



KINGFISHER



October 2007

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 56 No. 6

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Surfing a Wave of Warblers

So, how did this phrase come to life? It began on a field trip to Miesville Ravine with the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter (MRVAC). Fall migration is beginning. Warblers are passing through on their way to sunnier climes. We walked the path up the hill to a prairiescape with Big Bluestem, Great Lobelia, Bottle Gentian and a few other native plants. By this time, we have encountered Cedar Waxwings and a Wood Duck and heard from a vocal Yellow-throated Vireo. We walk further and see little.

Out of seemingly nowhere many flycatchers, vireos and warblers decorate the trees—a wave of birds, so to speak. We walk, birds come, we walk again, more birds come, and a pattern develops. Conversations are stopped as a leader or so “pishes” to bring out the shy. An American Redstart here, a Red-eyed Vireo there and a Northern Water thrush on a dead limb; another wave washes over us.

In the trough of the waves, talk turns to plants and insects. While perusing the prairie, one of the birders talked of small red dragonflies that he was seeing lately. We find an example perched on a nearby twig. I explain that this specimen is a White-faced Meadowhawk, but like identifying flycatchers, where sound is needed, some Meadowhawks must be examined with a hand lens. Questions about some of the plants we are seeing come up. Most plants are identified, but a few remain.

Discussions about plants and bugs are cut short as another flight of birds changes conversations' topics. Philadelphia Vireo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Goldfinches and some Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, followed by more leader “pishing,” brings the topic back to birds. Discussions of “life” birds and adding to personal county lists and other variations on listing themes are heard. The wave recedes. Talk turns back to plants and insects. We discover a Walking Stick clinging to a stem. Almost invisible, hiding in plain sight, these insects are an amazing example of adaptive camouflage. We speak of the differences between Stinging Nettles and Wood Nettles.

Plants and bugs then birds, wave and trough, the surfing concept comes together.

Surf's up! Catch the next wave.

—John Arthur

October Program

Landscaping is for the Birds

October's featured speakers are Paul and Susan Damon of St. Paul. They are artists in the blossoming field of “birdscaping”—landscaping which brings natural beauty, birds, and wildlife to home gardens. Together they will detail in photos and words how over the years they converted their home into a bird sanctuary featuring plants native to the region.

Paul grew up in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. He has a Masters of Landscape Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota. After working as a landscape project designer and teacher, he began painting professionally in 1996. His oil and watercolor paintings feature realistic interpretations of Midwestern landscapes. They seek “to reveal what is sacred and humane” in those varied landscapes. Susan Damon, an Assistant State Attorney General, is also an avid gardener.

Susan and Paul's garden is featured in Mariette Nowak's recently published book, *Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds*.

Please join us for the next meeting.

Tuesday,

October 2

at 7:00 p.m.

Mayflower Church

(see page two for new directions)



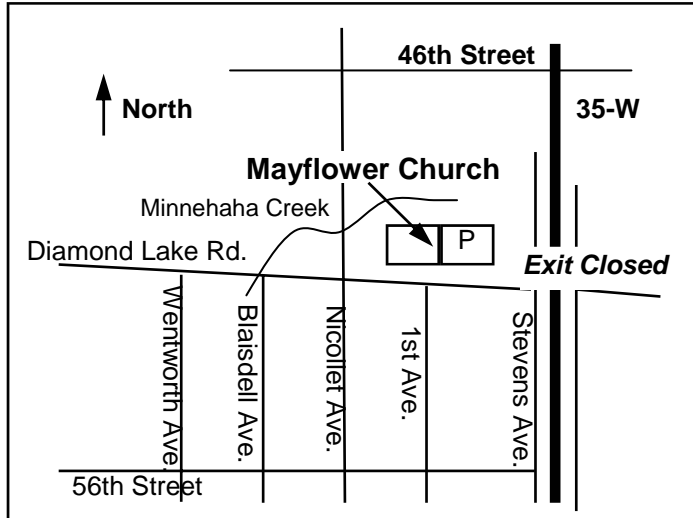
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, October 2, 2007

