

MAY - JUNE 2019

Volume 33 Issue 3

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

COMING SOON! Our ALL NEW website Chicagoaudubon.org



Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C N. Pulaski Road | Chicago, IL 60646-6057



From the President

by Judy Pollock

This is the last Compass of Dave Willard's presidency, and we want to take a minute to appreciate him and everything he's done for Chicago Audubon Society in the five years he has served as our leader.

Maybe you've noticed some changes at Chicago Audubon. Beautiful new newsletter. Fabulous new website. A strategic plan! Great new (and not-so-new) board members and other wonderful volunteer leaders. Significant new projects with terrific partners. All these changes for one purpose only — to make things better for birds.

I'm happy to be stepping into the President's role at a great time for our organization. We are optimistic about the local conservation community and our role in it.

We've been lucky to have leaders emerge from among our membership. Tamima Itani and Leslie Shad are chairing our new Advocacy Task Force. Judy Cheske is our new webmaster, Colleen Fehrenbach our photo editor and Kat O'Reilly a Facebook admin.

Current board members are taking on exciting new roles as well. Laurel Ross has stepped up as newsletter editor. Pat Miller is organizing the Camping with the Birds trip. Jessica Johnson is taking over our e-news. John Elliott and I are organizing bilingual Spanish-English family birding programming in a new neighborhood for us, McKinley Park. Annette Prince is heading up the Bird Friendly Chicago initiative, which has recently introduced a design ordinance into city council.

Along with new initiatives, we're continuing with successful activities. Nancy Bradt is organizing our native plant sale for the second year and Ken Schaefer continues as our Camp Pine steward. Alan Anderson, Pat Miller and Dave Willard are already planning next year's Birding America conference, and John Elliott continues to schedule great programs and field trips. The 2019



awards banquet was our best yet thanks to Alan, Dave, Annette and our staff person Skipper Wolters.

We feel very fortunate to be able to welcome three excellent new board members: Forrest Cortes, Sayan Duttachoudhury and Radhika Miraglia. (I know, right??) And we bid farewell to three board members we will really miss: Suzanne Checchia, Sheryl DeVore, and Bonnie Duman. We thank all three of them for their generous and inspired contributions. We thanked outgoing president, Dave Willard in our last issue, but we'll thank him again now too!

Take a second look at CAS. As an organization by and for volunteers, your energy and ideas are what keep us going. We're glad you are a member. You have a standing invitation to work with us to make a better world for birds.

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Cover photo: Jerry Goldner, Blue-winged Warbler.



New Initiative! CAS Advocacy Task Force

by *Tamima Itani and Leslie Shad*

This is to ask for your help. As we see it, advocating for birds and their well-being is a show of love and support for them.

Please join the CAS Advocacy Task Force in giving birds a voice in policy matters that impact them or their habitat. Public policy proposals that put birds at risk accumulate with other physical and ecological threats such as climate change, collisions with glass, and outdoor cats, multiplying the dangers that birds face.

Protections for birds and other wildlife currently being weakened include:

- The Migratory Bird Treaty: This important agreement celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2018. At that historic moment, the US Interior Department issued an enforcement statement that the treaty applies only to intentional takings, and not to 'accidental' bird deaths from oil spills and other hazards that kill millions of birds. We are proud that Illinois is one of the states suing to protect the original intent of the Treaty.
- The Endangered Species Act: Myriad rollbacks to the federal Endangered Species Act have been proposed during the last year. In Illinois, changes have also been proposed to dilute the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Protection Board.
- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a breeding ground for over 200 species of birds. Embedded in its 2017 US tax reform, Congress directed the administration to open the Refuge to oil and gas exploration, which biologists say would upend the delicate ecological balance, alter habitat,

and endanger birds and other wildlife already grappling with destructive climatic change.

Advocacy works.

In early February, the Interior Department halted its plan to conduct seismic oil and gas testing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, after intense opposition. Some 250,000 people submitted comments, with 100,000 letters delivered to SAEExploration, the company that planned to conduct the testing.

On a local level, Chicago introduced a bird-friendly ordinance that would establish criteria for new construction and major renovation to minimize the number of bird-window collisions. Chicago Audubon Society is one of the leaders in drafting and promoting this ordinance.

The CAS Advocacy Task Force needs your help raising the volume on our calls for bird conservation. Actions may include visiting elected officials, reaching out to CAS membership, or brainstorming strategy. We would love to hear from you. Email Tamima Itani (tamimaitani@hotmail.com) or Leslie Shad (leslieashad@gmail.com).

