



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2017

Important Notice to our Members


This newsletter will be going digital. The paper mailings will be discontinued. If you have never sent us your email address and wish to receive a link to each new issue every two months by email, please send your email address to our office at cas@chicagoaudubon.org. The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter in the current form is one of our major expenses and we want to apply those funds more directly to conservation projects.

Reminder: All issues of the Compass, including the most recent, can always be viewed on our website (chicagoaudubon.org). Click on the word "Newsletters" in the top row of links—there you will see the archives of all our issues in "living color."

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS BANQUET ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Saturday, March 25

Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee St., Des Plaines

 In March 25, 2017, Chicago Audubon will hold its Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet to honor those who have made contributions to conservation, the protection of migratory birds and other wildlife, and have helped to conserve, preserve, and enhance the varied habitats and open spaces of the greater Chicago region.

- **Cocktails (cash bar) will be available from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m.**

- **The Awards will be presented around dessert time.**
- **The Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. following the Awards dinner. If you will be attending the Annual Meeting only, please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m.**
- **If you wish, you may attend both the Awards Banquet and the Annual Meeting.**

The Banquet and Members' Meeting will be held at the Silver Stallion

2017 AWARDEES

Excellence in Environmental Reporting (Print)

Kathy Andrews-Wright, current editor Illinois Audubon Magazine, past editor Outdoor Illinois, IDNR.

Protector of the Environment—Educator

Liam Heneghan, Professor of Environmental Studies, DePaul University.

Protector of the Environment—Political Service

Paul D'Agostino, Evanston Park District (Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary) and Steve Wilson, Wilmette Park District (Gillson Park Bird Sanctuary).

Protector of the Environment—Single Act (Individual)

Libby Hill, Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary.

Protector of the Environment—Single Act (Group)

LaBagh Woods Restoration Project (Chicago Ornithological Society).

Protector of the Environment—Avocation

Bob Fisher, Bird Conservation Network and bird monitor.

Protector of the Environment—Vocation

John Rogner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kankakee Refuge.

Protector of the Environment—Group

Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards (Steve and Jill Flexman, and John Navin).

Service to Chicago Area Birders

Matt Cvetas and Josh Engel, leading/advising Illinois Young Birders.

Young Environmentalist

Henry Griffin (Oak Park Bird Walks, Illinois Young Birder).



Blue-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Restaurant, 1275 Lee St./Mannheim Rd. (between Algonquin and Oakton) in Des Plaines. The charge for the Banquet dinner will be \$33 per person. To make dinner reservations online, please go to our website, chicagoaudubon.org and follow the links. Please make sure we have your registration and payment for the Awards Banquet by close of business on Wednesday, March 22. If you prefer to send a check, please be sure to include your phone number, address, and dinner preference (chicken, salmon, or vegetarian). Mail your check along with that information to Chicago Audubon, 5801-C North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60646. If you have questions, please contact Board Member Alan Anderson at casresearch@comcast.net, or call our office at 773-539-6793.

Again, if you wish to only attend the Membership meeting (which includes the program), please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m., and please give us a call so we have an approximate count of the number of people to expect.

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee (Dave Willard, Annette Prince, and Bobbi Asher) will present the slate of names to be voted on by the Membership for election to the Chicago Audubon Board of Directors. Chicago Audubon is proud to have nominated the following individuals for election: Alan Anderson, Bonnie Duman, Jeffrey Sanders, Patricia

Miller, and Chris Van Wassenhove.

After the dinner, the Awards Presentation, and the Members Meeting, John Elliott, Chicago Audubon Board Member who worked for

the Cook County Forest Preserve District for many years, will present the evening's program, "The Ghosts of Conservation." Take a *virtual trip* to the iconic places that some of our heroes and heroines of conservation have lived and worked over the decades. A few surprises might be on the itinerary.

We look forward to seeing you on March 25!



