



KINGFISHER



October 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

By the time you see this; the fall migration will be done for shorebirds and well over halfway done for warblers. The hawks will be peaking at Hawk Ridge. If you've never been there, make it a point to get there. It can be spectacular on any given day. The election campaign will be in full swing. Planning for the upcoming Legislative session is starting. Plan on attending the Audubon Minnesota Fall Meeting where the legislative priorities are picked (usually on the 2nd Saturday in November, watch for announcements).

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis will continue to look for members to fill the vacant Board positions. Jim Egge has agreed to fill one of them, so we are down to five vacancies. These are some things we are looking for in a Board Member: we would like them to chair at least one committee, which can take as much time as one is willing to put into it. The committee that probably would take the most time is the Conservation Committee. That is because it can encompass a wide range of things from working on state and federal legislation to monitoring the local Soil and Water Conservation District to organizing local environmental monitoring, to coordinating buckthorn or any exotic invasive removal. Whatever your passion, you could choose and there is even a modest budget that goes with it.

Another duty of a Board Member is to attend our Board meetings. This is where you would report on your committee activities, and help decide on programs and how our resources can best be used. Coming this fall we will be deciding on what project we will submit for a National Audubon Collaborative Grant (awarded and administered by Audubon Minnesota), which can be as much as a couple thousand dollars. In the past, \$1500 was awarded to the BBRP to do Demonstration Bluebird Trails in State Parks and other public areas. Another \$400 was obtained to start the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery program. If you have an idea, send it to us. But be prepared to be a very large part of it if your idea is accepted and funded!

Another obligation is to attend the Chapter Programs and other Chapter activities if possible. Your presence shows your support for the Chapter to the attendees. You will be expected to assist with situations as they arise. Usually you can just sit back and enjoy the program.

Don't delay joining us, call me at 763 572-2333 or e-mail at jobaud@comcast.net. We do need your help!!

—Jerry Bahls

October Program

Vote YES: Dedicated Funding for the Environment

October's program is designed to prepare us for a big opportunity in November. November 4 is Election Day and besides choosing government officials, we voters will be voting for an amendment to the state constitution that could have a major impact on the future health of Minnesota's environment. Veteran conservation policy advocate Gary Botzek, a member of the Vote YES steering committee, will explain the "Clean Water, Land & Legacy" constitutional amendment in detail, describe its potential benefits for birds, wildlife and clean water, and answer any questions you might have.

In brief, the ballot measure asks voters to amend the state constitution to dedicate 3/8th of one percent increase in the state sales tax to protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams; forests and natural areas; arts and cultural legacy; parks and wildlife habitat; and drinking water. The funds raised – estimated at about \$300 million annually -- would be protected by the constitution and be allocated as follows: 33 percent for clean water; 33 percent for land protection; 19.75 for arts and heritage; and 14.25 percent for parks and trails. In addition, the increase would sunset in 2034 – one of the few times that a tax increase comes with an end date.

One thing Gary is certain to emphasize is that anyone who casts a ballot, but doesn't vote on the proposed amendment, votes 'NO.' That is, if you neglect to vote on the measure, in effect you are voting against it.

Gary Botzek is proprietor of Capitol Connections, a St. Paul association management and governmental relations firm, and has worked for Audubon Minnesota the last two legislative sessions. Gary serves as executive director of the Minnesota Conservation Federation and regularly consults with the National Wildlife Federation. He has worked on the Dedicated Funding issue for 10 years at the Capitol and has an in-depth understanding of it.

**Program: Tuesday, October 7
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church**

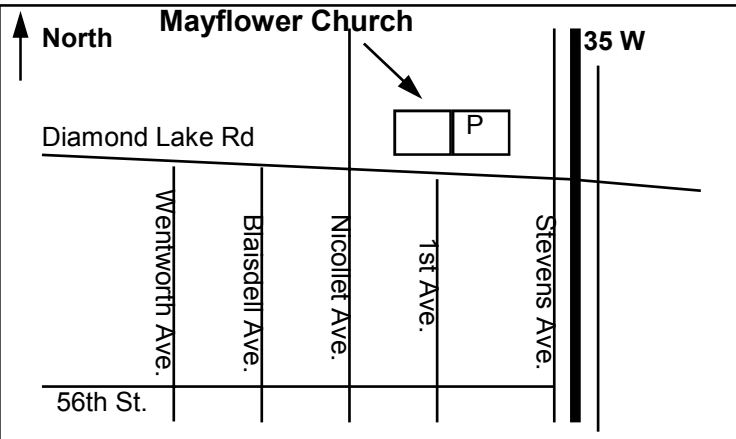
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

