

### CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY 5801-C N. Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60646-6057

# COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 2 MARCH/APRIL 2016

# Will You #birdthepreserves in 2016? And Help to Celebrate a Big Year?

his year, Chicago Audubon has accepted a challenge from the Forest Preserves of Cook County to explore the rich bird life of the preserves and to engage some new birders while we're doing it. #birdthepreserves is an initiative that will connect new and diverse communities to the preserves by expanding birding programs and partnerships.

The forest preserves are rich in bird life, and we want to make 2016 the year we trek though lots and lots of grasslands, wetlands, shrublands, savannas and woodlands ... and see lots and lots of birds! We are especially excited about the Big Year competition, which runs from March 1 through December 31, 2016. There are two competitions:

- Which preserve has the most bird species?
   (Judged by the number of bird species accepted by eBird for the site hotspot.)
- Which preserve team engages the most new birders in their Big Year efforts? (Judged by field trip attendance sheets.)

Chicago Audubon's official team will be led by our president, Dave Willard and will bird the Skokie Lagoons, famed for its spring warblers and migrating waterfowl. We are also sponsoring other walks: Salt Creek (spring migrants, woodlands), Spring Creek (grasslands), Paul Douglas (grasslands, migrating waterfowl and herons) and Miller Meadow (spring migrants, grasslands), along with not one but two woodcock walks. You'll find all the details following this article and on our website (chicagoaudubon.org).

The forest preserves will be featuring "Bird of the Month" posters and rack cards at their six nature centers:

• March: American Woodcock

• April: Wood Duck

May: Baltimore Oriole

• June: Great Egret

• July: Osprey

• August: Ruby-throated Hummingbird

• September: Black-capped Chickadee

• October: Red-bellied Woodpecker

• November: Eastern Screech-Owl



Brown Thrasher. Photo by Roger Shamley.

Here's how you can participate:

- Bird at our team site, the Skokie Lagoons, or one of our sister sites, Salt Creek, Spring Creek or Paul Douglas, (and more, all listed below) and enter your sightings into the eBird hotspot (not an eBird "personal location"). If you haven't used eBird, it's easy to join at www.ebird.org;
- Come on out to our field trips and bring your friends! We want to introduce new people to Chicago Audubon and to birding. We're going to some fantastic places with some excellent guides. The Forest Preserves' new bird checklist will be available on all trips, and there are small prizes for new birders who reach the milestones of 25, 50, and 75 birds;
- Send ideas for groups of potential new birders that we might want to reach out to: jpbobolink@gmail.com;
- When you post on social media about Cook County forest preserve birds, use the hashtag #birdthepreserves;
- Get trained to be a field trip leader or helper, or encourage someone you think would be good to attend a training session. Intermediate birders are welcome as well as experts: Friday, March 4, at Trailside Museum; Saturday, March 5, at Crabtree, and Saturday April 2 at Little Red Schoolhouse. Hours for all three sessions are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.;
- Check out the many activities at fpdcc.com/birding. You can join our Big Year team or sign up for training. You'll find more field trips, a Big Sit on May 7, a series of Bird Conservation Success Story walks, and more.

The following is a list of bird walks, including two events to observe Woodcocks performing their magnificent aerial courtship displays. Please be sure to keep an eye on our website (chicagoaudubon.org) for any changes in dates or times:

Skokie Lagoons Bird Walks: March through July, every third Tuesday of each month: March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, and July 19. Starting time for the March 15 and April 19 walks will be 7:00 a.m. Keep checking our website (chicagoaudubon.org) for the starting times of the subsequent Tuesdays in case we need to change either the starting time or the location. The Walks will last about two hours, but because these walks will be on a weekday, join us for as long as you can and leave early if you need to get to work. Meet at the Forest Preserve parking lot north of Willow Road, just east of the Edens Expressway in Winnetka. Walk Leader and contact: Dave Willard, dwillard@fieldmuseum.org or 312-665-7731.

