



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2018



River Otter. Photo by Chris Anchor.

Chicago Audubon Program: *The Return of the Otter*

Tuesday, April 17

Socializing at 7:00 p.m. – Program at 7:20

North Park Village Nature Center
5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D

River otters have come back to northeastern Illinois. Cook County Forest Preserves wildlife biologist Chris Anchor, well known for his work and entertaining programs on urban coyotes, will now enlighten us with the latest on river otters. Chris will talk about otter ecology

and share his interesting research findings. The program is free, and you do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend any of our programs. Come at 7:00 to socialize. Program starts at 7:20, just after a brief Members' Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Bring family and friends!

Brief Annual Membership Meeting

April 17 from 7:15 to 7:20 p.m.

(just before River Otter Program at 7:20)

Immediately preceding the evening's Program, "Return of the Otter," there will be a brief Annual Membership Meeting at which the nominees selected by the Chicago Audubon Nominating Committee and unanimously

approved by the Board of Directors will be presented to the Membership for election.

The nominees are:

Jessica Johnson
Judy Pollock
Annette Prince
Craig Stettner
Dave Willard

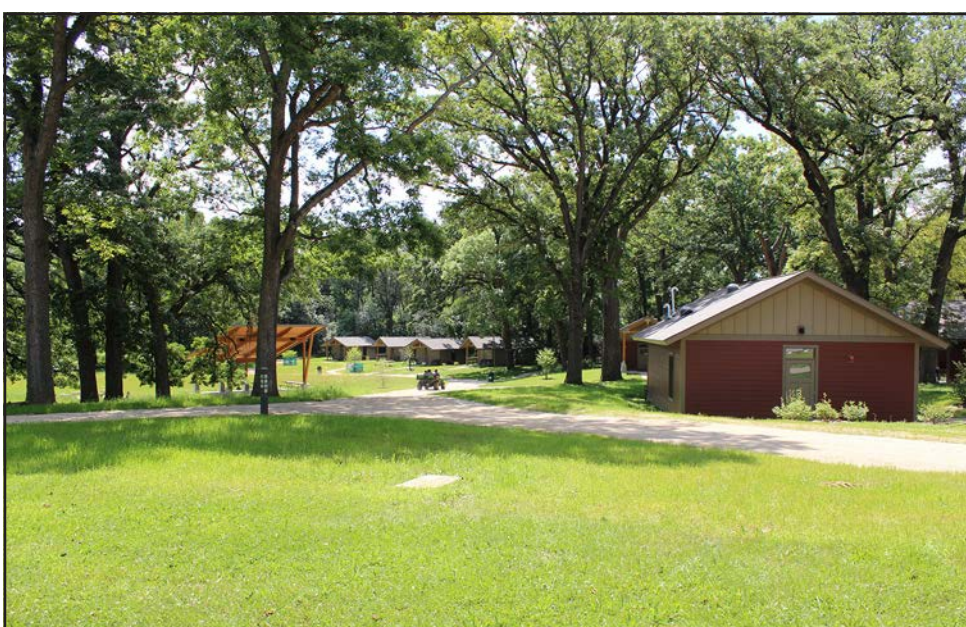
We would like to thank outgoing Board members Julie Sacco, Steve Bailey, and retired Vice President Roger Shamley for their many years of devoted service to the goals and objectives of the Chicago Audubon Society.

Members be sure to attend this meeting!

"Camping with the Birds"

Friday, May 11 beginning at 4:00 p.m. until Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Location: Deer Grove, Camp Reinberg, Palatine



Camp Reinberg. Photo courtesy of Old Veteran Construction.

Registration is still open to join us for "Camping with the Birds" at Deer Grove, Camp Reinberg, Palatine, May 11 through to the morning of May 12.

For campers 10 years old and up. Children must be accompanied by adults. On Friday, Chicago Audubon will offer owling and a campfire sing-along. On Saturday, there will be early morning bird walks through grasslands and woodlands, including a special walk for new birders. Chicago Audubon will host a free breakfast for its members (so join now!). Bring your own food for dinner and breakfast if you are not a member. Binoculars will be available if needed, and camping gear can be rented. You can skip the activities as you please.

To reserve your tent site or cabin, contact Chicago Audubon at 773-539-6793, or email cas@chicagoaudubon.org.

RV sites for \$50 are also available but cannot be reserved through Chicago Audubon. Sign up for those now at www.fpdcc.com/camping.

For more general information, email: experience.camping@cookcountyil.gov.

If you are interested in "Camping with the Birds" but have not yet registered, there may still be room.

- Non-electric tent sites are \$17.50 for up to 6 people/2 tents (special half-off price).
- Cabins housing up to 10 people are \$125.

Sign up soon!



After more than a decade striving to photograph a Bald Eagle nest with eaglets, photographer Peter Mather finally captured this ...