“Landscaping is for the Birds”

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



Mayflower Church Exit Closed

Diamond Lake Road Exit from 35W to Diamond Lake Road will be closed for the next year. Consequently most of us who usually take that exit to get to the Mayflower Church for our Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis programs will need to take an alternate exit this year. For those of us coming from the north of Mayflower Church, a convenient exit will be the 46th Street Exit. Go west to Nicollet, then south to Diamond Lake Road and east to the Church. This may actually be a convenient exit for some of you coming from the south also. Exiting on Lyndale Avenue and going north to Diamond Lake Road may also work.. Those coming from the east will need to cross 35W at either 46th or 60th Street to get to Nicollet and then proceed either north or south to Diamond Lake Road. Those coming from the west will not be affected. We hope the exit closing does not deter you from attending our fine schedule of programs.

Electronic Kingfisher

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KINGFISHER
ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2006-2007 Contacts

President	John Arthur	952-931-0819	jarthur@visi.com
Vice President	Jim Egge	612-827-7629	aubullet2@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ernie Gunderson	612-721-9103	
Secretary	<open>		
Board Member	Martha Allen		
Board Member	Amy Carlson		
Board Member/Conservation	Jerry Bahls	763-572-2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Board Member	<open>		
Board Member/Publicity	Paul Fusco		iamps2001@yahoo.com
Board Member	Ron Kroese	651-646-0088	rkroese@visi.com
Board Member	Marianna Tiller	612-935-2756	
Board Member	2 open positions		
Bluebird Recovery, Lending Library	Dorene Scriven	612-922-4586	scriv001@tc.umn.edu
Field Trips Chair	<open>	Membership	<open>
Field Trips Leader/Park Feeders	Tom Mahan	763-588-5440	mahan-mail@att.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Marcia Marshall	612-871-6611	marciamarshall@comcast.net
<i>Kingfisher</i> Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656	mnvogelfrau05@visi.com
Sales	Jean Kelley	763-862-1421	
Social	Helen Weides	612-824-6268	
Audubon Chapter Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		MOU Rare Bird Alert: 763-780-8890
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

OCTOBER
BIRD OF THE
MONTH:

A
Bird Mystery

-?-

Presented

by

Jim Egge

Minnesota River Valley Field Trips



Silence of the Songbird

by Bridget Stutchbury

reviewed by Jerry and Donna Bahls

September 29

7:30 am. Cannon River Wilderness Area, Faribault
George Skinner 952-936-0811

October 28 – November 3

Eco-Tour to Rancho Los Ebanos, Mexico
Marie Digatano 763-315-1749 cost is \$1,199

November 3

2:00 pm. Beginning Bird Watching Workshop, MRVWR
George Skinner 952-938-0811

November 12

7:00 am. Metro Birding. Call for details.
Craig Mandel 952-546-3407

November 17

9:00 am. Swans on the Mississippi,
Lake City Bakery
Mark Lystig 651-452-1133

**Please contact the trip leader for further
information.**

MOU Fall Field Trip

October 13th—Lake Mille Lacs Shoreline

8:00 am to noon, led by Al Schirmacher.

Meet at the Dairy Queen on Hwy 169 in Onamia, MN and carpool from there. This trip will focus on the west and north shores of Lake Mille Lacs, and migrants and vagrants such as Red-Throated and Pacific loons. There is limited space available for this trip.

For more information contact Al Schirmacher at pastoral@princetonfreechurch.net.

This MOU field trip is free and open to the public.



“Silence of the Songbird” is a disturbing look at the fate of songbirds in the world and particularly the Western Hemisphere. Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, who will be the feature speaker at the Midwest Regional Audubon Conference, gives a personal narration of her observations and analysis of the fate of songbirds from their breeding grounds to their wintering grounds.

