



KINGFISHER



September 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 5

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

As I stated in my first column in the summer electronic-only issue, as President of Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM), I will be putting most of my efforts this coming year on filling the vacancies on the Board. To continue to be a healthy organization, we need to have dedicated volunteers in place to perform all the duties that the members want from the Chapter.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, our Fall Appeal has continued to be successful, allowing the Chapter to meet all of its financial obligations and to look for new projects to better serve our Chapter and community. Being financially sound is great, but it is vital to have the volunteers to lead the Chapter projects; having the funds to finance projects is very important, but it is even more important to have the help of dedicated members.

Ideally, any new Board member should be able to give at least four hours each month to Chapter activities, which includes a two-hour Board meeting each month. Any new Board member would be expected to lead one of our committees and assist on another committee. Anyone who can bring some expertise in publicity would be greatly appreciated. Computer and internet skills are always needed, too. Joining our Board would be ideal for a recently retired individual (It's been shown that individuals who are active have a more enjoyable retirement and live a longer healthy life), someone who needs to find some activity to make retirement more interesting and fulfilling.

If you are a little concerned about jumping in at the Board level, you can still participate by either helping on any committee or even chairing one. ACM has 14 standing committees: Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Finance, Membership, Newsletter, Program, Properties, Publicity, Sales, Social, Scholarship, Living Green Expo and Park Feeders. Please call to get more information on what the committees do. In addition to these standing committees, we also have the Nominating Committee, which meets in the winter to nominate members for the Board and Board Officers. Some of these committees need a Chair, but all desperately need committee members to help share the work.

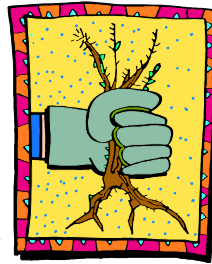
Don't delay joining us, call me at 763.572.2333 or e-mail me at jbaud@comcast.net.

We do need your help!!

—Jerry Bahls

September Program

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTION



It's a big job. Shelves at the local hardware store are filled with dangerous pesticides, and they are as easy to buy as light bulbs. Collie Graddick is charged with the task of monitoring urban pesticide use. At the September program meeting, he will share some of his experiences working to protect people and the environment from pesticide harm, along with his observations about living in harmony with the environment.

Collie, who grew up on a 200-acre sustainable farm in Hamilton, Georgia, that produced vegetables, poultry, beef and pork, is an Agricultural Consultant with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), where he has worked for the past sixteen years in the Seed, Noxious Weed and Pesticide Regulatory units.

Under the Noxious Weed Law, the unit has worked with over 5,300 local and county inspectors assisting landowners in controlling invasive and harmful plants. Collie also coordinates the department's Endangered Species program, which protects some of Minnesota's rarest plants and animals from pesticide harm.

Much of Collie's commitment to sustainability is expressed through the many hours he devotes to volunteering. He serves on the boards or issue committees of many non-profit organizations, including: the Alliance for Sustainability, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Women's Environmental Institute, Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, International Health Education Alliance, Preventing Harm Minnesota, AfroEco Group, Land Stewardship Project, Headwaters Foundation for Justice, and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

**Program: Tuesday, September 2
at 7:00 p.m., Mayflower Church**

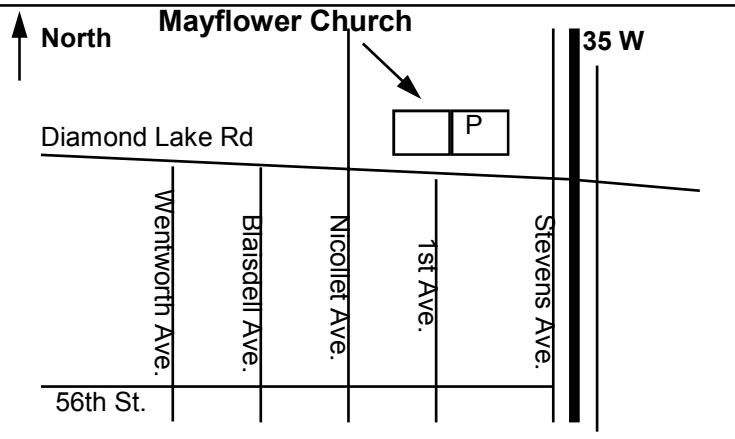
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 2, 2008

“The Environmental Connection” with Collie Graddick

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.

Sandhill Cranes

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2008

Time: 6:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Trip Leader: Tim Sevcik, Natural Resources Specialist,
Anoka County

(763) 767-2896, timothy.sevcik@co.anoka.mn.us

Meet: At 5:15 a.m. at the Park & Ride, Brooklyn Blvd. and 65th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, (take I-694 to Brooklyn Blvd., go south, Park & Ride is on the right/west just south of I-694) or at 6:00 a.m. at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters (bathrooms available), County Rd. 9, five miles west of Highway 169.