Five Rules for Photographing Bald Eagles Nests

Everyone wants that shot of a Baldie with eaglets. Here's how to get one without disturbing the birds.

As Bald Eagle populations have rebounded dramatically in recent decades, it's easier than ever to encounter an eagle nest anywhere from a remote forest to a tree next to the Walmart parking lot. But even though Bald Eagles are no longer listed as endangered or threatened in the United States, and many of them have grown surprisingly tolerant of human activity, photographing their nests comes with important caveats, both ethical and legal.

Bald Eagles are protected from disturbance and harassment by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and doing anything that eagles respond to can be interpreted as a disturbance, distracting them from what they should be doing to successfully raise their young. Here are some precautions you can take in order to get a great Bald Eagle nest shot while staying on the right side of your conscience—and the law.

Consider context. Not all Bald Eagle families have the same degree of tolerance for humans hanging around their nest. Remember that birds that are nesting in remote areas might be more easily disturbed than birds who have set up camp in close proximity to houses or roads, and consider focusing your efforts on birds that are more used to humans and might be more blasé about your presence.

Know when the birds are most vulnerable. Bald Eagles are more sensitive to disturbance during certain periods of their breeding cycle than others,

and knowing these cycles can help you determine the best (and worst) times to try to get a shot of a particular nest. Like many birds, eagles are most likely to abandon a nest early in the season, during courtship and egg laying. Another sensitive period comes



Bald Eagle. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Bald Eagle. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

when the nestlings are getting ready to fledge, at about eight weeks—if startled during this time, they may jump out of the nest.

Nests in remote areas, away from human activity, should be avoided altogether during extra-sensitive periods. And it's best not to attempt any nest shots, even those close to human activity, when it's rainy or especially cold out, when the chicks are most vulnerable.

Make yourself scarce. Research shows that eagles are more likely to be bothered by any activity happening in full view, so try to shoot from a blind when you can. Distance is also a factor. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines suggest staying 330 feet away from an active nest (and some states have their own laws about how close you can get)—though eagles that have set up shop close to human hustle-and-bustle might be more comfortable at closer distances, provided that your photography set-up isn't any more intrusive than the typical activity they're accustomed to.

Use your judgement. When it comes to nest photography, the rules aren't black and white, and every situation is different. Pay close attention to whether a bird is changing its behavior or exhibiting signs of stress due to your presence (or your equipment). If it is, back off. And use your common sense: For example, just because a family of eagles might tolerate one human hanging around, that doesn't mean it will tolerate a crowd.

Don't bait. This rule isn't specific to nest photography, but it bears mentioning anyway. Though you may be tempted to set out food to draw eagles closer in order to get a great shot, baiting Bald Eagles isn't just ethically untenable, it's also arguably illegal, as it could be interpreted as a violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Article and top photo courtesy of the National Audubon Society.

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5801-C North Pulaski Road
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Report sightings to: 773-539-6793

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

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Closed Fridays and holidays

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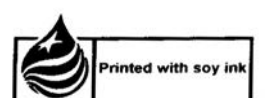
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Sandhill Crane stories from Dr. George Archibald of the International Crane Foundation. Photo by Alan Anderson.

Chicago Audubon's BIRDING AMERICA XII

The Chicago Audubon Society wishes to thank everyone who participated in our twelfth biennial Birding America Symposium. The all-day conference was attended by people from far and wide who joined us at North Park University on March 10 to discover great places, great people, and great birds. The programs were presented by national and international experts who covered topics ranging from the Midwest to the Galapagos; from cranes to hummingbirds to Tundra Swans; from Alaska to Tanzania and back again, highlighting resident as well as migratory birds the world over. Also offered were special sessions on Nature Photography, Climate Change, and much, much

more. This all-day conference was an excellent opportunity to share enthusiasm with others who love birds and want to protect them. All levels of birders attended, and beginning birders were strongly encouraged to attend. The opening Keynote speaker, Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, spoke on cranes the world over. The ending Keynote speaker, Joe Wunderle of the US Forest Service, spoke on the importance of understanding the effects of hurricanes on birds.

Our Birding America Symposium takes place every two years. For this and all other Chicago Audubon events, keep an eye on our website (chicagoaudubon.org).

We hope to see you in 2020!



Bob Andrini with Horned Puffin from Gambell, Alaska. Photo by Annette Prince.



Hooded Warbler in Southern Illinois with Keith McMullen. Photo by Alan Anderson.



Chicago Audubon President, Dave Willard introducing Dr. George Archibald at opening session. Photo by Alan Anderson.



Joe Wunderle presenting The Effect of Hurricanes on Birds and their Resources in the Caribbean. Photo by Alan Anderson.



John Elliott introducing Chris Van Wassenhove, presenting Tundra Swans in the Midwest: Migration Stopover Along the Mississippi. Photo by Alan Anderson.