The picture is not good! The book opens with her greeting a group of students at the airport in Panama and she immediately leads them on a birding trip in the Canal Zone. They see and hear many, many birds, some they are familiar with in the U.S. and Canada (she teaches at York University in Toronto).

They then leave the Canal Zone and the stage is set for the rest of the book. They drive through miles and miles of agricultural lands that are not friendly, and in many instances, downright hostile for songbirds.

The book does an excellent job of documenting the perils that the songbird faces during its life. You wonder how there are any songbirds out there at all. However, she does provide some hope. By documenting the problems and dismissing some of the reasons for songbird decline, she gives us action items to work on. Buying only shade-grown coffee is high on her list!

The book is an easy read, broken down into the various perils that birds face. Each section is stand alone allowing for convenient breaks. She included a lengthy bibliography of published research on the problems; thus, it is an excellent resource to use as a reference for these problems.

All proceeds from her book will be used to fund research on songbirds. Don't miss an opportunity to hear her at the Midwest Regional Audubon Conference.

Take a hike in one of Hennepin County's beautiful parks this fall and help celebrate the Three Rivers Park District's 36th Annual Autumn Hiking Adventures Program, September 1 through October 31, 2007.

Eleven scenic trails have been designated as official Autumn Hiking Adventures trails and the paths are open from 5:00 am to sunset. After completing four trails, you are eligible to purchase a pretty commemorative medallion. Check out the District's website or call the Trail Hotline for information: 763-559-6778.

Save the Date

Audubon's Annual Fall Members Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 2007

Audubon members from all over the state gather to socialize and set the course for Audubon advocacy activities at the State Capitol on the second Saturday in November. Mark your calendars now!

We'll meet at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from 9 to 4, have bird-watching field trips, guest speakers, lunch and more!

To register, contact Susan Solterman
ssolterman@audubon.org
or 651-260-7040.

Watch the Audubon Minnesota website,
www.mn.audubon.org for details on the agenda.

Fluorescent Bulbs

Where do you recycle them?



Many Audubon members are reducing individual and collective carbon footprints. We even have a metro-wide Audubon chapter challenge taking place.

With increased awareness, come questions. Some members express frustration with limited locations for recycling fluorescent bulbs, which contain mercury in the white lining dust of the bulb and therefore cannot go to landfills.

Either take your used fluorescents to your county recycling center or go to a participating area retailer and Xcel Energy will help pay their recycling fee with 50¢ off coupons to you for new bulbs for each bulb you return (limited to 10 bulbs/year).

For a list of local retailers that take fluorescent bulbs go to: [Http://www.xcelenergy.com/docs/recyclingretailers](http://www.xcelenergy.com/docs/recyclingretailers)

From Audubon Minnesota August News

"A Passion For Pumpkins," October 6—November 1

This fall, the Minnesota Arboretum is celebrating the beautiful varieties of the lowly pumpkin. Enjoy many family activities like guessing the weight of a pumpkin contest, and learn all about cucurbits (pumpkins, gourds, and squash) and see the variety of colors and shapes of everything from Baby Boos to red, white, and blue pumpkins.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

There's still time!
Sign up today for the

Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference

It's not too late to reserve your place at an engaging and enlightening conference devoted to Midwestern birds and their habitats which makes the case that birds and the places they live are inextricably bound together.

Register now for the October 13-14 Audubon Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference "**Declining Species, Declining Habitat: Reversing the Trend.**"

Hear experts on birds of grasslands, forests, wetlands and even the typical backyard spell out how birds are doing and how their habitats are faring. Speakers from universities, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the National Audubon Society, the Minnesota DNR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey will share their expertise and success stories. And don't miss the Saturday evening dinner and keynote presentation with Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, author and researcher from York University in Ontario, as she explores whether birds are the "canaries in the coal mine."

