiting the Eloise Butler Gardens with Don sounds like a winner!

Looking Ahead

Spring Warblers Field Trip

Murphy Hanrehan
May 12, 2007 11:00 am
Contact Jim Egge at 612-827-7629

Sixth Annual Great River Birding and Nature Festival

May 11-13

Guided birding hikes for beginners and advanced birds will take you along the river shoreline to bluffs and grasslands, bottom lands, Mississippi River backwaters and the Weavers Dunes Nature Conservancy. Also included is birding by motor boat, mini railroad, kayak or canoe.

Registration deadline is **May 5**. Contact
tourism@lakecitymn.org 877-525-3248

May Bird of the Month:

The Winter Wren

Presented by

Ernie Gunderson



ELOISE BUTLER WILDFLOWER GARDEN AND BIRD SANCTUARY

A CENTURY OF NATURE IN THE CITY



The Wildflower Garden, founded in 1907 by high school botany teacher Eloise Butler, is the oldest public wildflower garden in the country. This 15 acre paradise in Minneapolis's Theodore Wirth Park is home to more than 500 species of plants covering three

eco systems: upland prairie, a wetland and a woodland area.

The garden is also a birding hot spot in the Twin Cities and continues to attract our members for many a field trip. The garden is on the 'must see' list for visitors to Minneapolis for grand displays of birds and wildflowers in spring, summer and fall. It is also a favorite location for photographers.

Our Minneapolis Audubon Chapter members can boast many, many hours volunteering in the Garden. Volunteers still provide the major maintenance and care for the Garden and new volunteers are always most welcome.



You can contact the Eloise Butler Garden at 612-370-4903.

Fourth Annual Wood Duck Jump

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

If you are interested in attending, please call Jerry at 763-572-2333 to get on his call list. Since there is a video camera in the box, a one day's notice will be given to those who want to see this magical moment.

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.

Audubon Gleanings

A Calming Walk

A walk in the park might be a good antidote for hyperactive children (ADHD). An article from the Agassiz Chapter in northern Minnesota focuses on a study published in the American Journal of Public Health. Parents are recommended to try 20 minutes of outdoor time [with their children] before doing homework. Children were found to be calmer and more able to follow directions after time outside in a "green" setting.

Birds and Boats

The National Park Service has combined with Audubon on a Paddleford excursion boat for birding and interpretive programs on the Mississippi River on Wed. May 9th. The trip lasts from 9:00 to noon from downtown St. Paul to Lock and Dam #1. Part of the cost goes to support Audubon and NPS bird programs. Find out more: www.audubon.org/campaign/umr.

Touch and See

The Bell Museum has a wonderful collection of invertebrates in the "Touch and See" room, thanks to a grant from the Kinney Family Foundation. Video cameras and microscopes provide close-ups of cockroaches, giant millipedes, and hermit crabs. Kids will love these new exhibits, and the museum provides traveling programs throughout the state.

Pied Crows

Interesting were the reports of Pied Crows—with a white collar—from the Audubon Society of Denver. These birds are exotics native to Central Africa. They have been reported in several locations and are likely more than one bird. How they got there is open for speculation.

Audubon

There's an interesting Journal article in the March/April *Audubon*, by Rick Bass entitled, "Fanning the Flames." You may enjoy his waxing eloquent, as the article is loaded with metaphor and hyperbole. Don't miss the two powerful articles in this issue dealing with the collision of development and the natural world: "Scarface," and the Ted Williams penetrating article, "Sin City Goes Dry".

— Jim Egge

Have you noticed the evening skyline of Minneapolis over the past few weeks? Does it seem cozily subdued? March 15th marked the first night of the "Bird Safe-Lights Out" project with local companies Wells Fargo and Accenture piloting the effort to reduce migratory bird deaths—and also save energy—by extinguishing unnecessary external lighting. Because birds migrate at night, they can become confused by bright nighttime lights, especially during rainy or overcast evenings. By darkening skyscrapers from midnight until dawn between the peak migration periods of March 15 to May 31, and again from August 15 to October 31, it is hoped that many migrating birds along the Mississippi Flyway will be spared from injury or death.

"Thank You" to Accenture and Wells Fargo for their participation in this program, and perhaps other downtown businesses will follow suit and dim their evening lights to help the birds.