“Vote YES” with Gary Botzek

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



Mayflower Church Exit Now Open

Diamond Lake Road Exit from 35W to Diamond Lake Road is now open. It will now be easy for you to attend our meetings!

OUR FIELD TRIPS

Contact the trip leader if you have questions or need more information.

Red-headed Woodpeckers and Waterfowl

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.

Trip Leader: Jerry Bahls, member, Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program, (763) 572-2333, jobaud@comcast.net

Meet: Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, Anoka County, MN (Fish Lake Trail)

Directions: From SH 65, turn east onto 237th Ave. NE at Cooper's Corner in East Bethel. At T intersection, turn right (sign for Cedar Creek HQ points left). Follow this road (Gopher Dr.) as it heads south, then becomes 229th Ave/CR 26 as it heads east. At stop sign, turn left onto Durant St.; follow dirt road to right to Fish Lake Trail parking area. Portable toilet available.

A good chance to see some of the few remaining nesting red-headed woodpeckers in Anoka County. We'll also check for migrating waterfowl and resident otters at Fish Lake.

Looking ahead

Date: Saturday, December 20

Christmas Bird Count

More details next month

Audubon Minnesota Fall Bird Seed Sale

Don't forget! Orders for bird seed must be placed and prepaid by October 10, 2008. Seed will be available for customer pickup on Saturday, October 25, 2008, from 9:00 am to noon at a number of locations throughout the Twin Cities including the Minnesota Valley National Refuge, Bloomington; Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska; Mother Earth Gardens, Minneapolis, and three residences (Plymouth, Roseville, and Saint Paul).

Visit <http://mn.audubon.org> or call 651-739-9332 for order forms and location details. Audubon Minnesota is a state office of the National Audubon Society and dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems in Minnesota, focusing on at-risk native bird species and their habitats. This fundraiser is made possible through the generosity of Performance Seed in St. Cloud, MN.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2008-2009 Contacts

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Fall Fund Appeal - November

The 2008-2009 fiscal year budget as set by the Finance Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and approved by the Board last May calls for raising \$1,800 to balance our budget. This will allow us to continue our current level of activity. Thus, we'll continue to publish eight *Kingfishers* and have eight programs during the year. To do this, we need to raise a little more than last year. This will offset the increase in the rental for the Mayflower Church and cost of newsprint. The printing of *Kingfishers* and programs continues to represent over 80% of our budget. National Audubon Society's (NAS) dues reimbursement will cover most of these expenses. The remaining expenses are covered by a variety of other sources. Members will receive an envelope in the October issue of their *Kingfisher* to be used for donations to ACM to cover expenses associated with our meeting programs and other education related projects.

Please make your fully tax deductible donation to help Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis continue its work to help the birds and other wildlife!

—Jerry Bahls

THE LAST POLAR BEAR



AUTHOR, WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHER
STEVEN KAZLOWSKI

Thursday Nov. 13, 7:00 p.m.

University of Minnesota
Bell Museum of Natural History
10 Church Street, S.E., Minneapolis

The plight of the Polar Bear will be explored by Steven Kazlowski, author and photographer of *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*. A reception and book-signing follows.

Through unforgettable photographs, Kazlowski's book dramatically illustrates the growing hardships faced by the polar bear in northern Alaska as a result of rising global temperatures. His photographs of polar bears trapped on shrinking ice flows have become an iconic visual symbol of possible extinction brought about by global warming.

Steven will share his images, observations and stories from his life in the arctic, as well as his ideas on how to reverse the tide of global warming and sustain hope.

His award-winning photographs have been featured in *Audubon*, *Backpacking*, *Canadian National Geographic*, and other magazines, as well as many books.

Continued next column...

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Tickets to the talk and reception are \$7 for the general public; \$5 for museum members, University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff.

