



# KINGFISHER



March 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 2

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

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## A Note from the President

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Winter is as good or better a time to go birding or just be out in nature. Cold temperatures should be celebrated, not bemoaned.

We started the year by taking friends to visit the trumpeter swans at Monticello. Maybe it's not the most exciting birding venture for an experienced birder, but for non-birders, seeing that many swans in one place might spark an interest in birding. We pointed out the neck bands found on some of the swans. We had reports from the USGS on our last year's observations; some of our old friends had returned (hello P96 and 3A0). In all, we saw 15 banded birds. Some were obviously pairs. Swans 62K and 68K stayed within a few feet of each other at all times. Another pair, 92K and 98K, were also in close proximity.

In November, we made our annual pilgrimage to Brownsville to witness the return of the tundra swans. Here we also saw neck collars. Again, we had the reports from the previous year. We saw T319, as we had the year before: a Tundra Swan that had been banded in Alaska in 1978. We have since received a report on swan H171 we noted from that visit and found that it was born around 1999 or earlier and was banded in 2001 in Loretto, VA.

We spent three wonderful nights on the North Shore. On the drive up the shore, we purchased a copy of the book, *Waterfalls of Minnesota's North Shore*, which we followed to discover the wonderful waterfalls that grace the many rivers and creeks that cross Hwy. 61. We were up to the challenge and drove past Grand Portage to the Pigeon River (not quite to Canada, but you can see it from there). Frozen falls and raucous ravens, our icy exploration was a great adventure. While hiking up the trail, we heard a raven call we had never heard before. The plaintive, questioning call with a bell-like quality, seemed to be asking the question, "I'm here, where are you?"

Strong winds brought incredible waves to the harbor in Grand Marais. Small shards of ice clinked and tinkled near the shore, and gulls rode this flotsam with what appeared to be nary a care. Mighty wave crashes coated rocks and rails with a shiny, slippery coat; trees glistened with a hard clear shell. A few Goldeneyes dove and resurfaced beyond the ice. Our winter adventure became a multi-sensory experience.

Not all birding experiences need to be trips to see rare birds or with large groups of experienced birders. Something new can be found almost anywhere you look.

Vacations . . . not just for summer.

—John Arthur

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## Volunteers Critically Needed

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In the recent past Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has had to closely watch our finances. We shall continue to do so; however, in the past couple of years, our members have responded very generously to our Fall Appeal and we are in a position to take on some projects that will benefit our environmental and social communities.

As an educational organization, we are critically dependent upon our volunteers. We find ourselves becoming desperately short of them. We currently have four vacancies on our Board and have been without a Secretary for over a year. We do not have Membership, Field Trip and Social Chairs and have acting Chairs for our Education, Programs and Sales Committees. None of our Committees have actual members that meet to plan and execute projects, with the exceptions of the Bluebird Recovery Program and the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery.

Volunteering is very rewarding and, most of the time, quite enjoyable. It does require some commitment of your time. Fortunately, you can choose how much. Problems arise when only a few people are available to do the tasks required to run the Chapter. Thus, they are required to spend far more time than they would like to and become overburdened.

The top of the volunteer commitment falls to our Officers and Board. They are our leaders and are expected to put in the most time, usually about four to six hours per month. However, they are critical because they usually provide the committees' leadership. Next is the Committee membership that provides the support for the Committees and that usually requires about one to two hours per month. Finally, the lowest level of time commitment is for those who can volunteer for one-time or annual events like the Bird of the Month or State Fair, which requires only one to four hours per year.

This month, the center section is devoted to a questionnaire relating primarily to helping our Chapter. Even if you cannot volunteer, your response will be very valuable for us. It will let us know the level of activity we can realistically do and expect.

**Please fill out and return the QUESTIONNAIRE!**

**Thank you.**

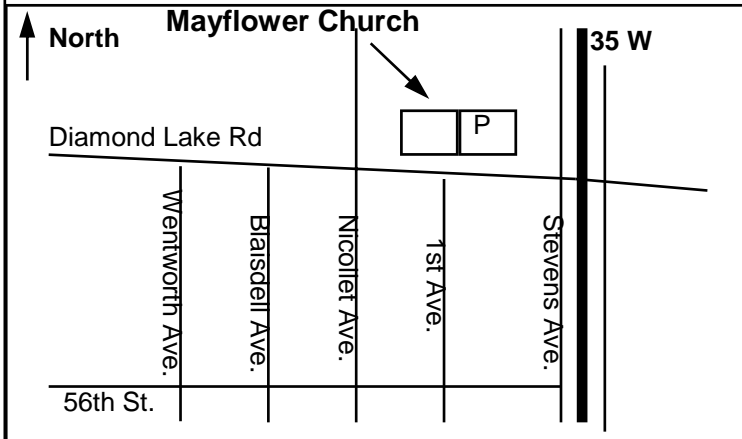
## Come to Our Next Program!