March 23 (Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.): Wayside Woods Woodcock Walk, Morton Grove. Come to hear and see the amazing springtime aerial courting displays of the American Woodcock at dusk! Wayside Woods Forest Preserve in Morton Grove has had woodcocks displaying for the past several years. Meet at 6:15 p.m. at the forest preserve parking lot on the west side of Lehigh Avenue, just north of Dempster Street. We may be sitting or kneeling on the ground so wear old clothes. The group is limited to 12 participants so please call the Chicago Audubon office to reserve a space and leave your email address (773-539-6793). The walk leader will scout the site earlier in the week. If woodcocks are not present or in case of rain, the trip will be cancelled and participants will be notified via email.

Walks continue on Page 2 ...



Common Redpoll. Photo by Roger Shamley.

Chicago Audubon's Birding America XI Symposium, Saturday, March 19, is still open for registration.

See Page 3 for the list of speakers and registration form.

Don't miss this exciting event!

Also Important
Chicago Audubon Members Meeting
on Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Members please plan on attending this meeting for election of officers and directors, to be followed by an excellent program. Details on Page 4.

## #birdthepreserves walks continued

March 26 (Saturday, 8:00 a.m.): Salt Creek Bird Walk, Western Springs. Look for spring migrants in this newly restored woodland. Meet at the Bemis Woods parking lot on the west side of Wolf Road, south of 31st and north of Ogden. Walk leader and contact: Doug Stotz, dstotz@fieldmuseum.org.

March 26 (Saturday, 9:00 a.m.): Spring Creek Bird Walk, South Barrington. Meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot (on Penny Rd. about one mile west of Old Sutton Rd.). We will visit the Hidden Lake, The Other Hidden Lake, Beverly Lake, The Really Hidden Lake, and Headwaters Marsh. Migratory waterfowl will be our target. May be muddy. Walk Leader and contact: Craig Stettner, cstettne@harpercollege.edu; 847-925-6214.

March 26 (Saturday, 2:00 p.m.): Bird Conservation Success Story, Paul Douglas, Hoffman Estates. Meet at the preserve parking lot on Central west of Ela. Enjoy waterfowl, herons and early grassland birds. Learn about this successful wetland restoration from Dan White, Forest Preserves of Cook County, and Stan Stec, Bird Conservation Network bird monitor. Walk leader and contact: Judy Pollock, jpbobolink@gmail.com.

March 26 (Saturday, 6:30 p.m.): Woodcock Watch at Wolf Road Prairie, Westchester. Meet at the kiosk at 31st Street just west of Wolf Road. Parking is limited. Parking is also available at the pull-offs east and west of the kiosk. Please be careful! Walk leader and contact: John Elliott, johnelliott4@gmail.com; 708-567-4363.

April 16 (Saturday, 7:00 a.m.): Skokie Lagoons Bird Walk, Winnetka. Meet at the Forest Preserve parking lot north of Willow Road, just east of the Edens Expressway. Walks will last about two hours. Check our website (chicagoaudubon.org) to confirm if changes have become necessary. Walk Leader and contact: Dave Willard, dwillard@fieldmuseum.org; or 312-665-7731.

April 16 (Saturday, 7:30 a.m.): Miller Meadow Bird Walk, Forest Park. This site gets a good variety of birds in the grassland, river, and woods. Meet at Miller Meadow North, Roosevelt Road between Des Plaines and 1st Avenues, end of east parking arm. Walk leader and contact: John Elliott, johnelliott4@gmail.com; 708-567-4363.

April 22 EARTH DAY (Friday, 7:00 a.m.): Spring Creek Bird Walk, South Barrington. Meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot (on Penny Rd. about one mile west of Old Sutton Rd.). We will look for migrants in the lakes and wet areas between Penny and Higgins Roads. May be muddy. Walk Leader and contact: Craig Stettner, cstettne@harpercollege.edu; 847-925-6214.