The event is co-sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League, Como Park and Conservatory and Braided River/The Mountaineers Books.

For information, contact Lois Norrgard lois@alaskawild.org or www.bellmuseum.org.

Fourth Annual Upper Midwest Audubon Conference

October 17th, 18th & 19th

Dubuque, Iowa

All Audubon members and leaders are invited to attend the annual Upper Midwest Audubon Conference, sponsored this year by Chapters in Iowa and taking place alongside the Mississippi River in Dubuque.

Organized at the grassroots level, the Upper Midwest Audubon Conference has grown into a great opportunity to network with fellow Audubon members and hear what is happening in the host state. This year's conference welcomes two individuals who worked with the reintroduction of the Peregrines and Trumpeter Swans in Iowa. JOHN FLICKER will be the keynote speaker and numerous other speakers will present topics ranging from educational to downright entertaining (and sometimes both!).

The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Dubuque (563-556-2000). Call before September 17 for the conference rate. Rooms book quickly this time of year in Dubuque, so if you are even considering attending, please **BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!**

For more information, contact Maggie O'Connell (birdlady1@iowatelecom.net) or Joe Tollari (jtollari@mchsi.com) for registration materials, or send the \$75 registration fee, which includes the reception, four meals and all conference activities (except for the riverboat ride, \$20 extra) to the Upper Midwest Audubon Conference, c/o Dubuque Audubon Society, PO Box 3174, Dubuque IA 52004-3174.

2008 Fall Appeal

Enclosed in this *Kingfisher* is an envelope addressed to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Please use this envelope to send a fully tax-deductible donation to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. Donations will be designated for programs and other educational uses. Make checks payable to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

PRAIRIE WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST

The Nature Conservancy Minnesota Chapter is conducting a Prairie Wildlife Photo Contest in conjunction with the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. For the first time ever, the Duck Stamp contest is being held in Minnesota, at the Bloomington Art Center. The contest is the most prestigious wildlife art event in the world, and draws thousands of artists and spectators.

With The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Chapter's 50th year celebration this year, we invite you to take part in the first annual photo contest to win prizes up to \$250! To check out more please visit our website to upload your photos now!

www.nature.org/mnphotocontest



MINNESOTA HOSTS DUCK STAMP CONTEST

The nation's most prestigious wildlife art contest, the Federal Duck Stamp Contest, is coming to Minnesota!

Judges will select the winning artwork to be reproduced for next year's Stamp. The event, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be held Oct. 17-18 at the Bloomington Center for the Arts.

More information about the Contest can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/2008contest.htm>

A WALK FOR WETLANDS

Don't forget the Walk for Wetlands on Sunday October 12, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington. This event is being held in conjunction with the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

Participants will be asked to gather pledges from friends and family to raise money for wetlands restoration, enhancement, and protection to help ensure we have places like this wonderful refuge for future generations to enjoy.

All funds raised at the **Walk for Wetlands** will be matched for use to create, restore, enhance and protect wetlands, habitats of critical importance in many Audubon's Important Bird Areas. For more information and to learn how you can participate/help, go to:

<http://www.walkforwetlands.org>.

Minnesota- Vote Yes! Protect our Land, Water and Way of Life

For nearly a decade, there has been an effort to establish a source of dedicated funding for Minnesota's natural resources. Funding for the environment and natural resources is at a 30-year low in Minnesota—funding we badly need to protect our water, wildlife and way of life.

After much work, a dedicated funding initiative, known as the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, was passed by the Minnesota Legislature on the second day of the 2008 session and will appear on the Minnesota ballot on November 4.

More than 200 organizations support the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota constitution.

Big Rewards For Our Water and Our Land

The timing couldn't be better. Forty percent of the waters we have tested fail to meet federal water quality standards. More than 1 million acres of natural areas and farmland could be lost over the next 25 years, as Minnesota continues growing faster than any other state in the Midwest.