Eric Secker presenting Valley of Green: The History, Beauty and Best Birding along the Fox River. Photo by Alan Anderson.



Lewis Woodpecker of the Great Basin with Don McIvor. Photo by Annette Prince.



Geoff Williamson presenting Birds of Portugal. Photo by Annette Prince.

Chicago Audubon Membership Form

If you wish to become a new member or to renew an existing membership, you may either mail in this form with a check or your credit card information or charge your membership online (chicagoaudubon.org). You may also make a straight donation with this form or online. If you prefer, you may call the office with your credit card information (773-539-6793).

Your name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Minimum yearly membership: \$25. At \$65 or above, new Membership or Membership renewal includes an official Chicago Audubon hat.

Visa MasterCard Discover

Exact name on card _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

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

Chicago Audubon Society • 5801-C North Pulaski Rd • Chicago, IL 60646



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.

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- Monitor a building where you live or work.
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- Support collision prevention work.
- Assist in public outreach and awareness programs.

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

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

Calendar of Events

March/April 2018

You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend our programs or join any of our walks. For updates on dates and times, visit chicagoaudubon.org.

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 in 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. Bring family and friends!

Tuesday, April 17 (7:00 p.m.). Chicago Audubon Program: "Return of the Otter" at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski Road, Building D. Don't miss this exciting program presented by Chris Anchor. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for socializing; program begins at 7:20 p.m. See Page 1 for more details.

Tuesday, April 17 (7:15 to 7:20 p.m.) There will be a brief Annual Membership Meeting at 7:15 just before the Program "Return of the Otter" begins at 7:20 in order to give Members an opportunity to vote on the slate of Chicago Audubon directors who are up for election. **Members, please be sure to attend this meeting.**

Saturday, April 21 (7:45 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bird Walk at Camp Pine Woods, Glenview. Explore birds in this new shrubland habitat restoration. Beginning birders welcome; binoculars available. An optional workday may follow. Walk leader: John Elliott (708-567-4363).

Friday, May 11 "Camping with the Birds" beginning at 4:00 p.m. Friday through Saturday, May 12 until 11:00 p.m. in Deer Grove, Camp Reinberg, Palatine. For campers 10 years old and up. Children must be accompanied by adults. See Page 1 of this issue for full details.

Tuesday, May 15 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Birding Trip to Bemis Woods North, Westchester. Migrant songbirds peaking, resident woodland birds. Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden. Park at easternmost part of lot, just west of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Friday, May 18 (9:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Camp Pine Woods Workday, Glenview. Come join the chance to help a prairie and shrubland become an even better habitat for native plants and wildlife. Location: Euclid/Lake Avenue between Des Plaines and Glenview, just east of the Des Plaines River. Enter from east bound; no left turn from west bound. Leader: Ken Schaefer; RSVP to Laurel Ross at laurelmross@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 19 (7:45 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bird Walk at Camp Pine Woods, Glenview. Search for birds, and explore the site of this new shrubland habitat restoration. The walk lasts for 2 hours. Beginning birders welcome; binoculars available. W Lake Ave & N Des Plaines River Road. Meet in last section of parking

lot, south side of Lake Ave and just east of the river. Walk leader: John Elliott at johnelliott4@gmail.com.

Friday, June 1 (7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). Chicago Audubon 2018 Double Bird Blitz, Sagawau Environmental Learning Center/Bergman Slough, Lemont. June is a peak time for nesting birds in northeastern Illinois. We will hike Sagawau's trails to identify birds by field marks, vocalizations, behavior and habitat. About 10:15 we will car pool to a nearby site, Bergman Slough which is about 3.5 miles south with different habitat, and there we will continue our Birding Bonanza. Bring binoculars, camera, and dress for the weather of the day! Location: 1254 West 111th Street, Lemont; 630-257-2045; sagawauenvironmental.learningcenter@cookcountylil.gov.

Sunday, June 10 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon 2018 Double Bird Blitz. Morning Bird Walk, Little Red Schoolhouse, Nature Center, Willow Springs. Take a morning bird walk through various habitats in search of birds nesting in the area. Dress for the weather. Bring binoculars if you have them. Location: 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs; 708-839-6897; littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountylil.gov.

Wednesday, July 18 (8:00 a.m.). Bemis Woods North Bird Walk, Westchester. Look for breeding woodland birds. Interesting species that have summered here in recent years include Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-eyed Vireo, Hooded and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Summer Tanager. Location: Wolf Road, between 31st and Ogden. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Wednesday, August 22 (8:00 a.m.). Bemis Woods North Bird Walk, Westchester. Look for the tail end of breeding woodland birds, and the earliest fall migrants. For a list of interesting species that might be seen, see July 18 description. Location: Wolf Road, between 31st and Ogden. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.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. For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at pat.durkin@comcast.net.

Every Second Saturday, All Year (10:00 a.m.). Skokie Lagoons Workdays. 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.

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