



KINGFISHER



February 2008

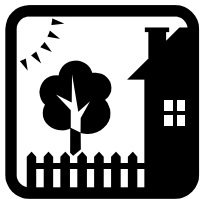
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 57 No. 1

Representing the National Audubon Society in Greater Minneapolis and Hennepin County

A Note from the President

Birdscaping?!



Landscaping for birds?
 What is that?
 Does it work?
 Does it cost a lot?
 If I build it, will they come?
 Isn't a feeder enough?

Lots of good questions about attracting our feathered friends to our yards, but does Audubon have any answers?

Why am I posing these questions?

Since you asked, Audubon is partnering with another group called Wild Ones (<http://for-wild.org>) for a Native Plant Expo called, "Through the Eyes of Nature: The Birds' View of Landscaping."

This event is being held on February 23rd at the Radisson in Roseville; see page three for more details.

The 2008 Expo is sponsored by the Twin Cities and the St Croix Oak Savanna chapters of Wild Ones, the St. Paul Audubon Society, and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis.

This is a huge opportunity to learn about a variety of subjects pertaining to native plants and their cultivation. Hope to see you there!

—John Arthur

MEMBER MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY (Weather-Related)

A snowstorm affected the attendance at our December meeting. It served as a reminder that we should create a cancellation policy for the safety of our members and speakers.

Member meetings will be cancelled when a Storm Warning has been issued and/or the Minneapolis Public Schools are closed.

February Program

Zoom Birding in South Africa

Purple punk Louries, Secretaries, Bustards, Rollers, and Bee Eaters. These and many other birds of Kruger National Park in South Africa will be on display in a slide presentation by avid birder and photographer Joe Conrad at the Minneapolis Audubon Chapter's meeting on February 5th.

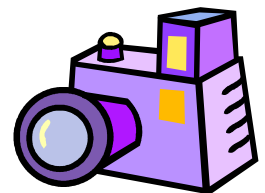
Joe shot the photos digitally and his presentation will include discussing how to use a digital camera as a complement to binoculars, or even as a possible replacement in the quest for bird identification.

A highlight will be several photos showing Kruger Park's vulture culture—which ones are the biggest and baddest, or the most sophisticated? You will be surprised to learn the identity of the entrée upon which the vultures were feasting on the day he photographed five different species in one photo. (See Joe's vulture verse on page four.)

Other photos include African versions of goshawks, eagles, jacanas, herons, kingfishers, as well as birds strictly of the Old World species such as the sweet little Blue Waxbill; even a mammal or two might slip into the presentation.

A longtime canoeist, Joe has made a gradual transition to birding over the past 25 years. He has been on three photo safaris to Kruger with parties from the nonprofit group, Wilderness Inquiry. He is retired from teaching chemistry at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. Joe's photography began with a Kodak Brownie and in the half century since has included 35 mm SLRs and recently moved from "Point and Shoot" to digital SLR.

Tuesday,
 February 5
 at 7:00 p.m.
 Mayflower Church
 Minneapolis



Come to Our Next Program!

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
 "Zoom Birding in South Africa"

TIME: Program at 7:00 p.m.

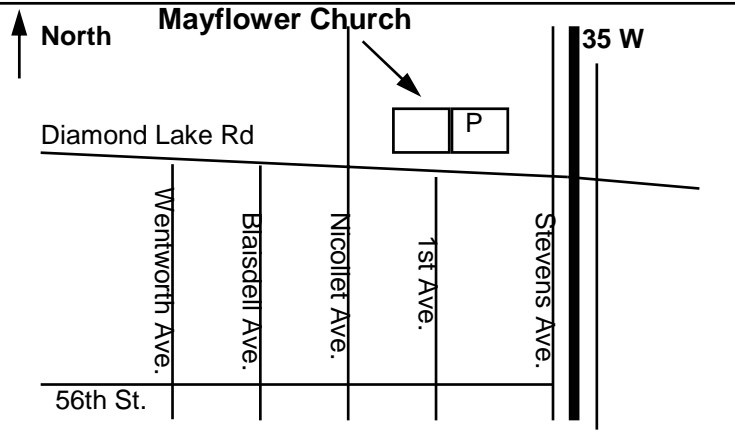
AT: Mayflower Church, Minneapolis
 35W & Diamond Lake (road map below)

Bird Banding at Springbrook Nature Center

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 for every month on Sunday mornings on the following dates: February 3 and March 2 beginning at 7:30 am. Show up at any time during the morning and enjoy the bird show!