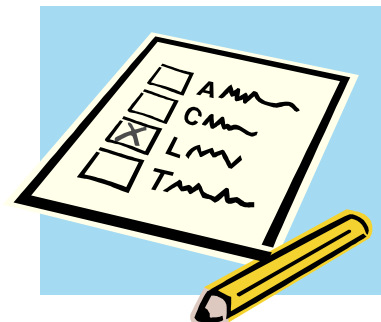
Our kids need clean water and the chance to roam in natural areas in order to grow up healthy. Yet funding for natural resources remains near historic lows, and we are losing access for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching.

This initiative asks to increase the state sales tax by 3/8 of one percent to fund clean water projects, wildlife habitat, natural areas, parks and cultural heritage projects.

A small portion yields big rewards for our land: if passed, this bill would provide about \$300 million each year for the next 25 years, 80 percent of which will fund the protection of clean water and wildlife habitat.

Minnesotans understand that core values are well worth protecting in our Constitution, especially when future generations rely on our actions today.

Vote "YES" on Election Day, November 4!



AUDUBON GLEANINGS

Audubon of Denver has had its most successful session in recent history in the Colorado Legislature. As most people know who follow the apparent effects of global warming on ecosystems in western forests, Colorado has been especially hard hit. Cold temperatures in the past, prevented pine beetle from moving into higher elevations and destroying trees. With warming temperatures, the beetles are active in mountains which were previously spared. With Audubon lobbyist Jen Boulton at work, the Legislature passed a bill to insure that logging doesn't exacerbate the problem. Another provision includes forestry experts to monitor and advise. In all, every bill that Audubon supported—except one—passed. Development in parts of Colorado has been out of control, so several bills dealing with sustainable water quality and conservation have mitigated the impacts. Uranium mining has been increasing, necessitating a bill to tighten reclamation operations.

Consider this when landscaping your yard: a mowed lawn is virtually a desert for native plants and wildlife. Try to plant native vegetation as much as possible to encourage birds and butterflies, and don't be too worried if your yard isn't perfectly manicured. Recently, squirrels have been digging little swirled holes in my yard. They leave the lawn bumpy and ripe for weeds. I wonder what they are looking for? The only thing I've found that discourages them is pepper.

The landscaping at the Minnesota Valley NWR was completed this June. More than 1,800 prairie and wetland plants were planted by volunteers. In addition, much of the area was seeded with native grasses. This follows an earlier planting that has become an outdoor exhibit for visitors to see what can be done in their own yards. Stop by the Refuge Visitor Center at 3815 American Blvd. E in Bloomington, just off 34th and 494.

Did you know that vultures (and occasionally crows) will land on an anthill for a bath? Evidently this behavior, called "anting," attracts the ants onto their feathers where they clean off bits of food or feather mites and such.

Populations of Rusty Blackbirds have declined 85-98% since 1966. Steve Matsuoka, working with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, is studying this birds' migration through eBird. You can enter data you collect on Rusty Blackbirds at ebird.org/contentebird/newsRUBL_survey.html.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet will be migrating through soon, although many will winter in Minnesota. They weigh only 5 grams, the equivalent of 2 pennies. Once, years ago in October as I sat motionless in the woods, one sat on my arm. He was so busy catching the last of available bugs that something my size didn't bother him at all.

—Jim Egge

Hawk Watch 2008

Effigy Mounds National Monument

Friday, October 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday,
October 4 & 5 – 9:00 to 4:00
(plus an 8:00 a.m. bird hike)

A free Family Event with great Programs and Activities

Effigy Mounds Visitors Center
Is located in northeast Iowa, 3 miles north of Marquette on
Highway 76

For more information contact the Monument at
563 873 3491 or www.nps.gov/efmo

Blank Eyes Drying

A windy, food-filled,
shallow pond.

Osprey
plummets
out
of
sight.

Beneath the water—
talented talons strike.

Then, bent, belabored
wings beat—
a laborious rising
into the wind.

Fish
facing forward.
Blank eyes drying.
Not anticipating the
future feast.

—Clem Nagel

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KINGFISHER
October 2008



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

SEPTEMBER

27 Sandhill Cranes Field Trip

OCTOBER

7 Chapter Meeting

10 Final day for Bird seed Orders

12 Walk for Wetlands

17-18 Duck Stamp Contest

17-19 Upper Midwest Audubon Conference

25 Red-headed Woodpecker Field Trip

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!

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

Electronic Kingfisher

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