April 30 (Saturday, 8:00 a.m.): Salt Creek Bird Walk, Western Springs. Look for spring migrants in this newly restored woodland. Meet at the Bemis Woods parking lot on the west side of Wolf Road, south of 31st and north of Ogden. Walk leader and contact: Doug Stotz, dstotz@fieldmuseum.org.

May 5 (Thursday, 7:30 a.m.): Busse Woods South Bird Walk, Arlington Heights. We'll be searching for sparrows, late migrant waterfowl, and early warblers. Wear hiking boots (we'll be walking on paved and unpaved paths), bring binoculars. The walk will last about 2 hours. Meet in the parking lot of the Boathouse at the far end of the Busse Woods South entrance. The entrance is just west of the new

bridge over Higgins Road, and just east of I-290/IL 53. Walk leader and contact: Alan Anderson. Maximum is 15. Please register with Alan at casresearch@comcast.net.

May 11 (Wednesday, 7:00 a.m.): Salt Creek Bird Walk, Western Springs. Look for spring migrants in this newly restored woodland. Meet at the Bemis Woods parking lot on the west side of Wolf Road, south of 31st and north of Ogden. Walk leader and contact: Doug Stotz, dstotz@fieldmuseum.org.

May 13 (Friday, 6:30 a.m.): Spring Creek Bird Walk, South Barrington. Meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot (on Penny Rd. about one mile west of Old Sutton Rd.). We will be following the route of the Chicago Audubon *Birdathon!* 2014 championship almost exactly two years after that great triumph. May be muddy, wear long pants. Walk Leader and contact: Craig Stettner, cstettne@harpercollege.edu; 847-925-6214.

May 14 (ALL DAY SATURDAY STARTING AT 6:00 A.M.): Skokie Lagoons Bird Walk, Winnetka. Please join us for whatever part of the day is possible for you. This walk is part of Chicago Audubon's *Birdathon!* 2016 annual two-day bird count. On this day, join us when you can, leave when you must. Meet at the Forest Preserve parking lot north of Willow Road, just east of the Edens Expressway. Check our website (chicagoaudubon.org) to confirm if changes have become necessary. Walk leader and contact: Dave Willard, dwillard@fieldmuseum.org; 312-665-7731.

May 22 (Sunday, 8:00 a.m.): Bird Conservation Network's Beginning Birder Walk, Skokie Lagoons, Winnetka. Bring binoculars if you have them; some will be available to borrow. Walk will end at 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Erickson Woods parking lot off Willow Road, just east of the Edens Expressway at the south end of Skokie Lagoons. Walk Leader and contact: Mary Lou Mellon, marylou.mellon@gmail.com.

June 11 (Saturday, 6:30 a.m.): Spring Creek Bird Walk, South Barrington. Meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot (on Penny Rd. about one mile west of Old Sutton Rd.). Beginning with the osprey nesting at Penny Road Pond, we will see what birds appear to be using the area for breeding. Wear long pants and a hat. Walk Leader and contact: Craig Stettner, cstettne@harpercollege.edu; 847-925-6214.

June 25 (Saturday, 6:30 a.m.): Spring Creek Bird Walk, South Barrington. Meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot (on Penny Rd. about one mile west of Old Sutton Rd.). Beginning with the osprey nesting at Penny Road Pond, we will see what birds appear to be using the area for breeding. Wear long pants and a hat. Walk Leader and contact: Craig Stettner, cstettne@harpercollege.edu; 847-925-6214.



Eastern Meadowlark. Photo by Joe Povenz.

# 

Directions to Birding America XI, North Park University, 3225 W Foster Ave, Chicago. See Page 3 to register.

**From the north:** Take I-94 eastbound (Edens Expressway) to the Cicero exit (to Foster). Take Cicero south to Foster Avenue, turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about two miles.

**From the south:** Take I-94 westbound (Dan Ryan Expressway) and proceed northwest on I-90/94 (Kennedy Expressway). Exit at Kimball Avenue. Travel north (right) on Kimball about two miles to Foster Avenue and turn east (right) on Foster. Proceed two blocks, to Kedzie.