If you can't join our task force, please watch for our Action Alerts. Reach out to your representative or senator on key policy issues that we will flag for you. Even if your representative is eco-friendly, our calls and letters give him or her cover to push harder for birds.

Thank you for joining with us to share your love and support for birds.



2019 Banquet

Over 120 people attended the March 23 CAS biennial awards banquet that honored the local conservation heroes pictured here. The keynote speaker was awardee Jerome McDonnell of WBEZ's Worldview, whose talk was titled "How I Stopped Worrying and Learned to Love the Birds."

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The Compass is the official publication of the Chicago Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Chicago Audubon Society, an Illinois non-profit corporation, has been granted tax-exempt status by the federal government. The Compass and the Chicago Audubon Society are not responsible for the accuracy of all information published or for opinions expressed in this publication.

Birds at Wild Things 2019

by *Laurel Ross*

The 2019 Wild Things conference was a smashing success with almost 2500 people in attendance. Everyone I spoke to agreed that the biggest problem was choosing among so many great talks! There was an entire track with sessions on birds. Many of these talks addressed important questions about how land managers and volunteer stewards can be more proactive and more informed about bird habitat needs when making management choices.

Two valuable new resources are available for free to help stewards with these questions. Partnering for Birds is a downloadable guide to local bird conservation produced by Chicago Audubon Society in partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County. The information is very specific to our local birds and includes best management practices and case studies. (Download it for free at chicagoaudubon.org)

The Chicago Wilderness (CW) State of the Grasslands 2018 Report was developed by Chicago Wilderness with Illinois Audubon Society and the Great Lakes office of the National Audubon Society. It contains current information about the status of each grassland bird species and discusses approaches to making good management decisions for each. Download it for free at gl.audubon.org/landinggrasslands/state-grasslands-report

Judy Pollock and I from Chicago Audubon participated in a panel discussion with grassland bird expert Jim Herkert, Director of Illinois Audubon Society and Stephen Packard, a volunteer with North Branch Restoration Project. Using specific sites as examples, we discussed how stewards can apply the recommendations from these two new resources in real life situations.

The main takeaway message was this: It is important to understand that management decisions often involve trade-offs (i.e., winners and losers). Once we realize that we have to choose, for example between managing for grassland birds or managing for shrubland birds, we can proceed to make intelligent decisions.

Of course birds don't always respond as anticipated. There are many variables beyond our control and much that is still not completely understood. An adaptive approach is best.

- Set clear objectives that are explicit, but realistic.
- Pay attention to the response to your management, and be willing to change course if predictions prove to be wrong.

These lovely new guides should be a big help to those who are grappling with making these difficult decisions.

State of the Grasslands Report Chicago Wilderness



PARTNERING FOR BIRDS

A guide to birds of conservation concern, their habitats and best management in the Forest Preserves of Cook County



2019 National Audubon Convention – July 26-28, 2019 / Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Join us in Milwaukee for Audubon's biennial convention. This event will feature an array of inspiring speakers, in-depth workshops and discussions, exciting field trips, camaraderie and networking opportunities. Situated on Lake Michigan, Milwaukee is a beautiful and historic place to gather, learn, and network. The Wisconsin Audubon Council, Milwaukee Audubon Society, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, and the Audubon Great Lakes team are excited to welcome the whole Audubon network to Milwaukee. Learn more at Audubon's website: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/2019-convention>

Bodies of Evidence: Field Museum specimens give insights into patterns of migration and avian evolution

By Annette Prince, Director Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

On February 5, 2019, Professor Ben Winger from University of Michigan gave a review of his research based on studies of the Field Museum's more than 40 years of collected bird specimens that were window collision fatalities.

Tragically, tens of thousands of migrating birds die every year in the Chicago area as they collide with dangerous glass building features. They can be drawn down from their travels in the nighttime skies by excessive artificial lighting. Studies by Cornell University that compared the densities of bird migration to the magnitude of urban light have quantified that Chicago exposes more migratory birds to artificial light than any city in the US.

The Field Museum has collected bird collision fatalities from McCormick Place since the late 70's and the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors project - beginning in 2003 has recovered more than 3,000 dead birds in their downtown survey area each year.

The resulting unapparelled data set of more than 80,000 specimens that range across over 200 different bird species provide the basis for determining theories about bird-building collisions and how birds are evolving in response to a changing environment.

Looking at the birds collected over many years shows certain species that seem to hit buildings more often. Birds such as white-throated sparrows, brown creepers, ovenbirds, hermit thrushes are considered "super colliders" while other birds commonly seen in the Chicago area during migration - ex. red-eyed vireo, least flycatcher, eastern phoebe, blue-gray gnatcatcher, warbling vireo - have disproportionately low numbers of window strike records.

