



Audubon Minnesota News January 24, 2007

Global Warming Public Conference at the University of Minnesota - January 25th and 26th at the Humphrey Center – Free and Open to the Public

Conferences Title: Risk and Response to Global Warming and Environmental Change: Lessons from Cross-National and Global Social Science Research

When: Thursday, January 25 and Friday January 26, 2007

Where: Cowles Auditorium

[Humphrey Institute](#)

301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis

University of Minnesota

The Humphrey Institute will host leading social scientists present the conclusions of their global and comparative (cross-national) research projects on the problem of global warming. These scientists take different theoretical approaches and arrive at somewhat different conclusions about the critical factors determining human risk and response to global environmental change. The day after the conference, Saturday, January 27, conference speakers and country investigators will take part in a workshop to build on the conclusions presented at the conference and design a new research project. This new project will test the ideas and questions raised by the reports and in so doing, further advance our understanding about how to respond to global warming and other global environmental problems.

Walter Mondale will be kicking it off the event on Thursday evening. Go to the [Conferences : Institute for Global Studies : U of M](#) for further details on the agenda and to register for the event.

**Audubon Minnesota's Environmental Issues Committee (EIC) – New Time!
9:30 am on Friday, February 2 at Café Amore**

Friends, we still meet and we still have fun. From now on, we'll meet every two weeks on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at 9:30 am at Café Amore which is near the corner of Milton and Grand in St. Paul (near the Proex and Birkenstock store). We get free coffee, tea and the inside scoop from our new lobbyist Gary Botzek. Be there!

February 2
February 16
March 2
March 16
April 6
April 20
May 4
May 18

Sign-Up for the Minnesota's 2nd Annual Wetlands Summit – 8:30 am to 5 pm, Saturday, February 3

Minnesota's second Wetlands Summit, Cultivating a Minnesota Land Ethic, recognizes the importance of a sustainable land ethic in achieving a sound balance between agricultural programs and the vitality of wetlands, clean water and suitable habitat for fish and wildlife. One main topic will address farming as an integral part of wetlands preservation and ways to build bridges with the farming community. Another main topic will be the influence of climate change on farming and wetlands. The 2007 Summit will be held at Normandale College on February 3rd. See <http://www.minnesotaites.org> for information.

Register Today for the Audubon/Minnesota Environmental Partnership Citizen's Lobby Day – Wed. February 21

Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners Union Hall
700 Olive Street, St. Paul

Visit your State Senator and Representative and voice your opinions. The day will start with a morning training session on the issues at the Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners Union Hall, 700 Olive Street, St. Paul. From there, shuttle buses will bring participants to the State Capitol for a rally in the rotunda, followed by meetings with your legislators. [Click here](#) to register for Lobby Day or call me (Susan Solterman) at 651-260-7040 or e-mail me ssolterman@audubon.org. **If you register early, I'll mail an information packet to you.**

8 am	Welcome and Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 10:50	MEP Issue and Lobby Training
10:50	Audubon Legislative Issues
11:15 am	Board Shuttle Bus to Capitol
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Rally in the Rotunda at the State Capitol
12:30 - 3 pm	Meetings with your legislators (Capitol and State Office Building)
3 – 4 pm	Check out and Evaluation (State Office Building, room to be determined)

Bus transportation provided to and from communities across Minnesota, including Duluth. Additional communities will be announced. A free continental breakfast will be provided.

Bring or buy your own lunch. We cannot guarantee that Legislators will be available to meet with every constituent, but we will do our best.

Tenth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count Offers Mid-Winter Fun! Join With Thousands of Citizens to "Count for the Record" during the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007

- It's fun, easy, and free!
- Count birds anywhere: including your backyard, neighborhood park, schoolyard, or wildlife refuge
- Teachers and parents: show children a new world of natural wonders
- See your results immediately online
- See how your results fit in with those from across the U.S. and Canada
- Helps us understand more about birds and support their conservation

We invite people of all ages and all levels of experience across the United States and Canada to count birds during the 16-19 February – help us set a new record for participation! You can take part wherever you are simply by counting the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting. Simply enter your tally on the [Great Backyard Bird Count web site](#) where the fun really begins!

National Renewable Energy Vote in the House Thank Your Congressman (or not)

On January 18, the House passed "The Clean Energy Act of 2007," H.R. 6, by a vote of 264 – 163. If the bill becomes law, it would end more than \$14 billion in giveaways to the oil and gas industry and would redirect the money into a new fund to support investments in clean energy such as energy efficient technologies and renewable power. If we are going to reduce our dependence on oil and protect the environment, we cannot afford to continue to squander billions in taxpayer handouts to Big Oil. According to a recent report by Friends of the Earth, "oil and gas companies continue to benefit from billions in handouts courtesy of American taxpayers. Between tax incentives, royalty relief, research and development subsidies, these companies will receive more than \$31.6 billion from the federal government over the next five years." HR 6 ensures that oil companies awarded drilling leases in 1998 and 1999 pay their fair share in royalties. In addition, the bill creates a Strategic Renewable Energy Reserve to invest in clean, renewable energy resources, promoting new emerging technologies, developing greater efficiency and improving energy conservation.

In addition to demonstrating a commitment to increased investments in clean energy, the bill fixes problems from previous energy legislation, including problems specifically and unfairly targeting Alaska. The bill eliminates royalty relief for Western Arctic oil development and repealed a clause allowing oil companies to lock up undeveloped public land in the Western Arctic for 30 years. If made law, these provisions would help counter the Bush administration's efforts to drill 100 percent of the Western Arctic at all costs.

