



KINGFISHER



December 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 8

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Jennifer Readi-McNicol had some very exciting news for us this week. She has accepted a job as a Wildlife Biologist at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in the Bird Banding Lab in Maryland. Many of us felt this would be a dream job. While we are very happy for her, from a very selfish view point, we are disappointed because she was a bright prospect for assuming leadership in our Chapter and Audubon in Minnesota. We will miss her. Now we are down to only eight Board members.

While we will be able to continue to run the chapter with the reduced number of Board members, it puts more pressure on those of us who remain. I again would like to point out that doing active volunteer work for recent retirees is very fulfilling and actually healthy. It provides some physical activity and lots of mental exercise. It has been shown that people who stay mentally active seem to ward off memory problems.

We are still looking for someone to Chair our Conservation Committee. To me this is an opportunity to make a very positive impact in our community. The Chair may take the Committee in any of many directions. One way would be to be active with the Environmental Issues Committee of Audubon Minnesota, which deals with environmental issues at the state and federal levels. There could be opportunities to meet with legislators to inform them of these issues. It is often very surprising to find out how little some of them know about an issue.

From a Minneapolis perspective, the city is very progressive when it comes to preserving our environment within the city, and they often need help in learning about problems and potential solutions. The Conservation Committee could be more proactive on Minneapolis and surrounding area issues, thereby having a very real impact on our quality of life in our community.

So if you are a recent retiree or have some time on your hands, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis can help you fill that time in a worthwhile and fulfilling way. Call Jerry Bahls at 763 572-2333 or e-mail jobaud@comcast.net or contact any of our Board members for information about the Conservation Committee or other volunteer opportunities.

—Jerry Bahls

December Program

Bring Back the Red-Headed Woodpecker

If the vision of the speaker at the December 2 program of the Minneapolis Audubon chapter becomes reality, in a decade sightings of red-headed woodpeckers won't be a once-a-year-if-you're-lucky delight, but a fairly common sight, if you know where to look. That vision belongs to Chet Meyers, who will discuss the red-headed woodpecker recovery project that he and a group of dedicated conservationists began last year.

Chet will describe the plight of the woodpecker, whose numbers have drastically declined over the last twenty-five years. He will detail recent nesting data and the progress to-date of the recovery project that combines the efforts of the DNR non-game division, Audubon Society volunteers, and the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Research Reserve. The reserve, located in East Bethel, Minnesota, has one of the largest concentrations of the oak-savannah loving woodpeckers in the state. He also will explain what all of us who are concerned about the decline of the redheads can do to help restore a healthy population.

An avid bird watcher since 1985 and a member of the Minnesota Ornithological Union, Chet is a retired Metropolitan State University professor where he taught religion, philosophy, and natural science. When not looking out and listening for woodpeckers, he spends his spare time as a bird carver and angler.



*Tuesday,
December 2nd
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church*

Winter Mug Club: *Hot Drinks while you Think* (starts in December)

Audubon will provide hot water and an assortment of instant coffee, tea and cocoa. You bring your mug to enjoy a warm drink during our winter member meetings through March. Hot drinks while you think about the topic of the evening!

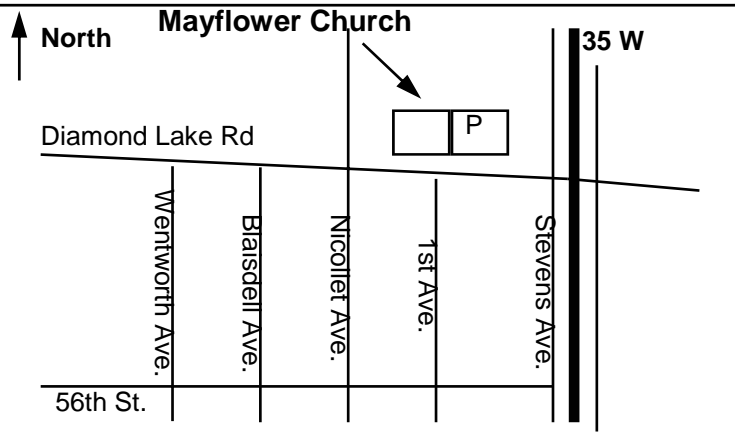
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, December 2, 2008

“Bring Back the Red-headed woodpecker”
with Chet Meyers

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



Fall Appeal Update

Thanks to all of you, we are well on our way to meeting our goal for this year's Fall Appeal. However we do still need a few more of you to donate what you can. Because of the economy, we don't expect to break records. We certainly like it when we get many members sending us the \$5 and \$10 checks, it let's us know we are appreciated. Thanks to all who have and will donate.

Circle February 13 - 16 on your calendar for the
Great Backyard Bird Count

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2008-2009 Contacts

President	Jerry Bahls	763 572 2333	jobaud@comcast.net
Vice President	Amy Carlson		alc5628@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Ernie Gunderson	612-721-9103	
Kingfisher Editor	Marcia Marshall	612-871-6611	marciamarshall@comcast.net
Kingfisher Editor	Kim Halek	763-427-8656	mrvogelfrau05@visi.com
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis	www.geocities.com/audubon.geo		
Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
Audubon Center of the North Woods	www.audubon-center.org		

MOU Rare Bird Alert:
763-780-8890

OUR FIELD TRIPS

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

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Date: Saturday, December 20, 2008

Time: 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Ave NE,
Fridley 55432
763-572-3588

All birders welcome at this nation-wide Audubon event - beginner or experienced! Our counting region is a 7.5 mile circle centered on the Coon Rapids dam. We will meet to form teams and divide up small territories at 7:30 AM (coffee and doughnuts provided). Hot potluck lunch at Noon (please bring a dish to share) and results reported at 4:00 PM. Please call Springbrook 763-572-3589 to register, if possible, or show up on the day. Cost: \$5.00 donation to National Audubon to help defray cost of compiling all the records.

