



KINGFISHER



May 2008

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 4

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to all of our members who returned the surveys! Your responses will help us, the board members, determine our programs and direction for the next year. We have not completed our tally of the responses, YET! We will be publishing the results of the survey in the next issue of the Kingfisher.

I've read over some of the responses and the suggestions are great. Many of you have volunteered to help with various aspects of chapter operations. We will be in touch. And a blushing thank you to those who mentioned that they liked my articles (aw shucks, Mom, you didn't need to write that). Program topic suggestions and proposed collaborations with other organizations are all excellent ideas. We will work on implementing as many of these proposals as possible. We also will be asking for help with those ideas.

An extra special welcome to Elizabeth Bush who only checked one item on the questionnaire, and that was "Field Trip Chair." She already has several outings lined up and is working on more. Welcome aboard! Stay tuned.

Another addition to the board is Jennifer McNichol. Those of you at the April meeting saw her "Bird of the Month" presentation on Burrowing Owls. Welcome Jennifer!

With all of these great ideas and new board members, our next fiscal year may be the best ever!

—John Arthur

Summer Joint Programs

It is a pleasure to announce that Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Izaak Walton League-Breckenridge Chapter will again hold joint meetings over the summer on June 24, July 22, and August 26 at 7:30 pm.

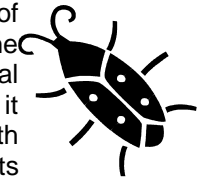
The meetings will be held at the Breckenridge Chapter House located at 8816 West River Road in Brooklyn Park.

June 24: *Len Anderson 'Sulfide Mining in Minnesota'*
Please circle these dates on your calendar. Tell a friend and bring a friend!

May Program

Plant pests are on the way – what you can do.

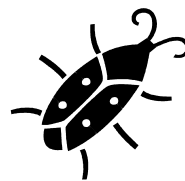
Spring brings the welcomed promise of renewal: the trilling of the songbirds, the buzz of the bees and other beneficial bugs. But it also brings, increasingly it seems, the threat of pest invasions, both plant and animal. It's those exotic pests and what we can do about them that will be the topic of the May 6 Minneapolis Audubon Chapter program.



Steve Shimek, a plant health specialist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, will discuss with words and photos the new and emerging plant pests facing Minnesota, including emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, sudden oak death and Sirex woodwasp and how Audubon members can assist in surveying for these and other exotic plant pest organisms.

Shimet has more than 20 years experience in his position at the Department of Agriculture. On the front lines in defense against an onslaught of destructive plant pests that threaten our environment and agricultural resources, he coordinates statewide inspections of nursery stock moving into Minnesota and annual inspections of Minnesota nursery stock growers to facilitate the movement of pest-free stock interstate and internationally.

When not chasing down nasty bugs, he is also a painter of watercolor illustrations depicting native flora and fauna, including many birds that are on the Audubon's Minnesota Action list. He will bring along some of his paintings to display for sale.



*Tuesday, May 6
at 7:00 p.m.
Mayflower Church*

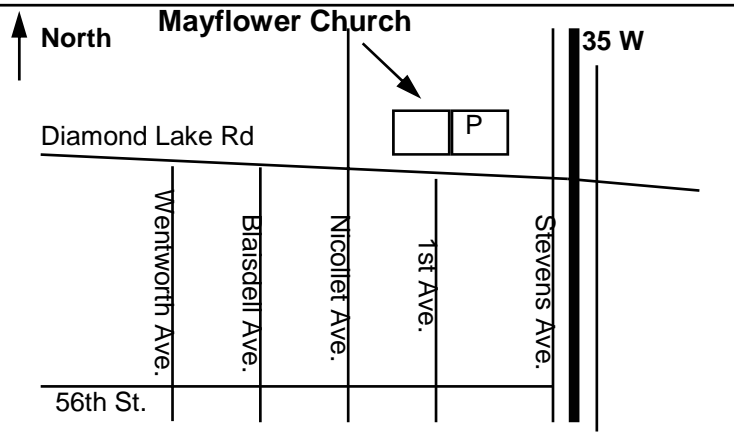
Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, May 6, 2008

“Plant Pests Are On the Way . . .”

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

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



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 each month on Sunday mornings on the following dates: **May 18, Jun. 8, Jun. 29, Jul. 20 and Aug. 10 all at 6:30 am.**

OUR FIELD TRIPS

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

Stearns County Field Trip

Date: Monday, May 5, 2008

Time: 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Trip Leader: Sylvia Winkelman, 763-553-8381

email: sparrowssister2@comcast.net

Meet: Park & Ride, Brooklyn Blvd. and 65th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, MN. Bring lunch

Expect to see waterfowl, early migrating warblers, and Stearns County regular summer residents.