**From the west:** (Or from O'Hare Airport) take I-90/94 east-bound (Kennedy) to the Austin exit (to Foster). At the end of the exit ramp, turn east (left) and follow the curve to reach

Foster. Turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

**From the east:** Take Lake Shore Drive (from either direction) to the Foster Avenue exit. Travel west on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

Parking is free in the University lot on the southeast corner of Foster and Kedzie. On-street parking is available in the immediate vicinity of the Campus. Additional parking available in lot at Kedzie and Carmen (just south of river). Turn left at Carmen for entrance. For more information, contact the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793 or go to chicagoaudubon.org.

# COMPASS

#### CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

5801-C North Pulaski Road Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057 www.chicagoaudubon.org 773-539-6793



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**Report sightings to:** 773-539-6793

**Report injured birds to Chicago Bird Collision Monitors:** 773-988-1867

 $\textbf{Website:} \ www.chicagoaudubon.org$ 

Office Administrator: Skipper Wolters, 773-539-6793, cas@chicagoaudubon.org

Office hours: Monday—Thursday 10:00 a.m.—4:15 p.m. Closed Fridays and holidays

#### Officers

**President:** Dave Willard, 312-665-7731, dwillard@fieldmuseum.org

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**Field Trips:** Jeff Sanders, 847-657-6431, yellowstart5@yahoo.com

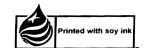
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847-390-7437, casresearch@comcast.net

**Editorial:** Skipper Joy Wolters, 773-539-6793, cas@chicagoaudubon.org







#### **Symposium Schedule and Speakers**

#### 8:15-9:00 a.m. Registration and Refreshments

## 9:00 a.m. — Keynote Speaker (In Lecture Hall Auditorium)

Kevin McGowan, Ph.D., Project Manager, Distance Learning Bird Biology of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will present Social Behavior of Birds. To Know the Crow: Surprising Findings from Over a Quarter Century of Studying Crows.

#### 10:15 a.m. — Presentations

- a) Beau Schaefer, Avid Lake County Lister, Big Day Birder, Biology Teacher: Birding the Chain O Lakes State Park, Lake County, Illinois.
- **b)** Wendy Paulson, Birder, Conservationist, Teacher: *Birding Central Park*, New York City.
- c) Peter Kasper, Bird Site Monitor, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Physicist: Birds of Australia.
- **d)** Sheryl DeVore, Chicago Audubon Board Member and author <u>Birds</u> of Illinois: Bird Song Primer: Why Birds Sing and How to Recognize Their Melodies and Calls.

#### 11:15 a.m. — Presentations

- e) Doug Stotz, Senior Conservation Ecologist, Bird Division, Field Museum: Birding the Hennepin Wetlands and Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge of Illinois.
- f) Sam Burckhardt, Chicago Ornithological Society: Birding Eastern Michigan; Kirtland's Warbler nesting areas.
- g) Glyn Dawson, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Chicago: Top Birding Spots in the UK.
- **h)** Kevin McGowan: A talk about birds in New York State—A Dynamic History of the Birds of New York, looking at the change in bird distributions over the last 200 years, including the dramatic changes described in his book, The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds of New York State.

#### 12:00 p.m. — Lunch

#### 1:00 p.m. — Presentations

- i) Bob Fisher and Vicky Sroczynski, Bird Conservation Network, and DuPage Birding Club: Waterfall Glen and Greene Valley, Two Bird Diversity Hot Spots of DuPage County, Illinois.
- j) Vince Cavalieri, Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife: The Great Lakes Piping Plover Recovery Project.
- **k)** Mary Lou Mellon, Past President, Bird Conservation Network: *Birding* the Seychelles Islands, a Tropical Paradise in the Indian Ocean.
- 1) Amar Ayyash, Math Teacher; Board of Directors–Illinois Ornithological Society; Gull website anythinglarus.com: Gull ID in the Great Lakes Region.