Red-Headed Woodpecker Recovery

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis launched the program with their newsletter "*The REDHEADS*" in January 2007. The initial issue was mailed with the *Kingfisher*. Jerry Bahls convened the first meeting on March 22, 2007. In August, Chet Meyers became the RhWR Chair. Another milestone occurred recently when the RhWR launched its website (www.Redheadrecovery.org). Check it out and help by joining.



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.

FEBRUARY
 BIRD OF THE MONTH

 THE
 CORMORANT

 PRESENTED BY
 DONNA BAHLS

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Audubon Minnesota	www.audubon.org/chapter/mn		

Minnesota River Valley Field Trips

February 18

6:00 am "Southeastern MN Birds"
Bloomington
Craig Mandel, 952-546-3407

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

Please contact the trip leader for further information.



MEP's 12th Annual Legislative Reception and Forum

[Register Now!](#)

Wednesday, February 13, 6:00 p.m.
Science Museum of Minnesota
120 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul

Join us for this fun way to meet the volunteers and staff of our member organizations, discuss our collaborative legislative priorities and to hear from our state legislative leaders about their views on current environmental issues. Don't miss out!

Please plan to attend and enjoy an appetizer buffet and a cash bar. Bring your staff, spouse and friends – all are welcome!

Agenda:

5:00 pm – Reception
6:00 pm – Program
Reception continues after program

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Wild Ones 2008 Native Plant Expo

Through the Eyes of Nature:
The Birds' View of Landscaping

Saturday, February 23rd, 8:30 – 4:30

Radisson Hotel Roseville
2540 Cleveland Ave N.
Roseville, MN

The 2008 Expo focuses on attracting birds to your yard by landscaping with native plants. It's a day-long event featuring two nationally-noted wildlife authors, additional workshops, demonstrations, and an array of local exhibitors.

Morning keynote speaker, author **Mariette Nowak**, will discuss the subject of her new book, ***Birdscaping in the Midwest: A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds***.

The featured afternoon speaker is **Carrol Henderson** from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Non-Game Wildlife Program. Author of the classic, ***Landscaping for Wildlife***, he will describe how migrating birds move through our region, how landscaping with native plants can provide them with food and shelter, and how reducing exterior lighting can aid their migration.

Additional presenters will address topics such as creating winter habitat for birds, planting bio-hedges, and introducing water features into your yard and gardens to attract birds. Over thirty local exhibitors will join us to discuss their efforts and interest in birding and native landscaping.

More information at their web site:
<http://for-wild.org/chapters/scos/>

Conrad "Bud" Pyne

The Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis was saddened to hear of the passing of Bud Pyne in mid-November. Bud was president of the chapter in the mid 80's and was very active for many years. Our thoughts go out to his friends and family.

The 108th Christmas Bird Count was held December 15th, 2007. The weather was good and temperatures were moderate. Thirty-three participants included several first-timers. They drove 426 miles and walked 24 miles to observe 5,438 birds and 36 species. The total number of birds counted was down from last year, most likely due to the heavy snow layer. Look for the date of next year's Count!

LETTERS FROM CAMPERS

Below are thank-you letters from kids at Aurora Middle School in Minneapolis, whom the Chapter helped send to Audubon of the North Woods camp last summer.

Dear Audubon,

In Audubon Center I had a blast, it was one of my first camp experiences and it left me with wanting to go again. The things I had the most fun doing was camping out because we saw a lot of different animal species, played games, we got the chance to be in the forest and learned how to survive. We also ate marshmallows and told scary stories. All of this was really cool. I liked that we got to meet new friends while we were there. I made many friends because of this experience. I also had fun canoeing because we could go around, see the lake without getting wet. My friends and I really liked the walk through the forest to see the sunset because it's a calming place where you can get your problems out and relax with your friends. I think that Audubon Center does a very good job with making kids of any school have a great time and have new experiences.