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 4, 2008

What's the Future for Grassland Birds?

**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.

## March Program

### What's the Future for Grassland Birds?

Grassland birds, their decline, and what must be done to secure their survival will be the topic of the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter's next monthly meeting, 7 p.m., March 4, at Mayflower Church in south Minneapolis. Featured presenter, Douglas Johnson, is a research statistician and senior scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, headquartered in Jamestown, North Dakota. A Minnesota native, he spent many years in North Dakota and recently transferred to Saint Paul. He also serves as Adjunct Professor in Conservation Biology and Wildlife Conservation.

Doug and his colleagues have conducted a variety of studies of grassland birds in North and South Dakota, Montana, and Minnesota. As a group, grassland birds recently have been recognized as the species that have suffered the greatest population declines.

Doug will discuss the diversity of birds that depend on grasslands, as well as the ecological forces that shape grasslands and their bird communities. He also will discuss how those forces have changed, and comment on the future prospects of these delightful birds.

**Tuesday, March 4**  
**At 7:00 p.m.**  
**Mayflower Church**

### Monitor Bluebirds this Spring or Summer!

Interested in watching bluebirds develop from egg to adult? Want to know one beautiful bird species well? Whether for one week or more, you can help monitor bluebird nesting boxes in the Theodore Wirth Park/Cedar Lake area in Minneapolis.

Contact Carol Nulsen at 952-925-0482 or [cnulsen@gmail.com](mailto:cnulsen@gmail.com) for more information

### Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis - 2007-2008 Contacts

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Audubon Minnesota	<a href="http://www.audubon.org/chapter/mn">www.audubon.org/chapter/mn</a>		

**MOU Rare Bird Alert:**  
**763-780-8890**

# Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2008 Questionnaire

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Administration** – Recruiting **volunteers** is the one activity that is the hardest for leadership. It is vital for the well-being and operation of the organization. As an educational organization, the more people who get involved in some aspect of service, the more we can accomplish toward our goals and venture into new projects. Would you be able to serve as: (*Circle all numbers in which you are interested*)

- Chapter Officer
- Board Member (8 meetings/year)
- Board Secretary
- Committee Chair [Conservation\_Field Trip\_Social\_Membership\_Program (*Circle one*)]

**Chapter Activity** - Would you be able to serve as: (*Circle all numbers in which you are interested*)

- Organizing bird trips
- Guiding bird trips
- Helping elementary school bird walks
- Present a 'Bird of the Month' at a Chapter meeting
- Make coffee for some meetings
- 'Living Green' Expo booth
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The *Kingfisher* newsletter is our largest single expense, accounting for well over 70% of our budget. It is written, produced and mailed by volunteers. Would you be able to help with: (*Circle all numbers in which you are interested*)

- Writing articles
- Helping with mailing
- Being an assistant editor
- Distribute to selected sites

**Programs** are the next most expensive item in our budget.

I attended \_\_\_\_\_ Audubon programs at the Mayflower Church the past 12 months.

I didn't attend a program because: (*mark all that apply*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Conflict on Tuesday evenings \_\_\_\_\_ Too far away \_\_\_\_\_ Don't have reliable transportation  
\_\_\_\_\_ None were of interest \_\_\_\_\_ Physically unable to

Programs I find interesting are: (*mark all that apply*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pictures of birds \_\_\_\_\_ Scientific programs about birds \_\_\_\_\_ Habitat preservation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other wildlife or insect programs \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative information \_\_\_\_\_ Birding trips

**Hands-on Programs** are important community activities. **Indicate the two programs you think are most important to Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis** (*choose up to two*)

Bluebird Recovery Program  Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery  Conservation programs  
 Legislative work  Education programs like Audubon Adventures  Field Trips.

**I can volunteer for ? hours:** (*Check one*)

2 hrs/month  4 hrs/month  4 hrs/yr  10 hrs/yr  not interested

**I would like information on the following:** (*choose up to three*)

Board member  Chapter Officer  Bluebird Recovery Program  
 Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery  Conservation Committee  Membership Committee  
 Education Committee  Publicity/Exhibits Committee  Field Trip Committee/Leader  
 Programs Committee  Sales Committee  Social Committee

Thanks for filling out this questionnaire. All the information will be kept confidential and used only by the Chapter. The information you have provided is very valuable to your Chapter leaders. Please follow the instructions below to return this to us. Thanks again—Happy Birding!