October Field Trip Report

The red-headed woodpeckers at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve cooperated and all 20 field trip participants were able to get good looks at several beautiful adults. We also saw nesting cavities with their perfectly round entrance holes. Other species of note included: horned lark, shrike, red-necked grebe, pied-billed grebe, and bald eagle. Thanks to Jerry Bahls for his leadership on this field trip and for all his work on the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program.

GRACED

Leaf buds
swell.

Summer's green canopy
covers hills,
then slips away.
Leaves descend –
forming sunshine pools
beneath trees.
Gentle floods flow home,
nourishing creation.
Earth-return.

-Clem Nagel

Seeking Field Guides for Schools

Staff of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis have been working closely with Harvest Academy this year enhancing their 5th-7th grade science curriculum with classroom presentations and bird watching field trips to nearby Theodore Wirth Park. The school library could benefit from additional field guides on all subjects: birds, insects, trees, plants, rocks etc. If you have gently used nature guides focusing on Minnesota and/or our region, please bring them to our December meeting. We will present our collective donation to the school after the holiday break.

Changes at Audubon Minnesota

Mark Peterson, Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota, announced some personnel changes at the Fall Meeting on November 8th. Susan Solterman, Audubon Minnesota's Policy Director has resigned and has been replaced by John Curry. John has worked as a lobbyist for MCEA and consequently brings a lot of experience to Audubon. Susan will continue to work, now as a volunteer, on the Environmental Issues Committee as well as being active in the St. Paul Audubon Society.

Joanna Eckles has been appointed as the Bird Safe Coordinator. She will now get paid to do much of what she has done as a volunteer. She will continue to work to get high rise building managers to turn off their lights during periods of bird migration. She will also coordinate the monitoring of bird collisions at buildings in Minneapolis and St. Paul. This important Audubon program would not have been started without her dedicated work. The Together Green funding from Toyota has made her hiring possible.

The third change has been the hiring of Bonnie Sample as the Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator. Bonnie is the Past-President of the St. Paul Audubon Society and a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota, earning a Masters Degree. Bonnie is busy reviewing other Breeding Bird Surveys in adjacent states and is recruiting regional coordinators who will help organize the statewide survey. Bonnie will begin recruiting birders to do the survey, beginning in 2009. The survey is expected to take a couple of years to complete. Audubon Minnesota was successful last legislative session in obtaining an LCCMR grant to fund the Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis wish John, Joanna and Bonnie good luck in their programs. If any of our members is interested in helping John, join the Environmental Issues Committee. Joanna will be again seeking volunteers to monitor buildings in Minneapolis for bird collisions. Bonnie will need many, many volunteers to go into the field to survey for breeding birds. If anyone would like to offer their services, call Audubon Minnesota at 651 739-9332.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Bylaws Changes

Periodically the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis Board reviews its Bylaws and changes them to correct a problem or to bring them up-to-date. A minor issue surfaced last year dealing with a Board member becoming an officer on the Board. It wasn't clear when the Board member becomes an officer if that then created a vacancy on the Board. The Board felt that it did not and language should be inserted into the Bylaws to clarify this.

Another minor item dealt with our State Fair Committee. Since Audubon Minnesota dropped its participation at the State Fair and decided to participate at the Living Green Expo, the name of this Committee should be changed to the Living Green Expo Committee.

Finally with the success of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery, the Board felt it ought to be given equal status with the Bluebird Recovery Program. Therefore the following changes to the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis were approved by the Board.

In order for them to be incorporated into the Bylaws a vote by the membership is required. Therefore it is planned to hold a very brief business meeting before the Program Meeting on December 2nd to vote on the Bylaw changes.

The changes to the Bylaws as approved by the Board are as follows –

1. Add on page 1 – “**REVISION DECEMBER 2, 2008**” on next line after DECEMBER 7, 2004
2. On Bylaws page 2 insert “***If the newly elected officer is a sitting Board member that Board member will continue serving out their Board term.***” after “...and treasurer.”
3. On top of page 6 strike “STATE FAIR” and insert “**LIVING GREEN EXPO**”
4. On page 6, BYLAW 8, insert “***and RED-HEADED WOODPECKER RECOVERY***” after BYLAW 8 BLUE-BIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM. On line 1 delete “a” after first word “Being” and insert an “s” at end of word committee. On line 2 insert “***and the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery (RhWR)***” after “(BBRP)”. On line 2 insert a “,” then a space after the word “bluebird” at the end of the line and then insert “***red-headed woodpecker***”. On line 5 insert “***and red-headed woodpecker***” after the word “bluebird” at the end of the sentence. On line 5 insert “***and Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery***” after the word “Program”.

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

DECEMBER

- 2 Chapter Program
- 20 Christmas Bird Count

JANUARY

No Chapter Program

FEBRUARY

- 3 Chapter Program
- 13 - 16 Great Backyard Bird Count

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 attend programs, trips and board meetings. Call Jerry Bahls for details!

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

Electronic Kingfisher

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Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net