Northern Parula. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Making “Bird-friendly” a part of Sustainable Development

Migrating birds encounter many obstacles on their journeys north in spring and south in fall. Some of these are natural obstacles, such as native predators and storms, but others are the product of human activity. Among the most lethal obstacles are glass windows in buildings. Window collisions cause the death of nearly one billion birds annually in North America alone. In downtown Chicago, the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM—a branch of Chicago Audubon Society) finds 5,000 to 6,000 dead birds every year as they make their daily rounds to rescue birds that have been stunned by colliding with buildings. We know that these numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. Birds may fall into inaccessible places, and scavengers such as crows and gulls may get to them before the monitors can find them. There are things we can do to reduce this carnage. In an important new initiative, the City of Chicago is recommending measures that could save thousands of birds.

Dave Willard, President
Chicago Audubon Society

The City of Chicago’s Planning Department is officially enacting a new Sustainable Development Policy this January. Members of Chicago Audubon Society and the Chicago Ornithological Society (COS) were able to get several bird-safe building measures included in the new policy. Below are some frequently asked questions about the policy and how the Chicago birding community can encourage developers to employ strategies protecting migratory birds:

Where does it apply? Building projects that do not comply with current zoning laws, complex projects, or projects that receive financial assistance from the city—all need to comply with the new policy. These projects are typically classified as Planned Developments, zoning variances, or TIF (Tax-incremented Financing) projects. Most high-rise buildings fall under one of these categories.

What are the requirements? Developers are required to choose from a list of sustainable building practices, each assigned a point value based on how difficult they are to achieve. Bird-safe building strategies comprise the “Wildlife Protection” credits. There is a 5 point credit that consists of “best practices” recommended by Chicago

Bird Collision Monitors. This credit will likely not impose any financial hardship on any project, yet will cut down on some of the most egregious culprits of window collisions. The 10 point “enhanced credit” assigns the building a score based on material selections. A building with a significant amount of glazing will have to



Kirtland's Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

use bird-safe glass or other strategies to achieve a satisfactory score. Alternatively, a brick building with a modest amount of glazing will have to do very little to meet the requirement. Obviously, there is the potential for large cost implications to achieve the 10 point credit.

Does this mean all building projects that fall under the Sustainable Development Policy need to earn those credits? No. The policy is a menu from which developers can choose those credits most appropriate for their projects.

So how do we ensure that as many projects as possible choose the Wildlife Protection credits? If you find yourself at a public hearing for these projects, ask the design team, city staff, or elected official present if the “Sustainable Development Policy” will apply to that project. If yes, encourage them to meet the Wildlife Protection

credits. Bird-safe building strategies are new and still in development. Many design teams are still unaware of the huge impact window collisions have on migratory bird populations. Be sure to explain that thousands of birds die every year passing through Chicago.

Chicago’s motto is *Urbs in horto* or “City in a Garden,” and a

garden cannot thrive without the wildlife that sustains it. Encourage those involved in the project to review the American Bird Conservancy’s bird-friendly design guide.

Adapted from an article by
Carl Giometti, President
Chicago Ornithological Society

If you have any questions on the new bird-safe building policy or concerns about a specific project, please reach out to Chicago Audubon Society on our Facebook page or Annette Prince, Director, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors at aprincecbcm2@msn.com.



Editor: Skipper Joy Wolters

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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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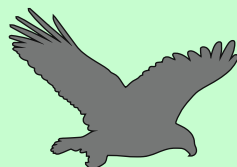
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Eagle Optics Day

Saturday, April 22, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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. Eagle Optics donates a portion of sales for the day to support the

programs of the Chicago Audubon Society. For those who have never attended one of our Eagle Optics Days and have never been to the Nature Center, please call our office for information and directions at 773-539-6793. Parking is free and there will be light refreshments. This event is open to the public. Bring family and friends!



Printed with soy ink

In a recent informal poll of birders taken through the listserv called IBET (Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts), Jackson Park was ranked as the sixth best birding spot in the entire state of Illinois. Field Museum Conservation Ecologist and local birding guru Doug Stotz will give an illustrated, data-filled talk demonstrating the extremely high value for migratory birds of the habitats in Jackson Park.