It was observed from the data set that, with the exception of only a few species - birds colliding more frequently are those that use flight calls during their nighttime journeys. Flight calls may be used as social cues that help birds stay in contact and guide each other during migration - but when birds are pulled off course by the attraction of artificial lighting - do those calls fatally attract their companions to follow them away from the safety of the night sky down to the hazards of urban areas?

Winger's other review of bird collision data is also looking at what the longitudinal study of 80,000 specimens could tell us about avian evolution during a period of rapid environmental changes. Thanks to the dedicated and meticulous body measurement records done by Dr. Dave Willard at the Field Museum over 40 years, scientists can study how climate change may be affecting body size in birds.

The salvage and recording of unfortunate collision victims by the Field Museum and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors can provide valuable tools to increase our knowledge about birds and the environment we are trying to protect.



Top photo: Annette Prince, Dr. David Willard, and Prof. Ben Winger. Bottom photo: Jamie Burning, White-throated Sparrow.

CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY ONLINE NATIVE PLANT SALE THRU MAY 19th.

*Purchase native plants online now for pick up in mid to late May**

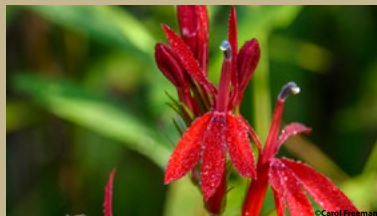


HELP THE BIRDS AND THE ENVIRONMENT ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL BLOOMING NATIVE GARDEN

Chicago Audubon Society Online Native Plant Sale offers a wide variety of perennials, shrubs and trees, which you can order online and pick up at your convenience. Proceeds of sale help to fund CAS's successful bird conservation programs such as the push for a bird-friendly buildings ordinance.



Chicago Audubon Society is working with Natural Communities to provide native plants from local ecotypes for sale, many of which are difficult to find in the retail sector. Indigenous species have adapted to our local conditions over many centuries, growing naturally without fertilizers, supplemental irrigation or herbicides. Whether your landscape is sunny, shady or in between, there will be many perennials, shrubs and trees to choose from. Native plants provide food for pollinators, birds and other wildlife; shelter for wildlife— and they are beautiful.



Chicago Audubon Society will receive 10% on sales of plants, shrubs, trees.

Natural
Native Plants
Communities

Visit <https://naturalcommunities.net/discount/CAS2019>
for more information and to place your order.

Check to make sure CAS 2019 auto populates in the discount box at checkout.

To receive your plants you have two options. For a fee you can have the plants shipped directly to your house, or for free you can choose local pickup in Batavia at a date and time of your choice. (This option risks less damage to your plants.) Make a day of it! There are many great birding sites near Batavia including Fermi Lab.



**A few select plant species may not be ready until late spring or early summer and will not be ready for pick up in late May. This is unpredictable from year to year and is dependent upon the number of sunny days and temperatures we receive.*



If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Bradt at (312)-203-4085 or nbdoodle@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events — Bird Walks, Workdays, Programs

Unless otherwise noted, our activities are free and open to the public. You do not need to be a Chicago Audubon Society member to participate. For updates or more information, visit chicagoaudubon.org or call the CAS office, 773-539-6793.



Programs

Identifying Birds — Wednesday, May 22 – 9:15 to 7:15 p.m., McKinley Park, Chicago. A presentation on bird ID tips. Chicago Public Library, McKinley Park, 1915 W. 35th Street. Speaker: Bobbi Asher.



Bird Walks

Migration Walk, Thatcher Woods — Sunday, May 19 – 8 a.m. Enjoy a spring walk to look for migrant birds and talk about the phenomenon of migration. Meet at Trailside Museum, 536 Thatcher, River Forest. Leader: John Elliott johnelliott4@gmail.com

Brezina Woods Bird Walk — Wednesday, May 22 – 8 a.m. Migrant warblers will be our targets at this under-birded forest preserve, where 29 species have been seen during May. Many other woodland migrants, along with

abundant mosquitoes, are likely, so be prepared. Park at the easternmost end of parking area, east side of Mannheim Rd. between Cermak and 31st St. in Westchester. Entrance is just south of the bridge over Salt Creek. Brezina Woods Bird Walks continue on the 4th Wednesday of the month through November, except June. Leader: Doug Stotz dfstotz@gmail.com