THE AUDUBON CENTER

ANNUAL AUDUBON BIRDING FESTIVAL

JUNE 8-10, 2007

Mark your calendars for June 8-10, 2007 when the Audubon Center will host its second annual Birding Festival.

We are happy to report that the excellent field trip leaders who were with us in 2006—Mark Alt, Anne Hanley, George Skinner, and Laura Erickson—will be back this year. Minnesota Audubon staff will also be involved in various presentations. Author/photographer Stan Tekiela will be a keynote speaker. We will offer field trips, as well as exhibits and other breakout sessions and activities.

To register or receive a brochure, please call 1-888/404-7743 or email audubon1@audubon-center.org. For more information or updates, check our website: www.audubon-center.org.

Audubon Needs AV Help for Regional Conference

On October 13 & 14, Audubon Minnesota will be hosting the Annual Midwest Audubon Regional Conference. This year's theme is "Declining Species, Declining Habitat; Reversing the Trend". The conference will be held at the Bloomington Embassy Suites. Please circle that date on your calendars. Also circle October 12th, the Mississippi River Campaign is hosting a pre-conference whose theme is "The Mississippi River: America's Flyway". Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has been asked to set up the Programs for the conference and to provide audio/visual support. Therefore if you have audio/visual experience, especially with computers and visual projectors, we would like you to help put on this conference. Please call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail at jobaud@comcast.net, if you can help.

Mailing Team – THANKS!!

Each year the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis members receive the *Kingfisher*. This happens because a group of dedicated volunteers give up the 3rd Monday of the month for eight months to insert, fold and label the *Kingfisher* so they can be mailed. I would like to thank the following for this valuable service: Bill Caverly, Donna Bahls, Lois Dick, Judy Dupre, Mavis Fisher, Jeanne King, Dave Martin, Darlene & Don Olson, Marianna Tiller, Mary Ellen Vetter, Lynn Johnson, Betsy Bush, Larry & Barb Johnson, Virginia May, Trudi Poquette and Jean Kelley. When you see them, let them know you appreciate their work.

Thank you team!

—Jerry Bahls, Mailing Chair

Birds are Calling...

...all Upper Midwest Audubon members, friends and partners to the Embassy Suites in Bloomington, MN October 12th-14th!

On Saturday and Sunday, the 13th and 14th of October, sessions in three critical habitat tracks—grassland, forest and wetlands—focus on options for "**Declining Species, Declining Habitat: Reversing the Trend.**" Learn, share, and take home new energy to make a difference. Some repeat sessions and field trips inside and outside are available on Saturday afternoon for birders and their spouses.

On Saturday evening, scientist and author Bridget Stutchbury presents: "Migratory Songbirds: Canaries in the Mine?" Watch for her new book, *Silence of the Songbirds*. Go ahead, Google her name. You'll be impressed!

Friday, October 12th, pre-conference attendees explore "**The Mississippi River: America's Flyway.**" The day is full of informative and interactive sessions on Mississippi River habitat issues and opportunities and a sternwheeler boat ride on the Mississippi River IBA.

On Friday evening, see an internationally acclaimed BBC/Discovery Channel Documentary "Mississippi: Tales of the Last River Rat," and enjoy commentary and Q&A with river guide, trapper, fisherman, hunter, root and herb collector and naturalist, Kenny Salwey. Even if Saturday attendees can't attend all day, they may register for this evening event.

Conference hosts include: Audubon Minnesota, The Upper Mississippi River Initiative, Bird Conservation Minnesota, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter, and St. Paul Audubon Society.

For further information on sponsorship and exhibit space, contact Audubon Minnesota at 651-739-9332. For conference details and registration information as it becomes available, visit <http://mn.audubon.org>.



Living Green Expo

May 5 and 6

State Fairgrounds, St. Paul

Over 70 workshops and 200 exhibitors.

For information: www.livinggreen.org

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER
May 2007



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 Chapter Program
- 5-6 Living Green Expo
- 11-13 Great River Birding Festival
- 12 Spring Warbler Field Trip

JUNE

- 13-18 Annual Birding Festival

MRV field trips are held throughout May
Please check page 3 for complete list

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:15 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 John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!