

Audubon MINNESOTA

SUMMER 2016





ABOVE: COMMON LOONS | REBECCA FIELD
COVER PHOTO: AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS | CARROL HENDERSON
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Around Audubon Minnesota

Welcome new Executive Director Molly Pederson

On June 20, Molly Pederson started as the new Executive Director for Audubon Minnesota. Pederson brings 15 years of public policy experience to the organization.

Most recently, Molly served as Senior Policy Advisor for Gov. Mark Dayton, covering the areas of environment, energy, agriculture, and commerce. Her accomplishments include spearheading Governor Dayton's successful Water Summit in February and securing passage of the Governor's buffer initiative.

"Molly Pederson has been a tremendous Senior Policy Advisor in our Office," said Gov. Mark Dayton. "Her outstanding leadership has advanced the causes of clean water and better environmental stewardship throughout Minnesota. As Executive Director of Audubon Minnesota, Molly's vision and dedication will continue to protect and enhance our State's environment for generations to come."

"I look forward to building on Audubon's great work to ensure clean water, abundant wetlands and prairies, a healthy climate, and bird-friendly communities," said Molly. "The National Audubon Society has been a global conservation leader for over a century. I am honored and excited to be part of this proud tradition."

Welcome Molly! ■

Your support matters

At Audubon Minnesota, bird conservation is at the core of what we do. Birds are in nearly every ecosystem on the planet. They are pollinators, seed dispersers, predators, and prey. Within the network of connections that make up an ecosystem, birds are uniquely positioned to act as an environmental mirror for the health of the land.

This makes what's good for birds good for entire ecosystems, which includes us humans. If you have to pick a place to focus your time, energy, and resources in the face of every-growing conservation challenges, starting with birds makes a lot of sense. It's smart conservation for Minnesota. Please donate today.

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For the Love of Lake Pepin

Partners push to safeguard lake's future

From the Gulf of Mexico to Minnesota, the Mississippi River serves as the backbone for the Mississippi Flyway. Every year, hundreds of thousands of birds follow this major aerial highway through Minnesota, depending on our natural resources to get them from one rest stop to another.

In southeast Minnesota, the Mississippi River flows through Lake Pepin for 21 miles. The lake is an important stopover and provides critical habitat for birds like the Common Merganser and the American White Pelican as well as providing a unique and diverse fishery. The lake also helps to improve the quality of Mississippi River water for hundreds of miles downstream.



COMMON MERGANSER | USFWS

Unfortunately, many people don't know that Lake Pepin is filling in with sediment – sand, mud, dirt, and organic material – at 10 times its historical rate. If we fail to act, it will no longer be a lake.

Lands are Leaking into the Lake

Each year, sediment rushes into Lake Pepin at an unprecedented rate. Lake Pepin once started near St. Paul and stretched for more than 60 miles, but over time, sediment filled in most of the lake, except for what Minnesotans see today. The lake acts as a catch basin and sediment accumulates along the edges, causing deep pools to fill in and disappear.

Sediment in the water has significantly increased in the past 150 years. More than 80 percent of the sediment pours in from the Minnesota River, with the majority being from bluffs, ravines, and stream banks.

Approximately 35 percent of the sediment is from agricultural fields and surface runoff. The passage of the buffer law this year will help, but there are number of challenges with fixing the problem upstream. Even the best efforts still require changes to the management of Lake Pepin.

Sediment flowing into the lake also causes poor water quality. When stirred up by the wind, sediment becomes suspended in the water column and reduces water clarity. This highly turbid water prevents sunlight from reaching the lake bottom and limits the growth of



CAPT. LARRY NIELSON

Lake Pepin is known for its recreational opportunities, including sailing, birdwatching, and skiing. Saving the lake will ensure continued enjoyment for both residents and visitors in addition to guaranteeing healthy habitat for birds and other wildlife.

aquatic plants, which are important to a healthy ecosystem.

