



The REDHEAD



Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program

Summer 2007

A Special Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Vol. 1 No. 3

A Note from the Editor

This is our third issue. We are starting to see an organization taking shape. As announced in this issue, Chet Meyers has agreed to serve as Chair of the Program. He has shown enthusiasm for the program and will lead us in our next stage of our development.

Some growing pains have been pointed out to me recently by a member of a sister organization. Because we are a start-up organization I was reserving our few funds for "on the ground" spending where it would have an immediate impact. To my pleasant surprise our mailbox was flooded with membership applications. Two newsletters were published within a couple of months and were subsequently able to contact our early membership in that manner. However, the initial flush has not surprisingly turned to a more modest flow of applications. This newsletter is late and consequently we have not been in contact with these latest members. We have initiated a new policy of sending each new member a thank you letter and the latest newsletters, pending availability. We sincerely apologized for our lack of judgement in this matter.

In the coming year our focus will now turn to preparing the Best Management Practices for landowners and land managers to help them provide the needed habitat for red-headed woodpeckers. It struck me while we were visiting the Necedah Wildlife Refuge and the recovery program there that many, many bluebirds were in the area. Obviously the red-headed woodpecker program was also benefiting the bluebirds. In addition to the BMP's we are planning for the coming breeding season in 2008 and expect to be ready with a plan whereby we can all participate in this recovery program. It is my desire to dedicate part of the Winter 2008 "The Redhead" to this.

In the interest of fiscal responsibility, this edition and all future newsletters will be sent electronically to your e-mail address if you provided one. If not we will put the 41¢ on it and send it to you. If you do not wish to receive it electronically, please send me a message (jobaud@comcast.net) letting me know and I'll put you on the post office list. I would be overjoyed to receive messages with your e-mail address on it, requesting to be removed from the postal list and put on the electronic list.

-Interim Editor—Jerry Bahls

PS - Please attend the special meeting on October 13th. See page 2 for details.

Habitat Information

Red-headed Woodpecker Site Visits Very Productive

Since our last newsletter, members of our recovery effort team had an exciting visit to Necedah NWR where they met with Rich King. Rich has been involved in establishing oak savannah areas at Necedah and now has 70 nesting pairs of Red-head Woodpeckers. Jerry Bahls, Gary Rathman and Kurt Klussendorf made the trek to Necedah, saw lots of birds nesting in live oak trees, and had a long talk with Rich about our recovery program. He is very supportive.

Chet and Miriam Meyers traveled to Rutgers Bay Lake golf course where superintendent Joe Wollner graciously loaned them a gold cart to explore the habitat. There are probably three or four nesting pairs on the golf course and this looks like a great place to experiment with nest boxes, as many of the old snags that were present years ago have come down naturally.

Our focus is now on identifying clusters of Red-headed Woodpeckers and doing a state-wide inventory. Craig Mandel has been very helpful in that regard. The word 'cluster' seems more appropriate than colony as these birds are not true colonial nesters. However, if there is good habitat they will use it, as we saw at Necedah. We still need to learn more about the bird and visit these cluster areas to see what we can do to encourage landowners—especially nature reserves, golf courses and cemeteries—to preserve and even create good habitat.

New Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program Chair

Jerry Bahls, founder of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program has graciously asked to step aside from that position. Jerry will continue to be group treasurer and work on the newsletter. Chet Meyers has agreed to serve as our new chair and is excited about mapping out woodpecker clusters in the state, developing Best Management Practices to share with landowners, and creating a certificate of recognition for those participating in our program. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 6th at 7:00 in south Minneapolis. Location to be announced. Please join us with your skills and talents to help these beautiful birds grow in numbers.

Special RhWRP Meeting

Don't miss this special meeting of the RhWRP on October 13th. Richard King, the red-headed woodpecker recovery program project manager and recognized expert in red-headed woodpeckers will meet with us to discuss his program at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge and share with us his thoughts on what we can do. Please invite friends and family, especially anyone who is a land manager (golf course, nature center, farm, etc.)

WHEN: October 13, 2007

TIME: 2:00 PM

WHERE: BLOOMINGTON EMBASSY SUITE (Off I494 near Xerxes on 2800 American Blvd)

Richard is speaking at the Upper Midwest Regional Audubon Conference and has agreed to meet with us immediately

RhWRP Contact Information

Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

President John Arthur 952 931-0819
Conservation Chair Jerry Bahls 763 572-2333
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Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program

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Recorder <OPEN>
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following his presentation. The conference is open to the public and everyone is invited to register and attend. See the Audubon Minnesota Website (<http://mn.audubon.org/index.html>) for more details. There is no charge for this RhWRP Special meeting with Richard King. Please plan to attend and show your support for this beautiful bird!

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

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Here

Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program Membership Application

Yes, I'd like to join! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program at the rate of \$5/year! Please send my membership information to the address below.

Yes, I'd like to join! Please add me as a member of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis at the rate of \$13/year. Please send my membership information and *Kingfisher* to the address below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

Send this application and make check payable to:
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
RhWRP
PO Box 3801
Minneapolis, MN 55403-0801