## 2:00 p.m. — Presentations

- m) Brad Bumgardner, Park Interpretive Naturalist, Indiana Dunes State Park: Birding the Indiana Dunes and other Indiana Lakeshore Locations.
- n) Nicholas Lund, National Parks Conservation Association; Senior Manager, Landscape Conservation Program: Birding in the National Parks.
- o) Josh Engel, Field Museum and Tropical Birding Tours: Birding Under Buddha's Gaze in the Mountains of Bhutan.
- p) Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz, authors of The Midwestern Native Garden ...: Creating Bird and Butterfly Friendly Backyards and Gardens with Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants.

#### **3:00 p.m. — Closing Speaker** (In Lecture Hall Auditorium)

Joel Greenberg, Research Associate, Chicago Academy of Sciences Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum and the Field Museum will present Of Birds and Murder: The Life of Nathan Leopold.



Great Hornbill. Photo by Josh Engel.



American Crow. Photo by Kevin J. McGowan.

## **Registration for BIRDING AMERICA XI**

Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: North Park University, 3225 West Foster Ave, Chicago

Please complete the form and mail with your check or card info to the address below. (Do not mail your check to North Park University.)

Send completed form with check made payable to:

#### **Chicago Audubon Society**

5801-C North Pulaski Road Chicago, IL 60646-6057

#### OR you may register at our website, chicagoaudubon.org

If you have questions, call Chicago Audubon office phone at 773-539-6793.

Name	
City	
Email	
Phone	

#### **REGISTRATION and LUNCH:** (Walk-in registration is permitted, \$50)

Attendees Prices	Price per person	Quantity	Total
Chicago Audubon or National Audubon Members	\$40		
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Members	\$40		
Non-members	\$50		

Lunch choices (optional)  Must be reserved  by March 9	Price per lunch	Quantity	Total
Ham & Swiss on Kaiser roll with lettuce and tomato	\$10		
Turkey & Monterey Jack cheese on wheat roll with lettuce and tomato	\$10		
Roast Beef & Cheddar cheese on Kaiser roll with lettuce and tomato	\$10		
Vegetarian Focaccia with Fresh Vegetables and Herb Cream Cheese	\$10		

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#### PRESENTATIONS PREFERENCES:

To help us plan room assignments for each time slot, please circle the letter corresponding to the sessions listed on the left that you are most likely to attend:

10:15 a.m. Sessions:	a	b	c	d
11:15 a.m. Sessions:	e	f	g	h
1:00 p.m. Sessions:	i	j	k	l
2:00 p.m. Sessions:	m	n	0	p
PAYMENT METHO	D:			

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Photo by Amar Ayyash.

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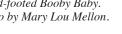
☐ Please charge my	credit card	(Visa, MasterCa	rd, Discover).

Credit card number Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_ Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

OR call office at 773-539-6793 to charge your registration over the phone.



Lesser Black-backed Gull (adult). Red-footed Booby Baby. Photo by Mary Lou Mellon.





March 19 (Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.): Birding America XI. See Page 3 for list of speakers and registration. Don't miss this exciting event.

April 12 (Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.):
Chicago Audubon Membership
Meeting and Program. Election of
officers and directors will be held,
followed by the program, Bird Studies
in the Democratic Republic of the
Congo to be presented by Dr. Ben
Marks, Collection Manager of the
Bird Collection at Field Museum.
Refreshments and socializing at 7:00
p.m., election at 7:30 p.m., followed
by the program. This is an important
meeting for our members to attend
because of voting for officers and direc-

May 14 and 15 (all day Saturday and Sunday): *Birdathon!* 2016. This is an annual fundraiser for Chicago Audubon involving Birdathon teams which will comb Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, or Will counties to identify as many different species of birds as they can

tors. Please plan to attend!

within a specified time limit. The team that identifies the most species will gain possession, for one year, of the coveted Beecher Cup. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org). You can show support for Chicago Audubon by donating to *Birdathon!* 2016, either by calling the Chicago Audubon office (773-539-6793) to donate over the phone, or by going to our website (chicagoaudubon.org). Your donations will help to further our goals and projects for the coming year.