Birding at Springbrook Nature Center

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Trip Leader: Siah St. Clair, Director, 763-572-3588

Meet: Springbrook Nature Center building, 100 85th Ave. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Expect to see warblers and other spring migrants, as well as early nesting species.

Wildflowers at Springbrook Nature Center

Date: Saturday, May 31, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Trip Leaders: Kathy Lane, Master Naturalist and Donna Bahls, Springbrook Garden Club, 763-572-2333 or email: jobaud@comcast.net

Meet: Springbrook Nature Center parking lot

Expect to see woodland wildflowers and early prairie blossoms.

Looking Ahead

Prairie Moon Tour

Sat., July 19, 2008

Shorebirds

Tues., Aug. 5, 2008

Dragonfly Field Trips

Sun., June 29, Lowry Nature Center

Sat., July 12, Eastman Nature Center

Sat., July 26, Sherburne History Center

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Should Minnesota support Canada Lynx habitat and population recovery?

Opinion: John Rust

At least one argument suggests that Minnesota should not support or expend time, money, or other resources to support the Canada Lynx and its habitat within the state of Minnesota. The argument in summation, if understood correctly, goes like this:

- 1) The Canada Lynx is not in danger of extinction in North America.
- 2) The population of Canada Lynx North of the border is healthy.
- 3) There exists plenty of prime Canada Lynx habitat in Canada.
- 4) Use Minnesota's limited money and resources on other more endangered species, possibly those that are only found within Minnesota or the Midwest.

There is logic to this line of reasoning that makes sense. We should use our limited time, money, and resources to work towards protecting and preserving those species that occur within our political boundary, and allow those species that exist mainly outside of our boundaries be conserved by other countries or political/geographical entities. If we use this reasoning, then consequently, the Canada Lynx, whose main population and habitat exists within Canada, should be left to the Canadians to preserve and protect. What ever may happen to the Canada Lynx and its habitat in Minnesota, is of little consequence to us here in Minnesota. It is not our responsibility.

Maybe this is OK. Maybe not. Let's think about this line of reasoning. What would happen if we extend this argument. What if we were to use this line of reasoning on other species that cross international boundaries. Where would we end up?

The Boreal Chickadee is a brown-capped chickadee of the northern boreal forest. It is one of the few birds living completely within the northern boreal forests of Canada and the United States. It lives mostly in Canada's boreal forest, but also in the boreal forest in Northern Minnesota including portions of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Parts of the Northern Continental US boreal forest are not critical to the survival of the boreal chickadee. After all, it exists in Canada. OK, fine, let us not be concerned with small portions of the boreal forest in Minnesota.

A similar situation exists for the snowy and boreal owls which range mostly in Canada. Since the main portion of the ranges for the snowy owl and boreal owl exists in Canada, should we in the US give much priority to conserving and protecting its habitat in the US. Maybe not.

What happens if we extend the argument further? Consider the wolverine, the grizzly bear, and the wolf. Wolverines, grizzly bears, and wolves are found mostly in Canada. Why should we in the US conserve their habitat and populations anywhere in the lower 48 states. Their populations are healthy and thriving in Canada and in Alaska for that matter. OK. Fine let's move on.

Consider the American Crocodile. It can be found in Florida's Everglades. However, healthy populations exist along the coasts of Mexico, Central America and along the northern coast of South America. There is no absolute need to protect the American Crocodile and its habitat in Florida. It is not in any danger of extinction in Mexico, Central America or South America.

Consider the Monarch Butterfly whose winter grounds are the cool dry mountain forests of Mexico. The summer range of the monarch butterfly extends up through the US and includes the Southern portion of Canada. Canada need not protect monarch butterfly habitat as there is plenty of monarch habitat in the US. OK, chock up the monarch butterfly as a species for Canada to not be concerned about.

Consider the desert tortoise. It lives in Southern California, Southern Utah, Arizona, and also Mexico. Since healthy populations thrive in Mexico, we should not be concerned about protecting desert tortoise population and habitat in California, Utah, and Arizona. We can remove the desert tortoise off the list of species we here in the US need worry about.

Both the ocelot and the jaguar range includes portions of South America, Central America, Mexico and the southern portions of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. Only minor portions of the ranges for the ocelot and the jaguar occur in the US. So let us remove them as species to be concerned about here in the US.

