



KINGFISHER



Summer 2007

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 56 No. 4A

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Dragonfly Summer

Much like the grade school child forced to write about how they spent their summer vacation, I am writing this with some of the same reluctance. Not that we haven't had a great summer, far from it. We have spent many of our weekends chasing dragonflies and damselflies.

OK, why do we study dragonflies? Aside from being a fascinating creature at the top of its food chain and having fewer species than birds in Minnesota, they are a possible indicator of water quality. Study of dragonflies is just starting in Minnesota with the Minnesota Odonata Survey Project (MOSP). This citizen science project has the intent of compiling records of the various species of odonates and where they are found.

Studying dragonflies is often compared to birding and the analogy is made about this sport being where birding was about 100 years ago. Field guides are being written and published on a regular basis. Prior to 1999, there only a few guides in print. Now there are over 20 available with new ones being written. Most guides are regional and like bird books, it is best to have more than one. According to the author of "Dragonflies of the North Woods", Kurt Mead, there are at least 8 species not included in the current edition that should be included.

With some apprehension, I will make some birding analogies. Pamela & I have lead 3 field trips with a primary focus on dragonflies. One for Three Rivers Park District, another for Quarry Hill Nature Center and the third for Springbrook Nature Center. (Home base for our Christmas Bird Count) We have a fourth at Oak Savannah Park with the Sherburne County Parks Department has not happened as of this writing.

These trips start with a short slide presentation, sort of a Dragonfly 101. We encourage people to bring their digital cameras to record what we see. After the classroom presentation, we continue with a walk through a nearby wetland to practice what we learned. Finally after we observe for an hour or so, we return to the classroom to take a look at the photos on a large screen. Imagine looking at a five foot image of a one inch long damselfly projected on a screen. (Continued in next column.)

Program Information

EXIT CLOSED!!

Please be aware that the Diamond Lake Road exit, which is the primary freeway exit to get to the Mayflower Church, closed this summer as part of the Crosstown Freeway construction project. The exit will be closed through the fall and winter months and may not open again until next summer. For those coming from the north and east, exit at 46th Street and take Nicollet Ave south to Diamond Lake Road to get to the Mayflower Church. For those coming from the south, the 46th Street exit is an option. Please check the September Kingfisher for more options.

Pamela & I are active surveyors in MOSP. We are visiting natural areas around the state and compiling lists of the odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) that we observe. These lists are being compiled to create a more accurate picture of the species and distribution of these around the state. Did you know, according to the records, that there are no recorded dragonflies in either Brown or Mower counties? Those records do not meant that they are absent, only not recorded. For a bird lister a first county record is really something, but to get a first county record for a dragonfly is simple. There are state records possible as well, new species are being found and even some species that have only a few records nationally (this would be the Quebec Emerald, which up until a year or two ago was only known from some old records in Maine and Washington). At least one species of dragonfly was only described in scientific literature in the last few years. To find out more about this project, go to the web site, "<http://mndragonfly.org>".

We were also the speakers at the May MRVAC regular meeting. There we talked about the various species of dragonflies found in Minnesota as well as a few other places. Our slide show even included a photo of a first state record damselfly, the Skimming Bluet (*Enallagma geminatum*). Interest in this subject is growing.

(Continued on page 2)

Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, September 4, 2007

See September Kingfisher for speaker.

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

AT: Mayflower Church, 35W & Diamond Lake Road—map below. **Note Change!!**

FIELD TRIPS AVAILABLE

Chapter Field Trip Leader Don Wanschura will arrange field trips for individuals or for small groups. You can customize your own trip - choose your own location or let Don suggest one. Don has all around identification expertise - birds, wildflowers, herbs, and wild edible and medicinal plants.

All ages welcome. Just contact him to discuss the date, time and location.

Don Wanschura 612-866-3276 djwi@internet.net

Visiting the Eloise Butler Gardens with Don sounds like a winner!

Electronic Kingfisher

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ELECTRONICALLY!

Contact Jerry Bahls at jobaud@comcast.net

Dragonfly Summer (Continued from page 1)

Some of the questions we get during our presentation are:

How long do dragonflies live? This depends on the species. Some live several years underwater and only a few weeks as adults above. Others have 2 generations

during the summer and over winter as eggs.

They live underwater? Yes, these amazing insects are primarily aquatic, living underwater until emerging as adults.

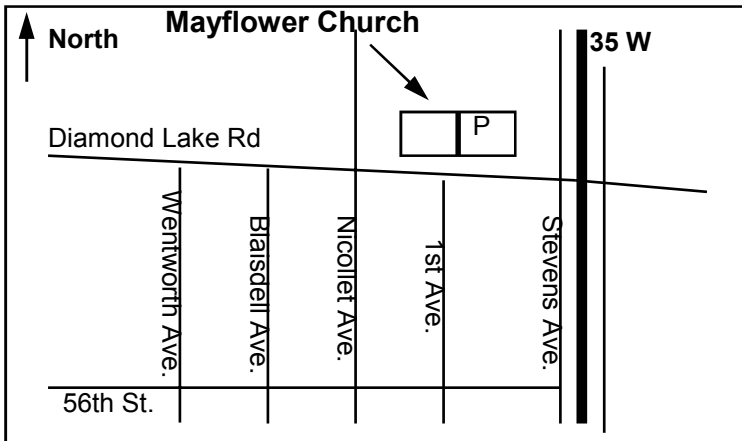
Are dragonflies males and damselflies females? Absolutely NO! Dragonflies and damselflies are 2 separate suborders of the taxonomic order Odonata.