Sediment Solutions

Audubon Minnesota, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, and other partners are working to build a series of islands that will block the wind, creating quiet pockets to clear up the water and grow aquatic vegetation. Islands will also direct flow and create protected areas for migrating and resident birds. Dredging will be used to provide topsoil to establish prairie or forest on the islands, and to create deeper areas for fish. As a result of these efforts,

Audubon expects to see an increase in the acreage of aquatic plants, which is important to a diversity of insects and fish species on which birds feed.

Future generations of wildlife and people will benefit greatly from the investments Audubon and partners are making today. Our work on the Mississippi River will ensure a healthier river, more wildlife and birds, better recreational access, and a stronger local economy. Visit mn.audubon.org or email audubonminnesota@audubon.org to learn how you can help. ■

Advocating for Birds

2016 policy highlights

Audubon Minnesota recognizes the importance of advocating for local and statewide policies to protect birds and their habitat.

Below is a review of what Audubon and its members accomplished during Minnesota's 2016 legislative session.

Solar Site Volunteer Management Practices Establishment

(S.F. 2689/H.F. 3353) *Authors: Sen. Sparks and Rep. Hamilton*

Birds, bees, and butterflies all benefit from native plants, and there is great potential to use native plants on ground-mounted solar gardens.

Audubon worked extensively on a bill that establishes a fair and consistent voluntary standard for the use of native plants on solar gardens that choose to promote themselves as pollinator-friendly (instead of using turf grass or gravel).

This bill is important because it brought together environment,

energy, and agriculture interests in a positive way. For Audubon, pollinator-friendly plants on solar sites provide additional habitat benefits for birds.

This bill also encourages renewable energy that will positively impact climate change. Audubon worked closely with Fresh Energy to pass the bill through both chambers with nearly unanimous support. The bill was signed into law in May.

Conservation Buffers

(S.F. 2503/H.F. 3000) *Authors: Sen. Skoe and Rep. Torkelson*

Overall, the buffer law represents an important step in involving the agriculture industry in protecting our water from farm runoff. Buffers help soak up and filter excess nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment that are unhealthy for our public waterways.

This bill would modify the buffer law (2015) and require installation of permanent vegetative buffers or alternative practices along certain public waters and drainage ditches.

After many negotiations between the authors, Governor's office, and other interested parties, such as Audubon, the bill passed both Houses and was signed into law by Governor Dayton on April 25, 2016.

Outdoor Heritage Fund

(S.F. 2527/H.F. 3829) *Authors: Sen. Saxhaug and Rep. Urdahl*

This bill contains 2017 appropriations from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) as recommended by

the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC), including an appropriation to Audubon for Mississippi River floodplain forest work.

The House added several changes to the LSOHC recommendations, but Audubon engaged with a broader coalition to advocate for the original LSOHC recommendations.

The final bill was signed into law on May 31, 2016.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

(S.F. 2963/H.F. 2993) *Authors: Sen. Dzierdzic and Rep. Hackbarth*

This bill includes the fiscal year 2017 appropriations from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (a constitutionally-dedicated trust fund that receives proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery).

These appropriations were recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), including an appropriation to Audubon for controlling reed canary grass to regenerate floodplain forest. Audubon advocated for a bill that reflected the recommendations of LCCMR.

On May 31, 2016, Gov. Dayton signed the LCCMR bill and line-item vetoed remaining changes that were not recommended by LCCMR.

Other bills Audubon worked on included CREP and RIM (private-land conservation programs), lead shot, School Trust Lands, among several other issues. ■

Bird monitoring study at U.S. Bank Stadium announced



MSFA, Vikings and Audubon collaborate on monitoring study at U.S. Bank Stadium.

On July 15, 2016, a week before the opening of U.S. Bank Stadium, the Minnesota Sports Facility Authority (MSFA) announced that a scientific study to monitor bird-window collisions at the new stadium will be led by Audubon Minnesota, National Audubon Society, University of Minnesota and Oklahoma State University. The study will begin in the spring of 2017, with the study analysis to be released in 2019.

"Window collisions are one of the leading causes of bird mortality and they are largely preventable," said Joanna Eckles, Bird-Friendly Communities manager for Audubon Minnesota. "This study will help fill in gaps in our knowledge and continue to improve our ability to generate and promote solutions."