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
PO Box 3801  
Minneapolis MN 55403-0801

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*To return this to us fold along the lines above, folding first the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and then the bottom 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. Place two pieces of tape on the bottom, one at each end about one inch from the end, to hold the tri-fold together. Place a \$0.41 stamp on it and mail, or download it from our website: <http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo>, fill it out and send it to [jobaud@comcast.net](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net).*

*Sending this to us via e-mail (which will include your e-mail address) saves you \$0.41 and allows us to be able to contact you about field trips, chapter events, changes to chapter events and other emergency announcements. Be sure to check our website, <http://www.geocities.com/audubon.geo/>, for the latest Chapter info. Consider receiving your Newsletter electronically, it saves the Chapter about \$0.30/issue, plus a few trees.*

# Minnesota River Valley Field Trips

## March 10

6:00 am "Isanti County Birding" Minnetonka  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## March 15

2:00 pm "Beginning Birding" MVNWR Visitors Center  
George Skinner, 952-936-0811

## March 15

3:00 pm "Waterfowl Identification"  
MVWR Visitors Center  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## March 29

9:00 am "Field Ornithology Class"  
MVNWR Visitors Center  
George Tkach 952-972-2972

## March 29

3:00 pm "Wildfowl ID Walk " Old Cedar River Bridge  
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

## March 30-April 1

6:00 pm Western Minnesota, Montevideo  
Craig Mandel 952-546-4307

Please contact the trip leader for further information.

## Springbrook Dinner & Auction

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is holding its Annual Dinner & Auction on Saturday, March 29th. Last year this event raised over \$15,000 for scholarships, equipment and supplies for Springbrook Nature Center. This year's theme is *Happy Trails at Springbrook*. Fridley's own Arlys Marie Krauter will provide entertainment. Come to meet old friends and make new friends; visit the Mercantile, the Back Forty, and the Long Branch--and support a great facility. The event will be held at North Air Event Center, 6831 Highway 65 NE, Fridley. Social hour begins at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$40 per person. Adults Only. Purchase tickets by March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Nature Center or go to our web-site .

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

All proceeds benefit Springbrook Nature Center.

## Audubon Gleanings

According to a recent study, red-breasted nuthatches have learned the warning call about predators from the black-capped chickadee. They can even determine low or extreme danger.

Here are other examples in animals of response to warning alarms from other species, but this seems to be the first example of interpretations of subtle information. Christopher Templeton of the University of Washington has found that chickadees give a soft high-pitched call for flying raptors such as owls, but if the predator is perched they emit a varied-pitchcall that seems to beckon similar-sized birds to help harass the predator. The calls can even be interpreted to tell the difference between an agile pygmy owl and a slower, larger great-horned owl.

Here is something to consider when attracting wildlife to your yard: create protective cover for animals and birds to raise their young. Tall grasses and dense shrubs are appropriate, as are rocks or hollow logs. Crows have become serious predators of young animals and will wait until they come out in the open to pounce. Even a large, shallow bowl on the ground can make a refillable "pond. Consider native plants with pollen, nuts, nectar and berries. Learn how you can certify your yard at [www.nwf.org/bwh](http://www.nwf.org/bwh)

If you have old carpet to discard, consider recycling it with Brotex of St. Paul. Contact [rgreenberg@brotex.com](mailto:rgreenberg@brotex.com) or call 651-645-5721.

The January-February issue of "Conservation Volunteer" has a fine, provocative article which will fill in a few information gaps for most readers, and suggests that ethanol from corn just won't cut it.

—Jim Egge

## Hold That Date: March 1, 2008 Global Warming-- Taking the Next Steps

Mark your calendars now for an important seminar that looks beyond the facts of global warming to probe what steps we might take to cut back on harmful greenhouse gases.

Come hear experts discuss methods for sequestering carbon so it doesn't reach the atmosphere and the economics of proposals to cap and trade carbon credits. Kick-off speaker is Sven Sundgaard, the engaging young meteorologist on local KARE-11 TV.

The half-day session starts at 9:00 am at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church, 2020 W. Lake of the Isle Parkway in Minneapolis.

For further information, contact Susan Solterman ([ssolterman@audubon.org](mailto:ssolterman@audubon.org)) or Val Cunningham ([valwrites@comcast.net](mailto:valwrites@comcast.net)).

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
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Minneapolis MN 55403

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KINGFISHER  
MARCH 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**

FEBRUARY

**23** Native Plant Expo

MARCH

**1** Global Warming—Taking the Next Steps  
**29** Springbook Nature Center Dinner

MRV field trips are held throughout the year.  
Please check page 3 for current list

Board meetings are held every month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:jobaud@comcast.net)