Consider the Golden Eagle. Its range covers vast areas of the Western US and Canada. It also ranges into Northern Mexico. Since the primary range exists in the US and Canada, Mexico need not be concerned about Golden Eagle habitat or populations. One less responsibility for Mexico to spend limited time and resources on.

The Gila Wood Pecker range includes Southern Arizona, Baja California and Western Mexico, with the predominant range being in Mexico. Ok, let us be less concerned about the Gila Woodpecker in the US, because its primary range exists in Mexico.

OK, I think you get the idea.

It seems from this line of reasoning, that any number of species can be removed from concern based on the argument that they live primarily somewhere else and exist in another geography and political jurisdiction.

It seems that this type of reasoning and the consequent results may not be entirely responsible. It may remove the graduated transitions between habitats and populations that cross boundaries. Consequently it could create a patchwork quilt of populations and habitats that are less interconnected and potentially remove or degrade the gradual transitions of ecosystems from one area to another.

Consequently, my gut level intuition tells me that since the southern portion of Canada Lynx range and habitat exists in northern Minnesota, a portion of the responsibility for preserving the Canada Lynx and its habitat befalls the state of Minnesota.

AUDUBON GLEANINGS

This year's Audubon Adventure materials are so good that one might wish they were still in fifth grade, but not enough teachers are making use of them. Often it is the school that has the greatest need for outdoor education that is the most difficult to get going. Each kit has a manual to get kids started on journaling nature in their schoolyard, backyard, or parks. A teacher's manual covers lessons with the four classroom sets of activity magazines. Topics include whales, eagles, grizzly bears, and alligators. If you have a student in elementary school, ask the teacher if they are familiar with the Audubon Adventures program.

How about giving a gift membership to Audubon? It includes great magazines with some of the best writers; for example, Ted Williams' "Incite" article on the Everglades in the March-April issue. I give my grandkids a subscription to "Ranger Rick" or the pre-readers magazine "Big Back Yard." My four-year-old granddaughter thought that I actually wrote the magazine and sent it to her. ☺

Consider a trip to China that combines nature travel with Ecology study through the Sichuan Alpine Study Center. Itineraries will be available for review at the May meeting, or contact Jim Egge at 612-827-7629.

Anyone interested in warbler-watching at Murphy Hanrehan on May 10th at 10:00 am, give me a call at 612-827-7629.

—Jim Egge

Mailing Team – THANKS!!

Each year, the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis members receive the *Kingfisher*. This happens because a group of dedicated volunteers gives up the 3rd Monday of the month for eight months to insert, fold and label the *Kingfisher* so it can be mailed. I would like to thank the following for this valuable service: Bill Caverly, Donna Bahls, Lois Dick, Judy Dupre, Dave Martin, Darlene & Don Olson, Marianna Tiller, Mary Ellen Vetter, Lynn Johnson, Betsy Bush, Larry Johnson and Virginia May. When you see them, let them know you appreciate their work. *Thank you, team!*

—Jerry Bahls, Mailing Chair

Bird Seed Sale

Orders must be placed and prepaid by May 2, 2008. Seed will be available for customer pickup on Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am to noon at seven locations throughout the Twin Cities including Bloomington; the MN Landscape Arboretum in Chaska; Minneapolis; Plymouth; Saint Paul; White Bear Lake; and Woodbury. Order forms are available on the web at <http://mn.audubon.org>; by email mnaudubon@audubon.org, or calling 651-739-9332. Volunteers are needed at the pickup sites on May 17th from 9:00 am to noon. If interested contact Jenny at 651-739-9332.

Audubon Center of the North Woods

Third Annual Birding Festival June 6-8, 2008

North Woods Wilderness School.

Connecting kids with nature....

DIRT, ROCKS & WORMS – ages 8-9, June 15-17

NATURE'S NIGHTLIFE – ages 10-11, June 15-20

THE WILD THINGS ARE - ages 12-13, June 22-27

BOUNDARY WATERS – ages 14-17, July 13-19

Native American Drum & Flute Making 6/1/08.

Pre-registration required.

Black Hills & Badlands Journey, June 22-28, 2008.

For registration and information call 888-404-7743
or www.audubon-center.org



Monitor Bluebirds Spring or Summer!

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 for more information.

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Opinion: John Rust

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TO READ THE COMPLETE ARTICLE, SEE
KINGFISHER ONLINE

www.geocities.com/audubon.geo

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May 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

MAY

- 5** Stearns County Field Trip
- 6** Chapter Meeting
- 10** Warbler Field Trip
- 22** Springbrook Field Trip
- 31** Wildflowers at Springbrook

JUNE

- 24** Joint meeting with Izaak Walton League
- 29** Dragonfly Field Trip

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

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