

BCM March 2007 E-Update

Released by:

Audubon Minnesota
Partnership Coordinator - Bird Conservation Minnesota
2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 55125
Tel: 651-739-9332
Fax: 651-731-1330

We now have 161 partners in BCM with the Ruffed Grouse Society, Minnesota Conservation Federation, Pentax Imaging Company, American Birding Association, Delta Waterfowl, Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board, Minnesota Society of American Foresters, Minnesota Native Plant Society, Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds, Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, Purple Martin Society, and Jackie Lind being among the latest to sign on. Our BCM website <http://www.birdconservationminnesota.org/> has the entire partner list.

The BCM steering committee formed to develop a [plan to conduct a Breeding Bird Atlas](#) in Minnesota met on March 8th. The committee agreed that a BBA must address the needs of its users and therefore will include gathering base line data on breeding bird distribution and their habitat association of all MN breeding birds throughout the state. In doing so we can monitor changes over time and identify priority species and habitats to aid in conservation planning and setting priorities on implementation of such plans. End products desired include both a hard copy and an electronic version of the BBA. A technical committee is being formed and will meet this spring to decide what techniques/methodologies will be best used to accomplish these goals.

I reported last month on a new Bird Safe Program that a number of BCM partners have initiated. The first project under this program is the 'Lights Out' campaign in the Metro area. This has received some great news coverage and one of the articles about the project can be see at <http://www.startribune.com/1453/story/1000712.html>. Anyone interested in volunteering as a monitor around buildings or receiving occasional email updates on Project Bird Safe can send an e-mail message to birdsaf@msn.com or call the state Audubon office at 651-739-9332.

A “[Workshop on Minnesota Breeding Birds: Inventory and Monitoring Programs](#)” was held February 14-15 at the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), U. of M., Duluth. This workshop was sponsored by BCM with support from Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory and NRRI and was attended by 35 people from a variety of BCM Partners - universities, federal agencies, state DNR programs, and non-profit organizations. On the second day Robert Maki, Chief Information Officer, MN DNR gave a keynote address “Developing a consolidated database through diverse data collection efforts”. This was followed by a facilitated group discussion on the problem of increasing coordination for bird data collection, data management, data compilation and data availability, including use of web based and GIS tools.

Last month's E update reported on the major mortality of the Eastern Population of [Whooping Cranes](#) in the Class of '06 in the recent Florida tornados. At the suggestion of many project supporters a “[Remembering the Class of 2006 Fund](#)” has been launched to help continue the work of the eastern experimental flock: If you are interested in helping out please go to <http://www.operationmigration.org/rememberingclass06.html>

BCM March 2007 E-Update

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) [Minnesota's Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design and Conservation Program](#) (Junior Duck Stamp). This year's [Award Ceremony](#) is April 28th at the Refuge. This conservation program "teaches conservation through the arts" using an art and science-based curriculum to expose all school-aged children in grades K-12 to migratory waterfowl. The program is available to public and private schools, home schools, after-school programs, and individuals. The drawings are submitted to the Minnesota Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. http://www.fws.gov/midwest/MinnesotaValley/jr_duck_stamp.html.

[Spring Owl Monitoring Volunteers Needed](#). The 2007 Western Great Lakes Spring Owl Monitoring Project is seeking volunteers to help complete owl surveys throughout the entire state of Minnesota. Details at <http://www.hawkridge.org/research/springowl.html>

Please join river biologists, scientists and managers [March 20-22](#) for the 63rd annual meeting of the [Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee](#). They have a great lineup of speakers who will be discussing how global climate change and energy demands could change natural resource management on the Upper Mississippi River. Dr. Tyrone Hayes from the University of California –Berkeley is the special guest speaker for the banquet on Wednesday evening. - <http://www.mississippi-river.com/umrcc/>

CURE meeting -[Community-Based Renewable Energy & the Clean River Economy](#), [March 22](#), Granite Falls. Come to this CURE meeting and find out what is the potential for renewable energy production to transform what we grow and the way we use the land in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed? Come at 6:30 p.m. for free hors d' oeuvres and a brief introduction to CURE! Email CUREcommunications@info-link.net

[The Ethanol Industry: Effects on Water Resources](#). American Legion, Faribault, [March 21](#), 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cannon River Watershed Partnership's (CRWP) conference will focus on uses of water by ethanol plants, on the assessment of these uses by the permitting agencies, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and on regional groundwater planning. http://www.mepartnership.org/mep_calendar.asp?cal_id=2343

Maplewood Nature Center presents [Living on the Water's Edge](#), [March 29](#), 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Gladstone Fire Station 2, Maplewood. Find out how to create a buffer strip to protect your shoreline. Follow-up summer field sessions will include pond study, wetland tours, and shoreline restoration techniques. Free. Please register by March 26 by calling 651-249-2170.

The 10th annual [Minnesota Waterfowl Symposium](#) will be held at the Holiday Inn Select (Airport), Bloomington MN, [April 13-15](#). The theme of the Symposium is: Waterfowl Management Opportunities for Minnesota. Presentations will be made by leading waterfowl and wetland experts from Minnesota, neighboring states and provinces, and members of the migratory bird hunting community. Program highlights include a discussion on the implications of the 2007 Farm Bill; implementation of Minnesota's Duck Recovery Plan; waterfowl hunter satisfaction, retention and recruitment; and species management concerns. <http://www.mnwaterfowl.com/>

The 2007 [Bluebird Recovery Program \(BBRP\) Annual Conference](#) will be held on Saturday, [April 14th](#) from 9:00 to 4:30 at the Elk River Public School. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about successfully attracting bluebirds, establishing a bluebird trail, and other related topics. Conference registration forms may be found at www.bbrp.org.

BCM March 2007 E-Update

2007 Saint Paul Spring Parks Cleanup, April 14, 8:30 - 11 a.m. Volunteers of all ages are invited to celebrate spring and give back to the earth at Saint Paul's 21st Annual Spring Parks Cleanup. Parks and natural areas across the city need your help! Refreshments, raffle prizes, gloves, and trash bags will be provided at seven kickoff celebrations across the city between 8:30 and 9 am. When you call or email, let us know that you'd like to participate in the Lake Cleanup. Contact the volunteer hotline at 651.266.6458 or go to <http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/parks/environment/>.

Save the date: The [Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society](#) annual meeting will be [April 21](#) near Milan at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area Visitor Center. More information coming soon.

And, think about buying a Duck Stamp or two <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>