What do they eat? Here's the good news, one of their favorite meals are mosquitoes. Pamela and I have often been walking where dragonflies are abundant and experienced few mosquitoes. I like that.

Do they bite? Yes, but only if you are holding them and even then only the larger ones are able to bite with enough force to be felt.

From these questions, we often guess that not much is known by most people. So here is an excellent educational opportunity. Spread the word.

John Arthur
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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		
National Audubon Society	www.audubon.org		

Audubon Needs A/V Help for Regional Conference

On October 13 & 14, Audubon Minnesota will be hosting the Annual Midwest Audubon Regional Conference. This year's theme is "Declining Species, Declining Habitat; Reversing the Trend". The conference will be held at the Bloomington Embassy Suites. Please circle that date on your calendars. Also circle October 12th, the Mississippi River Campaign is hosting a pre-conference whose theme is "The Mississippi River: America's Flyway". Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis has been asked to set up the Programs for the conference and to provide audio/visual support. Therefore if you have audio/visual experience, especially with computers and visual projectors, we would like you to help put on this conference. Please call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or e-mail at jobaud@comcast.net, if you can help.

Post Office Raises Fees

The post office raised the fees for mailing the Kingfisher early this summer. The exact extent of the increase isn't known for certain, but it is believed that they were raised about 50%. That will mean an increase in our mailing costs for the Kingfisher will go from about \$320/ mailing to about \$480/ mailing. Unfortunately this will probably mean the chapter will have to make some kind of an adjustment in the frequency of Kingfishers we mail during the year. The Board will be addressing this issue at our September Board meeting this fall. This has been a double blow to us since we will also have an increase in printing costs for the Kingfisher this fall.

One way you can help is to sign up for the electronic Kingfisher. See details in this newsletter.

Audubon Denied State Fair Merger with MOU

Audubon Minnesota due to financial constraints gave up their booth at the State Fair and opted to join with MOU at the Fair. But the State Fair Board denied their request. Thus Audubon will not have a presence there this year!

Endangered Birds are Calling...

...all Upper Midwest Audubon members, friends and partners to the Embassy Suites in Bloomington, MN October 12th-14th!
Register Today!!

On Saturday and Sunday, the 13th and 14th of October, sessions in three critical habitat tracks—grassland, forest and wetlands—focus on options for **"Declining Species, Declining Habitat: Reversing the Trend."** Learn, share, and take home new energy to make a difference. Some repeat sessions and field trips inside and outside are available on Saturday afternoon for birders and their spouses.

On Saturday evening, scientist and author Bridget Stutchbury presents: "Migratory Songbirds: Canaries in the Mine?" Watch for her new book, *Silence of the Songbirds*. Go ahead, Google her name. You'll be impressed!

Friday, October 12th, pre-conference attendees explore **"The Mississippi River: America's Flyway."** The day is full of informative and interactive sessions on Mississippi River habitat issues and opportunities and a sternwheeler boat ride on the Mississippi River IBA.

On Friday evening, see an internationally acclaimed BBC/Discovery Channel Documentary "Mississippi: Tales of the Last River Rat," and enjoy commentary and Q&A with river guide, trapper, fisherman, hunter, root and herb collector and naturalist, Kenny Salwey. Even if Saturday attendees can't attend all day, they may register for this evening event.

Sunday Morning will feature Audubon President John Flicker and University of Minnesota Climatologist Mark Seeley discuss the science and policy of Global Warming.

For further information on sponsorship and exhibit space, contact Audubon Minnesota at 651-739-9332. For conference details and registration information visit <http://mn.audubon.org>.



Minnesota River Valley Field Trips

Please contact the trip leader for further information.

Aug 8	6:30 P	Old Cedar Ave. Bridge, MVNWR	George Skinner	952-936-0811
Aug 18	7:30 A	Louisville Swamp Unit, MVNWR	George Skinner	952-936-0811
Aug 25	3:00 P	Warbler ID Class, MVNWR Visitor Center	Craig Mandel	952-546-3407
Aug 26	8:00 A	Miesville Ravine	Steve Weston	612-978-3993

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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
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Chapter Code: **M02**
7XCHA

Calendar of Events

JULY

Off for summer. See you birding!!

AUGUST

23—31 State fair

September

4 Program (See September Kingfisher)

MRVAC field trips are held throughout August
Please check page 3 for complete list

Board meetings are held every month on the 2nd
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 meet-
ings. Call John Arthur or Jerry Bahls for details!