

Vol. 32 No. 2

Wild River Audubon *Current*

October 2011

President's Column

Wild River Audubon is the only nationally-affiliated environmental group in east central Minnesota, but we are not the first bird group. Another organization, the Interstate Bird Club—named for a different local state park—was organized in March, 1941.

There were people interested in birds on both sides of the river, and the plan was to alternate meeting sites, first in Wisconsin, then in Minnesota. But things went awry. The Minnesotans couldn't make a meeting when the Wisconsinites could, and vice versa. The St. Croix Falls group went ahead and elected officers and set a date without their fellow bird lovers from across the river.

The secretary of the club, Stella Owen, wrote to the Bell Museum staff that there were bald eagles to be seen soaring over the St. Croix Valley from the Hwy. 8 lookout—this at a time when eagles were considered rare. Later, she described an impressive Nighthawk migration taking place in early September: “At present the Nighthawks are migrating. They appear to leave the river at this point and turn east with a southerly direction. One Sat. Aug. 30 during the torrential storm north of us the Nighthawks and many other birds by the hundreds flew through here following the river even in its bend westward. This was unusual so far as we have observed. They flew in great haste with no loitering to catch a passing bug. Most of their migration here seems to be from 5 to 7 p.m. though they have gone by

at 10 a.m. in bright sunshine...”

There are no records to show the fate of the Interstate Bird Club. But it is cheering to know that people on the brink of war could care enough about the fate of birds to organize the a new club around them.

Sue



Upcoming Events

October 11th– Duck stamp artist, Randy Raduenz 7:00 p.m. Chisago Lakes Library Community Room

October 29th- Bird Seed Sale 9:00 a.m. until noon at the stoplight in Lindstrom where Hwy 8 and County Road 20 meet.

November 8th– Stewardship Birds with Lee Phannmuller 7:00 p.m. Chisago Lakes Library Community Room

December 17th- Christmas Bird Count 7:30 a.m. gather at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City

Hunting Cranes and Doves

There will be no changes to the Sandhill Crane hunt this fall in Minnesota. Cranes in the north-western corner of the state (believed to be a different population from those in the rest of the state) will be fair game beginning September 3. Crane hunters have a two birds per day bag limit, must buy a \$3 hunting permit and, new this year, also purchase a small game hunting license. Audubon Minnesota will be sitting down with the DNR to give input on a statewide crane management plan that will include, but not be limited to, hunting cranes. It is uncertain whether the general public will have input.

The Mourning Dove, which also recently was listed as a game species, will be subjected to hunting Sept. 1- Oct. 30. DNR stats show there are between 10,000 and 11,000 dove hunters in the state, who shot about 100,000 doves last year. At present, mourning dove hunters are allowed to use lead shot, but doves, which ingest gravel for digestion, and readily mistake lead shot for pebbles, are highly susceptible to lead poisoning. Iowa, which also begins a dove hunt this year, recently required would-be hunters to use nontoxic ammunition when hunting doves. There has been a nation-wide ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl since 1991. There is interest, at least among some Audubon activists, to extend the ban to mourning dove hunting. Stay tuned. For more information, visit the American Bird Conservancy website, <abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/110715>.

By the numbers:

In Minnesota, there are:

92,000 Ruffed Grouse hunters

89,000 Pheasant hunters

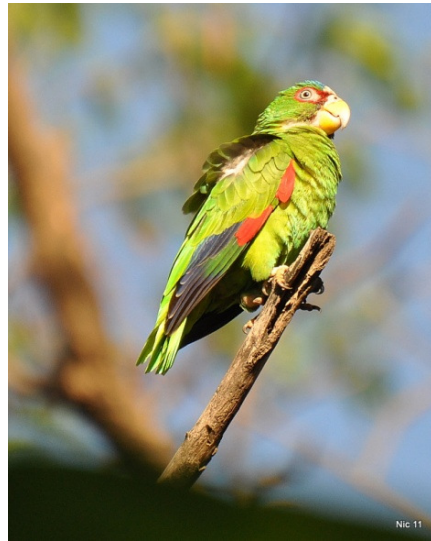
73,000 duck hunters

53,000 Canada geese hunters

10,000 mourning dove hunters.

