



KINGFISHER



Summer 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 4a

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

At the May Board meeting of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM), Martha Allen was elected Secretary and Ernie Gunderson was re-elected Treasurer. Jennifer McNicol was elected to the Board. Also Paul Fusco was re-elected to fill a vacant Board position. At the June meeting of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, the Board elected a new President and Vice-President. They are Jerry Bahls - President and Amy Carlson - Vice-President. In addition to these officers, Susan Anderson was elected to the Board. Thus the 2008 - 2009 Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board and its officers are as follows -

President - Jerry Bahls
 Vice-President - Amy Carlson
 Secretary - Martha Allen
 Treasurer - Ernie Gunderson

Past-President - John Arthur

Board Members (Terms expire May 2009)

Vacant
 Vacant
 Vacant

Board Members (Terms expire May 2010)

Paul Fusco
 Jennifer McNicol
 Vacant

Board Members (Terms expire May 2011)

Vacant
 Susan Anderson
 Vacant

As can be seen from the above roster of the ACM Board, we are happy to have a full slate of officers for the first time in quite some time. However it is also very evident that many new Board members need to be recruited to fill the six vacancies. Jerry Bahls made this the prime objective for the Board in the coming year. Susan Anderson's agreeing to become the Membership Chair (a position that has been vacant for a long time) will aid in achieving this critical objective.

Jerry Bahls

July Joint Program

The joint program for July 22nd of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Isaak Walton League - Breckenridge Chapter will be presented by Dan McGuiness. Dan recently retired as the Director of the Upper Mississippi River Campaign. He will review his contributions to improving the Mississippi River over his career at Audubon Minnesota. He will then give his thoughts on the future issues that will face the River. The meeting will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at - 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park.

Watch for the announcement of the August 26th speaker. Please circle July 22nd and August 26th on your calendars. Tell a friend and bring a friend!

**Tuesday, July 22
 at 7:30 p.m.
 at the Izaak Walton League -
 Breckenridge Chapter House**

Thanks to Retiring Board Member

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis thanks Marianna Tiller for her service to the Board. Marianna was a reluctant addition to our Board in 2006, but agreed to help us out in our moment of need. Marianna was a strong voice for those not connected (to the internet). She was not shy in reminding the Board that most of our members probably are not connected. She also served as a greeter at our meetings. A very important person that helps put new attendees at ease amongst strangers. Marianna will continue to serve the Chapter as a member of the Kingfisher mailing team. Thanks for the best contribution to the Chapter - your time!

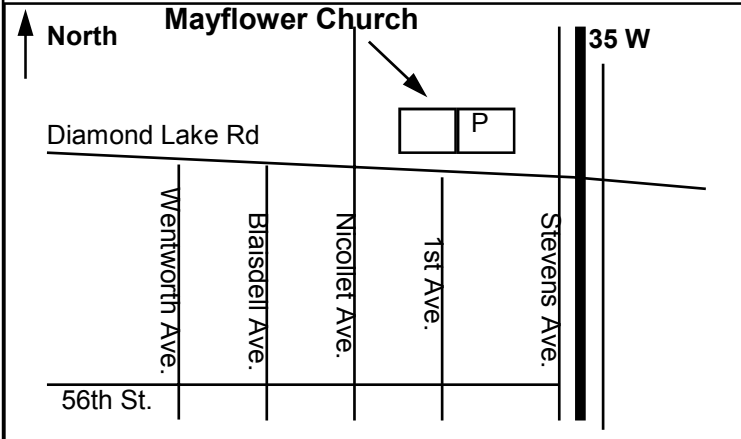
Come to Our Next Chapter Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 2, 2008

Program: Collie Graddick, MN Dept of Ag., Topic TBA

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



New Board Meeting Dates

Beginning this Fall in October, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Lake Street (off Hennepin) Lund's Store Community Room. This is a change from our long standing meeting date. Due to this change we were unable to reserve the room for September 23rd and thus will meet on September 30th at 7:00 pm at the Lund's Store.

All visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend these Board meetings.

AUDUBON CHAPTER OF MINNEAPOLIS SUMMER FIELD TRIPS

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

Prairie Moon Nursery Tour

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2008

Time: 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM

Trip Leader: Elizabeth Bush, eljobush@hotmail.com,
763-571-5688

Meet: 8:15 AM, Target, I-694 and Central Ave., Fridley OR meet and depart at 9:00 AM from greenhouse end of Gertens, 5500 Blaine Ave., Inver Grove Heights 55076, near I94 and US 52.
Arrive at Prairie Moon, off Winona County Rd. 17, picnic pavilion, 11:00AM.

Directions: Wear long light-colored pants and sturdy shoes; bring lunch & beverage. Water spigot available. Easy walking.

Expect to see restored prairies, fields of native flowers, and a new facility with offices and seed-sorting areas. Pre-ordered seeds may be picked up on this day.