Beloved for decades as a beautiful year-round refuge by birders and Hyde Park neighbors alike, Wooded Island and the adjacent landscape in Jackson Park has been the subject of controversy and some confusion recently because of several proposed new developments. These include a sculpture by Yoko Ono, the redevelopment and combining of the South Shore and Jackson Park golf courses into a championship course designed by Tiger Woods, the Obama Presidential Library, and a glass-walled pavilion for a

Chicago Audubon Program *Lakefront Migrants – Why Jackson Park Matters*

Presented by Dr. Douglas Stotz

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

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

possible concert venue. Large amounts of both private and public funds will be sought to implement these ambitious projects.

Though the public input process has been criticized as inadequate, the civically-engaged Hyde Park community has responded by attending meetings, writing letters and asking questions. A grassroots group called

Jackson Park Watch (JPW), coordinated by local leaders Brenda Nelms and Margaret Schmid, has emerged. JPW has given voice to concerns about noise, parking, loss of trees and open space, and disruption of the tranquility of the park and Wooded Island. JPW members attend Park District board meetings, providing information, and talking to

the media (jacksonparkwatch.org and facebook.com/jacksonparkwatch).

After Doug's talk there will be a discussion of these issues with a panel that includes Doug as well as JPW's Margaret Schmid, and others to be decided. We would like to explore how these projects could affect birds at Jackson Park and talk about compromise solutions as well as communications pathways.

Laurel Ross
Chicago Audubon
Conservation Committee

Margaret Schmid
Jackson Park Watch Coordinator

Light refreshments at 7:00 p.m., program begins at 7:15 p.m. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend. If you have questions or need directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793.

2017 Volunteer Bird Monitor Training

Would you like to brush up your birding skills, and then put them to use for a good cause? This spring a 5-session Bird ID class will be offered on Saturday mornings on Chicago's south lakefront. Leaders include Bobbi Asher, Geoff Williamson, Stephany Virrueta and Carl Giometti. All are welcome to attend. We ask that in return for the training, you make four 1-hour monitoring visits to the Burnham Wildlife Corridor within the year. Tuition is \$40. Please share this with those that you think would be interested.

In this course, learn how to identify birds by sight and by sound. Courses take place in multiple locations. Please see the schedule below for details. For more information, go to tiny.cc/birdmonitor.

April 1: Intro to the course, Bird Identification. Chicago Women's Park and Garden.

April 8: Field ID and monitoring. 47th street at Lake Shore Drive.

April 15: Birding by ear: birdsongs. Chicago Women's Park and Garden.



Prothonotary Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

April 22: Field Walk. 47th street at Lake Shore Drive.

April 29: Field Walk. 47th street at Lake Shore Drive.

May 6: Field Walk and BCN monitoring. 47th street at Lake Shore Drive.

May 13: Connecting with eBird, Quiz, monitoring assignments.

May 20: International Migratory Bird Day. Field Day (LaBagh Woods). Meet

other BCN monitors. Graduation potluck. 4498 W. Foster Ave. Please note that the final class in the course takes place at the International Migratory Bird Day event at LaBagh Woods, NOT at a Chicago Park District site.

When is the monitoring season?

Monitoring takes place during both spring and fall migrations. Volunteers will be asked to commit to a minimum of 4 sampling visits per year, and may elect to split these between the two migration periods.

What is the cost for the training?

The tuition cost for the training is \$40. If cost is prohibitive or you do not meet age requirements but have a serious interest in volunteering, please contact kathleen.soler@chicagoparkdistrict.com.

Are there any requirements to be eligible to participate in training?

All volunteers must commit to one year of monitoring (4 field visits) at the Burnham Wildlife Corridor following the completion of their training. In addition, all volunteers must complete a Chicago Park District application on the first day of training, and must pass

a background screen by the end of the training period. An interest in learning to identify birds and their songs is required. A basic familiarity with common birds is helpful but not necessary. The classroom sessions will teach the bird families and songs of the birds likely to be encountered.

What do I need to bring to training?

Reference materials and binoculars will be provided for training. For field training sessions, please be aware of weather conditions, dress comfortably in layers, and bring a water bottle!