A great chance to see sandhill cranes—resident and (we hope!) many migrants. After meeting at the Refuge HQ, we'll move to a nearby waterside location before dawn to be in place for crane awakening, calls, and flight at first light. We will then follow the cranes to fields and feeding areas for closer observation, moving back with them to the wetland habitat at mid-morning.

Looking ahead

Date: Saturday, October 25

Red-headed Woodpeckers and Waterfowl, Cedar Creek Natural Area. More details in October *Kingfisher*.

Audubon Minnesota Announces Fall Bird Seed Sale

Orders 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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Audubon Chapter Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		MOU Rare Bird Alert:
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		763-780-8890

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

2008 - 2009 Programs

September 2, 2008 **Collie Graddick**, "*The Environmental Connection.*" Collie Graddick is an Agricultural Consultant with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Collie has worked for the department for 16 years, working in the Seed, Noxious Weed and Pesticide Regulatory Units. Collie volunteers time on the board of the Alliance for Sustainability, the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, the Women's Environmental Institute, the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, the International Health Education Alliance, Preventing Harm Minnesota and the AfroEco Group.

October 7, 2008 **Gary Botzek**, "*Vote Yes! Dedicated Funding for the Environment.*" 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 serve 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.

November 11, 2008 **Thurman Tucker**, "*Quails in Minnesota.*" Thurman Tucker, a retired grocery store manager, founded the first Quails Forever Chapter in southeast Minnesota. He has been working to bring back the northern bobwhite since the 1970's.

December 2, 2008 **Chet Meyers**, "*Woodpeckers and the RhWR Program.*" Chet Meyers, retired Metro State University educator, has a passion for woodpeckers. Someday he hopes to see all the woodpeckers of the world. Chet currently is chair of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program and will also talk about the program and its goals.

January 2009 **No Program**

February 3, 2009 **Kao Thao**, "*Wildlife at Fort Snelling State Park, and Engaging Minority Communities in the Outdoors.*" Kao Thao, DNR Naturalist at Fort Snelling, will present information about the wildlife at Fort Snelling. He will also address his work with minority and new immigrant communities in his role as Naturalist at the Park.

March 3, 2009 *Federal Duck Stamp Program (Tentative)*

Apr. 7, 2009 **Jerry Bahls and ACM Board**, "*Beginning Birder Tips.*" The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board will offer tips and advice to beginning birders to enhance their enjoyment of the pastime. An extensive Q&A session after the presentation will allow ample time for everyone to get the information they need to make themselves better birders.

May 5, 2009 **Open**

All programs will be at the Mayflower Church just off I-35W on Diamond Lake Road in Minneapolis and will begin at 7:00 pm with the main speaker starting at about 7:30. Please note the November meeting is on November 11th, due to the national election on November 4th. Please vote on that day!

Spring "Bird Safe" Results

This was the second spring for the Bird Safe program. The program has two parts: Lights Out and bird/building collision monitoring. The Lights Out part involved requesting buildings to turn off their lights from midnight to 4:00 a.m. during migration. Several buildings in the metropolitan area are cooperating in this program.

The second part of the Bird Safe program is to monitor bird-building collisions. Volunteers walk a designated route in Minneapolis or St. Paul and look for dead or injured birds. Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is participating in the monitoring part of the program. This spring, volunteers found a total of 161 birds (149 dead, and 12 released after they recovered). There were 41 different species found. The top 15 found were white-throated sparrow (20), ovenbird (20), Tennessee warbler (16), dark-eyed junco (10), American redstart (8), common yellowthroat (8), black-and-white warbler (7), Nashville warbler (7), gray catbird (3), Lincoln's sparrow (3), chestnut-sided warbler (3), chipping sparrow (3), house wren (3), indigo bunting (3), yellow-bellied sapsucker (3). These results are very similar to those in the spring of 2007.

The Bird Safe program will continue this fall. Monitoring will begin around August 15. If anyone would like to help with this monitoring program, contact Joanne Eckles at bird-safe@msn.com or Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or jobaud@comcast.net.

A WALK FOR WETLANDS

Audubon Minnesota has partnered with Ducks Unlimited to host a **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, the nation's most prestigious wildlife-art contest, where on October 18, the judges will select the winning artwork to be reproduced for next year's stamp.

The Walk for Wetlands will prove to be an outstanding learning experience for kids and adults alike. 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>.



YES for MN

Dedicating Funds to Protect Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas

This November, you have the opportunity to *Vote Yes for Minnesota* – dedicating funds to preserve clean water, protect game, fish and wildlife habitat, arts and parks and trails. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make an investment in protecting Minnesota's quality of life and preserving it for future generations.

We need clean water for drinking, fishing and swimming, for the benefit of ourselves, our children and future generations. This initiative will protect our drinking water and provide funding for the clean-up of our rivers, lakes and streams. Nothing is more important than having clean water.