MSFA and the Vikings have also committed to participate in Audubon's "Lights Out" program, joining many other iconic Twin Cities buildings to reduce collision risk by reducing light pollution during spring and fall migration. ■



DAVID BUTLER

Solar gardens in Minnesota that use native plants will benefit birds like the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Eastern Meadowlark.

Fashion-infused Conservation

Aveda makes a splash for clean water conservation

This past spring, as birds performed remarkable displays and donned their spring plumage, Aveda salons were performing their own spring-time celebration: Aveda Earth Month. Several salons in the Aveda network hosted fashion events to benefit Audubon Minnesota's clean water work.

Aveda Institute Minneapolis, Aveda Services Midwest, and the Aveda team from Serenity Couture Rochester each hosted a Catwalk for Water – all combined with more than 1,150 people in attendance. The events

featured Aveda salon staff modeling elaborate fashion designs made of repurposed materials that would have been thrown away or recycled.

Teams competed for top honors and the audiences gasped with the revelation of each hand-made costume: Goth-styled garb. Up-cycled chic. And a dress-of-cards. In total, these fashion events raised nearly \$50,000 for Earth Month 2016.

The Catwalk for Water hosted by Aveda Services Midwest was the culmination of a series of 2016 Aveda events and efforts raising awareness and funds for clean water in Minnesota. Events to build support for clean water included volunteering



In early May, Aveda staff and community volunteers restored habitat by helping to remove invasive species and clean up a floodplain forest within Lilydale Park in St. Paul.



AVEDA INSTITUTE MINNEAPOLIS CATWALK | BOBBIE NDIAYE PHOTOGRAPHY



SERENITY COUTURE CATWALK CONTESTANT

to plant trees, pick up trash, and pull invasive weeds. Aveda salon staff also encouraged their guests to donate.

Some salons organized shows to encourage community involvement (see back page of this newsletter), and various salons donated their proceeds from an entire day of business.

This year, Aveda has raised over \$230,000 for Audubon Minnesota's work to improve water quality, protect wetlands and waterbirds, and generate awareness about clean water.

Minnesotans are fortunate to live in a water-rich state and we should

constantly be pushing ourselves to do more to clean polluted waterways. Minnesota exports water to three major watersheds, sets an example for water-management in other states, and provides water resources for thousands of climate-threatened birds as they adjust to a changing climate.

The powerful partnership between a conservation organization and an environmentally-responsible business – Audubon Minnesota and Aveda, respectively – shows the impact of being truly responsible for our natural resources. ■

Thank You Aveda!



Over \$230,000 raised for Audubon's clean water work in Minnesota

During Aveda's 2016 Earth Month campaign, Aveda's employees and network of salons, Institutes, and Experience Centers hosted fundraisers in support of Audubon Minnesota's work for clean water.

Through events such as Catwalks for Water, Appointments for the Earth, and other fundraising activities, Aveda and its network raised over \$230,000 for Audubon Minnesota's work to protect water for birds and people.

Audubon Minnesota would like to thank Aveda Corporation, its employees, and the Aveda network, for their tireless contributions of time and talent and their generous financial support for Audubon's clean water work in Minnesota. ■

SUPPORTERS

\$25,000+

Aveda Corporation Employees
Liv Aveda Salon & Spa

\$10,000-\$24,999

Aveda Institute Minneapolis
Aveda Experience Centers: Blaine,
Mall of America, Southdale

\$5,000-\$9,999

Michelle Kenric Hair & Spa
Serenity Couture Salon & Spa
Rochester

\$1,000-\$4,999

Adevia Spa Salon - Forest Lake
A'salonna
Avant Hair & Cosmetics
Body & Sol
Daylily Spa Salon
Estetica Salon & Day Spa
Fresh Hair Professionals
Gigi's Salon And Spa
JB Cavour Salon Spa
Jessie Tomme Salon
JuuT Salonspa Downtown
JuuT Salonspa St Paul
JuuT Salonspa Uptown
Kai Salon
Kai Salon & Spa
Lasata Salon & Spa Inc
Lemon Water Salon - Eden Prairie
Lux Salon Spa Buffalo
New Reflections Salon - Plymouth
New Reflections Salon - Ridgedale Mall
Progressions Salon Spa - MOA
Revive Salonspa
Rue 48 Salon
Salon Cheveux
Salon Oriana
Salon Tru & Day Spa
Salon Ultimo
Sanctuary Salonspa - Prairie Center
Sanctuary Salonspa - Prairie Village
Sanctuary Salonspa - Tonka Bay
The Chair
Willow Bridge Salon