About our Speaker

Randy Raduenz, artist and owner of the Art Guild Gallery in Stillwater, MN has painted for over 35 years. He paints a variety of subjects including many submitted to Ducks Unlimited. Signed and numbered pictures of his works can be seen at www.artwarehousecentral.com.



Nicaragua Birding Trip 2012

A wonderful, Nicaragua Birding and Ecotourism Trip for 2012

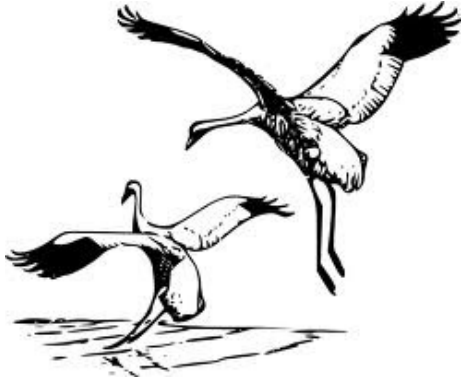
Wild River Chapter board member, Joe Sausen is organizing a return birding and ecotourism trip to Nicaragua for this coming March. 170 species of birds were tallied during last year's awe-inspiring trip.

This year's participants will determine the final itinerary ranging from a volcano top research station, to numerous remarkable wildlife preserves, to bird watching via boat on Lake Nicaragua.

The ten day trip is hosted by Kairos Center located in Managua, Nicaragua. Everything from transportation from the airport upon arrival, all meals,

lodging, transportation, full-time interpreters, professional birding guides, and all fees and tips are included. The package price is \$1,500. This price does NOT include airfare. The airfare last year was \$755 round trip from Minneapolis to Managua, Nicaragua.

For more information, please contact: Joe Sausen at jcsausen@earthlink.net, or call 651-674-8119.



Bird Seed Sale

Wild River Audubon will hold its Lindstrom bird seed sale on October 29th from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The location is the same as last year, the vacant lot by the stoplight in downtown Lindstrom. Our menu is the same as in past years.

Black Oil Sunflower
25 lb. and 50 lb. bags

Niger Thistle 10 lb. bags

Sunflower Chips 10 lb. bags

Safflower 10 lb. bags

Suet Cakes

Peterson Mix and Cardinal
Mix 25 lb. bags



Expect prices to be a little higher this year. We hope to see you on October 29th from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Sale Chairperson, Dayle



Wild River Audubon Society

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Christmas Bird Count

Joe Sausen 651 674-8119

Dear Audubon Chapter Leaders,

I want to share an update about two terrific opportunities to engage people who love birds and nature. Both of these unprecedented initiatives are on track for an October rollout.

First, The Big Year film: I know many of you are eager to leverage the visibility and appeal of this upcoming film based on Mark Obamscik's book. Our marketing team has developed a tool kit that will help you do just that. We'll be posting it online in the Chapter Resources section of our website early next week. It will include information about screenings and media outreach, including a press release template, story angle ideas, and messaging suggestions.

While The Big Year is the public's focus now, just wait until you see "Birding the Net." What is "Birding the Net?" It is just that: birding brought to the Internet. Animated birds—elegant, authentic and nonintrusive—will fly into web sites all over the Web. People will encounter them online just as they would outdoors: the birds will fly in on a website, perch for a moment, perhaps circle and fly off.

We'll be back to you with more details in a week or so. But I can tell you this; you'll see the most ambitious, sophisticated social media initiative Audubon has ever launched. It will make news.

In the meantime, be sure to "like" [National Audubon Society](#) on Facebook so that you can join the fun.

Sincerely,

David Yarnold
President and CEO of Audubon

www.wildriveraudubon.org

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