Twin Cities Shorebird Trip

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Time: 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Trip Leader: Bob Russell, Midwest Shorebird Coordinator, USFWS, 612-713-5437, robert_russell@fws.gov

Meet: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center/HQ parking lot, 3815 American Blvd. East., Bloomington 55425. From I494, exit on 34th Ave., drive south, turn left on American Blvd.

Directions: Stay hydrated - bring water or other beverage! Spotting scopes are helpful.

Expect to see migrating shorebirds, as well as summer residents.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2007-2008 Contacts

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890

As the Osprey Soars

[This represents a summary of the events at West Coon Rapids Dam in Brooklyn Park, MN for 2007 by Paul Fusco.]

In the past episodes we learned that a new (banded) male had returned to the West Coon Rapids Dam (CRD) nest platform on March 27. He was making himself at home, bringing in sticks, and defending his territory against the many eagles that kept going by. The bands led us to conclude he was 5 years old, originating in a nest about 6 miles to the south-east of the dam.

On April 2nd, he was ousted by the original, injured left wing, male, who had returned for his 8th year! The female who we all know as T17, who was with him for the last 5 years, who usually returns within 1 to 3 days of his arrival, sadly had still not arrived (as of April 15, 2007. The original male continued to add to the nest, but there was no female.

On Thursday, April 12th, the male took to the air real quickly, (but, he had no fish). It was a windy day, but there she was. He did his courtship flight as the winds blew him further southward down the Mississippi River. He returned approximately 30 minutes later with a new female. Hung out awhile. Later they took a flight, and he brought back more nesting material. Later that day I saw him and another osprey, probably her, flying to the northeast. Is this part of a tour? Why had he not given her an offering, (fish)? On Friday, reports came in of seeing 3 osprey in the area, but only the original injured left wing male was on the platform. Again on Saturday, only he was seen at the nest, but two other osprey were seen flying in the vicinity, but this time he started carrying a fish around with him wherever he flew! Would this help? Or was it all over for the original male?

On Sunday, April 15, our original male had his nesting spot, he started bringing back the final touches, the softer grasses, for the cup. But, he was still missing something... - A Female! He went to get a fish. He started to hang around with the fish he had caught. Then he even resorted to flying around carrying the fish wherever he flew. It did not seem to be looking good I thought. Most of the osprey probably had already flown through. I was not too hopeful that he was going to get a mate for his 8th season in a row, which is rare, I believe. THEN, while he was flying high in the air, he started a courtship flight, but then, the next thing I knew, two osprey landed on the platform.... Oh No!

It was the young male who had come back first on March 27th, but this time he had a female with him. She looked like she was impressed with the nest... - that he made?!!! Meanwhile up in the air, the original male was doing this beautiful courtship flight, just the way he was supposed to be doing it. Falling and rising, while chirping, all the time displaying the fish. (Although earlier some who had seen the fish he was carrying around said it looked a little stiff and dried out!) What to do?! What to do?! Would he lose his nest site? Instead of circling high above, he was coming in closer and closer, while still rising and falling. When he was within approximately 80 feet of the nest he did it. Was it a plan he had all along, or was it one he came up with in that instant? He started heading straight for the platform, right where the male was standing on the platform...

The younger male, seeing this osprey coming at him decided to get out of there fast and worry about what to do once he escapes! In an instant, the original male takes the place of the first male, then while standing on the nest that he mostly made... with a finesse rarely seen among osprey,... he simply handed the fish to the female.... And she accepted!

Was Thursday's interlude all part of the plan? Is courtship all instinct, or is it an experiential process too? Will this be the start of a new nesting at CRD? Is she old enough? How will these two get along differently then his past "wife" for the last 5 years?...

Stay tuned for the next episode of "As the Osprey Soars" by Paul Fusco

Bird Banding at Springbrook

One of the best ways to see birds up close is to attend a bird banding event. Springbrook Nature Center continues to have bird banding scheduled for every month on Sunday mornings on the following dates: **Jul. 20, Aug. 10 and Sep. ? at 6:30 am.** Show up at any time during the morning and enjoy the bird show!

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

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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

July

- 19 Field Trip - Prairie Moon Nursery Tour, 8:15 am
- 20 Bird banding at Springbrook
- 22 Joint Program - Dan McGuiness, "Mississippi River", IWL - Breckenridge Chapter House, 7:30 pm

August

- 5 Field Trip - Twin Cities Shorebird Trip, 7:30 am
- 10 Bird banding at Springbrook
- 26 Joint Program - Greg Oak, Prairie Chicken Society, "Prairie Chickens", IWL - Breckenridge Chapter House, 7:30 pm

MRVAC field trips are held throughout the year. Please check their website for current list.

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 John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!

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Electronic Kingfisher

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