I'm a steward for another natural area and am interested in bringing this program to my site, but am not interested in collecting data at BWC. Can I still participate?

We are interested in expanding this program to other sites around the city. Stewards or volunteer leads for other areas are welcome to attend either of the field training dates to see the protocol in action. Please register with forrest.cortes@chicagoparkdistrict.com if this is the case.

Calendar of Events

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

March/April 2017

You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend our programs or join any of our walks. They are all free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome! For current updates on dates and times, please go to our website, chicagoaudubon.org.

Wednesday, March 15 (8:00 a.m.): Bemis Woods South Bird Walk, 1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs. Look for wintering woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods South, Grove 8, far north end of parking area (past Go Ape Treetop Adventure). Walk Leader: Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Tuesday, March 21 (7:00 a.m.): Skokie Lagoons Bird Walk. Skokie Lagoons, Winnetka. Look for lingering winter birds and the front-runners of spring migration. Walk leader is Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

Saturday, March 25: Chicago Audubon's 2017 Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet, Annual Members Meeting, and Program. Cash bar available beginning at 5:15. Banquet at 6:00 p.m. Following the Banquet, the Award presentation and the Members' Meeting, the evening's program, "The Ghosts of Conservation." See page 1 of this issue for details of the evening. Reminder: Registration for the Banquet is also available on our website, chicagoaudubon.org.

Sunday, April 9 (7:30 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Camp Pine Woods, Glenview. Explore riparian woodlands and shrublands at this rarely visited site. Meet in last section of parking lot (south of Lake Ave and just east of the river). Leader: John Elliott (708-567-4363).

Tuesday, April 18 (7:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Skokie Lagoons Birding Trip, Winnetka. In anticipation of the flood of birds to come, we'll look for early sparrows, kinglets and warblers. Walk leader: Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org). Meet at

Willow Road at I-95 (Erickson Woods Parking Lot).

Wednesday, April 19 (8:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods North Bird Walk, Wolf Road, between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for migrant sparrows, woodpeckers, early warblers and resident woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods North, Wolf Road, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Walk leader: Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Continued on Page 4 ...

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Saturday, April 22 (7:30 a.m.): Chicago Audubon River Trail Nature Center Bird Walk, Northbrook. The River Trail Nature Center invites birders to stay after the walk for their Restoration Work day beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Nature Center is located at 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook. Walk leader is John Elliott (708-567-4363).

Saturday, April 22 (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.): Chicago Audubon's Eagle Optics Day at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Road, Building D. Eagle Optics is the largest independent dealer of high quality binocular, scopes, and all types of optical equipment and accessories. A variety of their equipment will be on display between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Experts will be available all day to answer questions and give guidance. Eagle Optics donates a portion of sales for the day

to support the programs of Chicago Audubon. For those who have never attended one of our Eagle Optics Days and have never been to the Nature Center, please call our office for information and directions (773-539-6793). Parking is free and there will be light refreshments. This event is open to the public.

Thursday, May 11 (7:30 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Camp Pine Woods Bird Walk, Grove 1, E. Central Road, Glenview. Explore riparian woodlands and shrublands at this rarely visited site. Meet in last section of parking lot (south of Lake and east of the river). Walk leader: John Elliott (708-567-4363).

Tuesday, May 16 (7:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Skokie Lagoons Birding Trip, Winnetka. It should be the height of migration. Meet at Willow Road at I-94 (Erickson Woods Parking Lot). Walk leader: Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

Wednesday, May 17 (8:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods Field Trip, Bemis Wood North, Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for migrant songbirds, especially warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and sparrows plus resident woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Leader is Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Saturday, May 20 (6:00 a.m. to noon): River Trail Nature Center Big Sit, River trail Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook. See how many birds you can see without moving from a central spot! Call River Trail Nature Center for more information (847-824-9360).

Tuesday, June 20 (7:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Skokie Lagoons Birding Trip, Skokie Lagoons, Willow Road at I-94 (Erickson Woods Parking Lot), Winnetka.

Let's give breeding birds their due! Walk leader is Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

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. 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

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.

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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