Here are the votes:

Walz	yes
Kline	no
Ramstad	yes
McCollum	yes
Ellison	yes
Bachman	no
Peterson	yes
Oberstar	yes

Let's thank Congressional members who voted for this bill and are helping to change the energy course of this country. Equally as important, we must send a message of disappointment to those members of Congress who voted against the bill and encourage them to support the next important piece of energy legislation.

[Click here to thank \(or shame\) your U.S. Representative for their vote.](#)

Arctic Refuge Update – Sign a Thank-You Card to Ramstad

Other news: On March 20th, 2007, Congressman Ramstad will introduce the Arctic Wilderness Act with a huge rally and celebration on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC. The rally is the culmination of our bi-annual "Wilderness Week," which will take place March 17th-21st.

Congressman Ramstad has long been a strong champion for protecting the coastal plain and knows the importance, for many reasons, of protecting this pristine national treasure. If you would like to thank Congressman Ramstad and be a part of the effort to permanently protect the Arctic Refuge, send a note with your name to lois@alaskacoalition.org before March 1st.

The Alaska Coalition is printing an oversized card with beautiful photos of the Refuge, signed by MANY - (maybe you?).

(Caution: please don't bombard his office with calls yet at this time, he understands that there are many in Minnesota, and across this Nation that will be eternally grateful for his leadership. The Arctic Wilderness Bill's official rollout will come in the spring.) This card will be presented during Wilderness Week in Washington DC when the Arctic Wilderness Bill is introduced.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 12th Annual Wetland Science Forum February 1-2, 2007, Radisson Hotel & Convention Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin

The conference will highlight wetlands of the Mississippi River in celebration of World Wetlands Day. This two-day conference, to be held at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse, focuses on the theme *Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors & Catchments*.

Conference Details

What: *Riverine Wetlands: Connections, Corridors & Catchments*, Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 12th Annual Wetland Science Forum

Who: More than 250 wetland researchers, wetland professionals, government agency staff, educators, landowners, hunters and anglers, conservationists and concerned citizens from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri.

When: Feb. 1 (9 AM – 9 PM) & Feb. 2 (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM), 2007

Where: Radisson Hotel La Crosse (200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse)

Keynote Campaign: Dan McGuiness, Director of National Audubon's Upper Mississippi River

Speaker: *A River That Works and a Working River*

Banquet Speaker: Kerry St. Pé, Director of Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in coastal Louisiana: *Resurrection of the Bayou People: Wetlands, Hurricanes, and Restoration*

Sponsors: We Energies and Alliant Energy (*Lead Sponsors*)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (*Banquet Program Sponsor*)

Website: www.wiscwetlands.org (detailed agenda posted)

Audubon Chapter Leaders Evening – 7 pm, Thursday, March 15 – Save the Date!

Past and Present Audubon Chapter Officers: Please hold on your calendar Thursday, March 15 from 7 to 9 pm. Audubon Minnesota staff and board will be presenting "The State of Audubon" featuring our new draft 3 year strategic plan, IBA plans, and other strategic opportunities on our horizon. We wish to have a discussion with you about these plans. We'd like to get your input on our possible future directions and the role chapters may play as we work together to protect "at risk" bird species throughout the state. No location has yet been secured for this evening, so stay tuned for further details. For now, please put it on your calendar. Thank you!

National Audubon Society Birding Calendar

The National Audubon Society invites you to review Audubon-sponsored national events of general interest to the birding and conservation community. These events will be posted on the National Audubon Society's Birding and Events Calendar, located on the website. Click on [Audubon Birding Calendar 2007](#) check out interesting birding festivals and events across the country!

Would You Like to go to Washington, DC for Audubon's Great Lakes Advocacy Training on March 4-7, 2007

Audubon needs people from the Great Lakes states passionate about protecting the Great Lakes and their birds. The Great Lakes – one of the natural wonders of the world – are more than just water and we need to address the challenges facing this American treasure.

The Great Lakes watershed is one of the world's most significant ecological systems, on which the region's fisheries, birds, wildlife, and people depend. Audubon's Great Lakes Advocacy Training will feature guest speakers, skill-building, and working sessions on the state of the Great Lakes and legislative efforts to address the challenges this ecosystem faces, including the Great Lakes Restoration Plan and aquatic invasive species legislation. You will learn how to communicate effectively with your elected officials and then go to Capitol Hill to meet with your Members of Congress and/or their staff.

The Great Lakes Region's annual descent on Washington, DC is Great Lakes Day, March 7, 2007. Like last year, Audubon will be complementing the activities of the Healing Our Waters® - Great Lakes Coalition, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute. Join us for two days of education and advocacy training on the Great Lakes and federal legislation, followed by a day on Capitol Hill to meet with your Senators and Representatives.

Applications need to be completed by Friday, January 26. [Click here for more information.](#)

Audubon will fly you to Washington, provide you with hotel accommodations, and cover most meals. Registration is \$50, which we will collect once you arrive in Washington. You do not have to pay to apply. For more information, contact Karen Orenstein, korenstein@audubon.org, 202-861-2242 x 3021. Thank you for your interest and dedication to birds, wildlife, and our shared natural environment!

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Audubon Mission: Working with others to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats,

To donate online, visit our secure site at http://mn.audubon.org/support_ways.html

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In the body of the message, type:
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