A special Sunday morning panel featuring Audubon president John Flicker and Mark Seeley (author and climatologist) will explore the many facets of global warming in an informative and entertaining manner—and how Audubon is addressing this critical issue of our times.

Sign up for the pre-conference day October 12, **Mississippi River: America's Flyway**, and immerse yourself in the experience of the Mississippi Flyway, a nationally important migration route, by capping off the session with a sternwheeler river cruise.

Make sure you're on hand for this important and fascinating conference. Choose to attend one day, two days or all three days. For more conference details, click <http://mn.audubon.org/index>

Plastic Bag Recycling Made Easier

A new program in the Twin Cities called *It's in the Bag* makes it easier to recycle all sorts of plastic bags to reduce landfill waste and environmental damage. Plastic bags can take between 15 and 1,000 years to break down in the environment. In the marine environment, plastic bag litter is lethal, killing at least 100,000 birds, whales, seals and turtles every year. You can help by bringing your own bags to the grocery store and recycling the numerous plastic bag materials below.

Please recycle the following materials:

Plastic grocery bags * Plastic retail bags with string ties or handles removed * Plastic newspaper bags * Plastic dry cleaning bags * Plastic produce bags with all food residue removed * Plastic bread bags with all food residue removed * Plastic frozen bags with all food residue removed * Plastic wrap from paper products * Plastic salt bags with handles removed * Plastic zipper bags with rigid closing mechanism removed

Drop off at: Byerly's, Cub Foods, Kowalski's, Lunds, Natural Foods Co-ops, Rick's Market, Festival Foods, and Hennepin County Recycling Centers.

For a complete list visit www.itsinthebagmn.org.

The Great Gray

There he sits,
in plain sight
with a gaze of calm surprise.
Yellow eyes stare—
not missing a thing.
Listening.
A bigger-than-life,
fluff of feathers.
Loosely assembled,
they form a
graceful flying
creation.

—Clem Nagel

AUDUBON GLEANINGS

HOW TO BEAT THE BIRDSEED SPROUTS

Many people who feed birds struggle with having sprouting seeds under their feeder. It is an unattractive result of having our feathered friends keeping us company.

Is there any way to control this unwanted sprouting? The best thing is to keep a tidy feeding area. Make sure to rake up the extra seed below the feeder on a regular basis. This will help keep the area neat and reduce sprouting, and it is safer for the birds. Fungus and bacteria can develop if there is seed on the ground and it becomes wet and moldy. This fungus could lead to a disease called aspergillosis.

Some have asked about baking the birdseed to kill the seed's ability to sprout. Baking birdseed—besides being a real hassle—may not be totally effective in killing all types of seed. You'll be happy to know it isn't necessary.



You have many options for sprout-free feeding.

You can feed birds sunflower hearts or chips and whole or broken peanuts, none of which will sprout. All Nyjer or thistle seed imported into the U.S. must be treated so that it will not sprout, a rule set forth by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prevent unwanted weeds from becoming established.

Raisins, mealworms, and suet cakes without seeds are good choices, as is peanut butter mixed with enough cornmeal to make a stiff dough. An added advantage is that the treats tend to attract a wider variety of native birds and fewer non-natives, such as pigeons, which prefer to feed on small seeds on the ground.

Be sure to use feeders that restrict non-native birds, and keep the ground underneath your feeders clean. A tidy feeding area will help cut down on large flocks of unwanted birds as well as rodents, disease, and mess that cause unwanted clean-up at many feeding stations.

—Jim Egge
612-827-7629

(Article reprinted by permission from the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society-April 2007. Joel Dunnette - President)

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis MN 55403

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Minneapolis, MN
Permit No. 280



KINGFISHER
OCTOBER 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

SEPTEMBER

29 Audubon Center North Woods
Open House

OCTOBER

2 Chapter Meeting
12-14 Upper Midwest Regional Conference

MRV field trips are held throughout the year.
Please check page 3 for current 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 meet-
ings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!