The amendment will offer tremendous help to protect our environment. The outdoor fund will preserve our many forests, prairies and natural areas that both Minnesotans and our tourists enjoy so much. Protecting our lands for game habitat, wildlife, fishing, hunting, and hiking is critical at this time and passing this amendment now is the right thing to do for our state's future.

Minnesota has also been blessed with one of the strongest arts communities in the country. Passage of this amendment will ensure that kids from all corners of the state have access to arts education. This amendment is a long-term investment in Minnesota's future generations.

Lastly, this amendment will support and enhance our parks and trails systems. While we enjoy ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, this will ensure that we upgrade existing facilities and expand our current network of parks and trails.

This November 4th, you have a chance to make a long-term investment in Minnesota. Vote "Yes" on The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment and protect the Minnesota you love for future generations.

Funding from the state amendment over the next 25 years will be distributed among four purposes: 33% for water quality, 33% for wildlife habitat, 19.75% for arts, and 14.25% for parks and trails. Since this is a constitutional amendment you must vote on the ballot or else all unanswered votes are recorded as negative.

For more information contact "Yes for Minnesota" by phone at (651) 644-2088, or by email at info@yesformn.org.

AUDUBON GLEANINGS

Few scientific discoveries have had as much impact on social structure as DNA analysis. Prisoners are freed or jailed, and parents are identified using part of one molecule. But to wildlife enthusiasts, electrophoresis has opened new doors and disrupted previous genera and families. Speciation has had to develop new and arbitrary boundaries.

A year ago, Bell Museum scientists unveiled a new bird family tree after a decade of DNA research. One finding is that none of the U.S. tanagers (scarlet, western, summer) are even tanagers. The scarlet tanager is a type of cardinal, showing that beaks are often misleading for classification. The question arises, "Are U.S. migrants birds that developed in the Tropics, or North American birds that adapted to flying south?" Save your money for a new field guide.

On a related note, it's difficult not to be disturbed about the impact of invasive species on our ecosystems, from garlic mustard to exotic earthworms. Estimates are that exotic species cost America \$35 billion a year. With these kinds of costs, it surprises me that more resources are not committed to genetic control research. Most remedies such as herbicides or biocontrol have unintended consequences.

Sooner or later, we'll be forced to develop solutions that target more specific plants or animals. Dozens of new invasives are showing up every year. Maybe a bluegrass will be developed that can outcompete my creeping Charlie? Interesting websites:

www.mipn.org

www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html

From *Wilderness News* by Rob Kesselring.

Next year, 2009, is the 100th anniversary of the formation of what became Quetico/BWCA wilderness. You might think that in 1909 this was unspoiled, pristine wilderness. In fact, it was choked with second-growth timber and burned-over slash. Most of the BWCA had been clearcut. The timber camps had nearly exterminated the moose and beavers were gone a century earlier. Dam building was done not by beavers, but by humans to float logs destined for Victorian homes in Chicago and elsewhere. When you visit this region, you might be able to imagine how dramatic the changes have been due to preservation. I may never see most of it, but I am thrilled know it's there. Two canoeing books worth checking out are:

Rivers Stories - Ron Kesselring

A Paddler's Guide to Quetico and Beyond - Kevin Callan

Subscribe to "*Wilderness News*" online at

www.queticosuperior.org



(Continued from previous column)

The Hiawatha Valley Audubon each June patrols the busy roads near Whitewater State Park on bicycle. At stake are female Blanding's turtles crossing the roads to lay their eggs. Volunteers help this threatened species avoid death from automobiles.

The Houston Nature Center also has a wide range of programs geared to youth, including Wondrous Lives of Butterflies, Fossil Collecting, Wild Edible Foods, and Tree Identification.

I was interested to read that 40% of Americans consider themselves intellectually curious. I'd like to see that number increase. Anyone interested in assisting or conducting presentations in schools, please give Jim Egge a call to get started. 612.827.7629

—Jim Egge

Aimless Scribbling

Large White Snakeroot leaves,
dark green in the dim light—
Leaf Miner grub playgrounds.

Their scribbled eating tunnels,
spell out security in plain sight.
Their white, star-like flowers
shine from the shadows
in late summer.

Yet, as children—
it was the leaves!
long before we could spell,
we each would pick a leaf and
pretend to "read" to each other.

To us,
the intricate leaf-scrallings
were special, secret
messages!

—Clara Nagel

White Snakeroot, *Eupatorium rugosum*, grows in the shade along the forest and meadow edges. The large-toothed leaves host the tiny, flattened larvae of the leaf miner insect. The larva eat and tunnel in the spongy layer between the upper and lower leaf coverings. Usually, the tunnels cause only cosmetic damage.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
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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
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

- 2 Chapter Meeting
- 27 Sandhill Cranes Field Trip

OCTOBER

- 7 Chapter Meeting
- 10 Final day for Birdseed Orders
- 12 Walk for Wetlands

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

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net