\$15-\$999

Action Hair Salon
Adevia Spa Salon - Cambridge
Allen Ray Corp

Anyo Salon
Artisan Salon & Spa
Attitudes For Hair
Bliss Spalon
Buzz Salon
City Looks - Golden Valley
City Looks - Willmar
Classic Cuts
Cole's Salon, Inc. - Burnsville
Cole's Salon, Inc. - Savage
Cutting Edge
Embellish Salon
Establish Salon
Euphoria
Fairwinds Salon
Fitger's Salon And Spa
Genesis Salon / Enso Spa
Golden Tress Salon & Day Spa
Hair On Earth
Hair Station
Indigo Salon
John Joseph Salon
Just For Me
JuuT Salonspa Edina
JuuT Salonspa Roseville
JuuT Salonspa Wayzata
JuuT Salonspa Woodbury
Karma
Lemon Water Salon
Lolamax Salon
Lotus Salon And Wellness
Lux Salon Spa Monticello
Madison on Main
Max Salon & Spa
New Reflections Spa Salon -
Maple Grove
Northern Pine Salon & Day Spa
Nostallja Studio
On The Canal Salon & Day Spa
Penazz: A Hair And Day Spa
Platinum Salon
Riverstone Salon Spa

Rofflers of Moose Lake
Roosters - Woodbury
Roosters Men's Grooming
Center - Minnetonka
Salon 146
Salon 625
Salon Capri
Salon E-Clips
Salon Intrigue
Salon Mystique
Sanctuary Salonspa - Metro
Scott Daniels Hair Studio
Shear Style
Sikora Salon
Sunset Salon
Tafoya Salon & Day Spa
Taj Salon & Spa - Schreiber
The Copper Door Spa by Chase
The Fineline Salon & Spa
The Mane Salon
Trendi Salon
True North Salon & Spa
Xpressions Salon

With special thanks to:

Gigi Abbadie
Melissa Chelminiak
Dominique Conseil
Jeanne LeVasseur
Jaime Mann
Dave Rapaport
Karri Rose

Salon Development Partners

Kevin Anderson
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Wendy Rose
Andrea Thompson
Ryan Torkelson

Laughs, Lagers, and Water

LIV Aveda helps to protect water for birds and people

For three years now, comedy and bird conservation have come together in Mankato during Aveda Earth Month thanks to Tim and Tami Tupy and their [LIV Aveda](#) salon staff. This wildly popular comedy event, hosted by LIV Aveda and Mankato Brewery, sold out of all of 300 available tickets in 2016. Brewery guests enjoyed Mankato Brewery craft beer, appetizers, and a dessert bar.

LIV Aveda has an Earth Month committee that helps to plan fundraisers including bake sales, silent auctions, t-shirt sales, and a drawings for free Aveda services. In 2016, LIV Aveda's

silent auction had more than 65 items, all of which were donated from local businesses and staff members. Unique auction items like a large, beautiful handmade birdhouse show how truly passionate Aveda employees are about the clean water cause.

In 2016, LIV Aveda raised an impressive \$26,540 for Audubon Minnesota. LIV Aveda is getting a jump start on next year's Earth Month by beginning their events later this year. On October 21, they are excited to host an event called Dirty Comedy for Clean Water featuring Ian Bagg. Next spring, there will be a second comedy event for Earth Month. Watch the Audubon Minnesota website or Facebook page for information. ■

Aveda's fundraising efforts help birds like the Louisiana Waterthrush. This bird species and more than 215 others can be found in [Minneopa State Park](#) which is near Mankato and along the Minnesota River.



REBECCA FIELD