Nesting Birds of Thatcher Woods — Saturday, June 15 – 7:30 a.m. Summer's insects provide food for growing nestling birds. Enjoy a walk to look and listen for our summer residents. Meet at Trailside Museum, 536 Thatcher, River Forest. Leader: John Elliott johnelliott4@gmail.com

Osprey Watch — Saturday, June 22 – 7:30 a.m. John Duffy Forest Preserve, Orland Park. This is the second of CAS's "Far Corners of Cook County" walks. Join us for about a 2-mile hike (round trip) to check out nesting osprey at McGinty Slough. For the more energetic, a longer option will be to continue on a 4-mile loop walk around the slough. On the way, chats, willow flycatchers, kingbirds, orchard orioles and other birds may be seen. Mosquitoes will likely be abundant, trails may be rough and/or muddy – come prepared! Meet at the Sag Valley Equestrian parking lot on the south side of 131st St., between Will-Cook and Bell Roads. Leader: John Elliott johnelliott4@gmail.com

Washington Island Bird Festival



May 16th - 19th, 2019

Washington, Plum and Rock Islands in Door County, Wisconsin are on a flyway where thousands of birds come through every year on this particular weekend. Enjoy birding in small groups with experienced guides on May 16 -19. The 2018 festival recorded 146 species.

The festival is limited in size. For schedule, registration, and more information visit the following link: wianc.org/bird-festival

Top left photo: Jerry Goldner, Chestnut-sided Warbler. Bottom left photo: Wilson Warbler by Jerry Goldner. Right photo: Carol Freeman, Sandhill Crane.

Bird Walks at North Park Village Nature Center

— Every Saturday in May – 8:00 a.m. Come join us for migration in the beautiful spring woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are encouraged to attend. The leader always welcomes questions. 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D, Chicago. Leader: Marjorie Pries.

Bird Walks, Wooded Island, Jackson Park —

Every Saturday, All Year – 8:00 a.m. These wonderful walks continue throughout the year, weather permitting. Bring binoculars and field guides and dress for the weather. Meet at the east side of the Clarence Darrow Bridge, just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at pat.durkin@comcast.net.



Special Events

Camping with the Birds — Friday, May 10, 4 p.m. to Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m. Camp Reinberg-Deer Grove Forest Preserve, Palatine. Enjoy a Friday night owl walk and Saturday morning bird walk at the peak of spring migration. We will have a Friday night campfire sing-along, with s'mores and 'ukuleles! SOLD OUT

Work Days

Camp Pine Woods Brush Cutting Stewardship

— Saturdays, May 4 and June 1 – 9 a.m. to noon. Get your exercise and contribute to bird habitat improvement at this CAS restoration site. We are cutting invasive brush to create more open space in the woodland area. We will provide tools, gloves and snacks. Bring water. Dress for some moderate work; wear sturdy shoes or boots and old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or torn. Meet at the farthest parking lot at Camp Pine Woods FP on Euclid/Lake Avenue between Des Plaines and Glenview, just east of the Des Plaines River. Enter on the south side of Lake Avenue, eastbound ONLY from Des Plaines River Rd. (there's no left turn westbound on Lake). Contact: Laurel Ross laurelmross@gmail.com

Skokie Lagoons Workdays — Every Second Saturday, All Year – 10:00 a.m. 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, in Winnetka. 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

Compelling Voices in Birding and Conservation Series

Free at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum at 6:30 pm (June 25 tentative, to confirm: 773-539-6793), preceded by a cash bar and light refreshments at 6:00 pm.

Dr. Drew Lanham Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Clemson University

Dr. Lanham has worked for more than 20 years to understand how forest management impacts songbirds and other wildlife and how humans think about nature. He is a widely published author and award-nominated poet. His first book, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, was published in 2016.

Chicago Audubon Membership Form

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

1) Mail in this form with a check or credit card information, or 2) Charge your membership online (at chicagoaudubon.org), or 3) Call the office with your credit card information at 773-539-6793. Below is a summary of CAS membership levels and associated benefits:

Level	Price	Family Included*	CAS Hat	Recognition in Compass**	Free admission to CAS annual major event***	Exclusive Benefactor field trip
Student (25 and younger)	\$10					
Individual	\$25					
Family	\$40	•				
Supporter	\$75	•	•			
Steward	\$100	•	•	•		
Sponsor	\$500	•	•	•	•	
Benefactor	\$1,000+	•	•	•	•	•

Your name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Email (required to receive Compass newsletter) _____

Check (payable to Chicago Audubon Society) Visa MasterCard Discover

Exact name on card _____

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Mail your completed form with check or credit card information to:

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