April and May, (Every Saturday, 8:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Bird Walks at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building

**D.** Come join us for migration time to see many birds and walk through the beautiful spring woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are encouraged to attend. The Walk leaders always welcome questions. For information or if you need directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. You do not need to be a member of

Chicago Audubon to join us. Everyone is welcome! Bring family and friends!

October 1 (Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Eagle Optics Day. This is our annual visit from the largest independent dealer of high quality binoculars, scopes, and all types of optical equipment. A variety of equipment will be on display and experts will be available all day to answer questions and give guidance. More details in future issues. This event is open to the public. Bring family and friends!

# October 1 (Saturday, 7:00 a.m.): Early Morning Bird Walk at Montrose

Point. This Walk will take place on Eagle Optics Day (described above) at the incredible Magic Hedge on the lakefront at Montrose Point. Be sure to dress for the early morning chill. Meet at Montrose Point at 7:00 a.m. to view many migratory birds, then leave Montrose around 9:30 for North Park Village Nature Center to warm up with hot coffee, tea, and some bird talk. Then starting around 10:00 a.m., enjoy Eagle

Optics Day right there in the Nature Center. If you have questions about the Walk, please contact the leader, Jeff, at yellowstart5@yahoo.com.

Every Saturday All Year (8:00 a.m.): Bird Walks, Wooded Island, Jackson Park. These wonderful walks continue throughout the year, weather permitting. Bring binoculars, field guides, and dress for the weather. Many species are seen. Meet at Clarence Darrow Bridge, just south of Museum of Science and Industry. Everyone is welcome! For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at pat.durkin@comcast.net.

Every second Saturday All Year (10:00 a.m.): Skokie Lagoons Workdays. These workdays are sponsored by Chicago Audubon. Activities include buckthorn cutting, brush pile burning and other management endeavors. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge. Everyone is welcome! For further information, please call Dave Kosnik at 847-456-6368.











Bright lights from buildings, along with reflective or transparent window and lobby glass, are hazards for birds migrating through Chicago.

Each year Chicago Bird Collision Monitors recover more than 5000 birds that have suffered collisions in the downtown area.

With your participation our rescue and prevention efforts can be expanded and more birds can be saved.

#### YOU CAN HELP:

Join a morning rescue team.

Monitor a building where you live or work.

Transport birds to wildlife rehabilitation centers.

Support collision prevention work.

Assist in public outreach and awareness programs.

For more information: www.birdmonitors.net 773-988-1867

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO OUR READERS

There has been some confusion about the difference between a National Audubon membership and a Chicago Chapter membership. A National membership by itself does not financially support the Chicago Audubon Chapter. National Audubon and the Chicago Chapter (and all other chapters) have entirely separate budgets (except for a small yearly stipend from National). In other words, the Chicago Chapter has always carried the burden of all costs of producing and mailing this newsletter and other types of mailings that we have been sending to both the Chapter members and the National members in this area. Because

of this separation in budgets and because we need local support, we are asking that you consider becoming a Chapter member at this time. Chapter membership will not only help with our immediate need to reduce costs related to the newsletter, it will give direct financial assistance to our local programs and goals and enrich the energy and support of the Chapter membership base. If you would like to become a Chicago Audubon Chapter member or renew your existing membership, please fill out the form to the right and send it to our office, or you may join online at our website (chicagoaudubon.org).

Chicago Audubon Society does not rent, lease, trade, or otherwise disclose any membership information whatsoever.



# Chicago Audubon Membership Form

If you wish to become a new member or to renew an existing membership,

information or charge your membership online (chicagoaudubon.org). You

you may either mail in this form with a check or your credit card

Your nam	e			
Street add	ress			
City			State	Zip code
Phone nui	mber	Email		
Minimum		ship: \$25. At \$		new Membership o udubon hat.

Mail your completed form with check or credit card information to: Chicago Audubon Society • 5801-C North Pulaski Rd • Chicago, IL 60646

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Expiration date

Card number