—Sinthia T.

Dear Audubon,

I had a lot of fun at Audubon. I had a chance to meet new people and I learned how to wall climbing. My favorite thing to do at Audubon was canoe and stay up late with friends. I really liked canoeing because we could tip the boat and get wet. I always like to play water fight with people. I want to let everyone at Audubon know that I had a great time learning about nature over the summer. Thank you for the opportunity to attend Audubon.

—Axel

Dear Audubon,

I am writing this letter to tell you that I had a lot of fun attending camp this summer especially, when we went camping and canoeing. I had never camped or canoed before, and this was a great experience. Also it was a great challenge for me because I had never done this before and I was so happy that I finally had the chance. Another thing I really enjoyed was the story that you told us on our last day, and when we were eating marshmallows. It was also fun when we tipped over the canoes and went swimming. I hope we can go back to Audubon next summer. It was a great experience and very fun. Thank you for everything.

—Your friend, Gustavo C.

Dear Audubon,

Audubon is a great place for kids. When I went I had a lot of fun. It was challenging for me because I never camped before and I didn't know it was so much fun. They showed us how to swim and how to use a canoe and work in a group.

Some things that they showed us were to eat and make fire if you are alone in the wilderness. Now I know some ways to survive in the wilderness. They help me do the things that I never thought I could do. I also learned how to climb a little mountain. What I really liked was that you can have a lot of fun without technology.

—Jonathon R.



Vulture Culture

Vultures in the air, vultures on the ground,
Vultures in the pond, vultures all around.
Vultures with a taste for old mammal flesh,

Dive right in, there's none to waste
Can't get enough? Jump in the air,
flap your wings, give all a hard stare.

Hiss a bit and stretch your neck
for a gible here and bit of dreck
When craw is full, hop to the pool

wash the beak, clear the drool

Spread the great wings,
and dry in the sun

It's all for one
and one's

soon

done.

—Joe Conrad

Great Backyard Bird Count

On February 15- 18, Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are having their 11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

This is citizen science! You don't need to do anything to advance-register, just select a site (probably your own backyard) and count the number of birds you see. Note each species and the largest number you see at any one time. Then, at the end of the day, report your results via the internet at the GBBC website. For more information, go to the GBBC website at

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

for detailed information on participation. We can report your results if you don't have access to the internet; call the phone number below for details.

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis is planning on having a couple of ways you can participate. On Saturday, February 16, we have four choices for you!

- * 10:00 to 11:00 am at the Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley
- * Noon to 1:00 pm at the Westwood Hills Nature Center in St. Louis Park
- * 10:00 to 11:00 am at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield and from
- * 10:00 to 11:00 am at Eastman Nature Center in Dayton

There will be Audubon members there to help with bird identification. Come, learn, have fun, and bring friends. Host a party for the birds! For more information call Jerry Bahls at 763-572-2333 or anyone on the contact list (page 2).

Look for the northern bird irruption!

Winter Birding

This may be a year to remember for seeing many of the northern birds that are infrequently seen in the metro area or in central Minnesota. There have been many reports of flocks of snow buntings seen in central Minnesota, so look for them in the open fields around the metro area this winter.

Look for boreal chickadees this winter in the Mille Lacs and McGregor areas as well as the North Shore. Also, check for black-backed and three-toed woodpeckers in those areas. There seems to be more reports of northern shrikes this year, too.

Keep those feeders stocked and you may see something unusual this winter!

Winter Butterfly

*I walk along the February
snowy, wooded path covered in
day-bright, warming sunshine.
Then— glimpse of erratic flight.
Then again. Unmistakable
rich browns of a Mourning Cloak.*

*It landed with angular wings
oriented to the sun,
blues and purples
scattered within
cream-yellow fringes.
Then, off again,
fleeing and gliding to
find any dripping sap, and
perchance, a bark crevice
under which
to outlast winter*

—Clem Nagel

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) or Val Cunningham (valwrites@comcast.net).



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KINGFISHER
FEBRUARY 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

- 3** Bird Banding—Springbook Nature Center
- 5** Chapter Meeting
- 13** MEP Legislative Forum
- 15-18** Great Backyard Bird Count
- 23** Native Plant Expo

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 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