



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

The 117th Annual Christmas Bird Count



Barred Owl. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Tis the Season ... to join friends, fellow birders and conservationists for the 117th annual Christmas bird count.

At the end of the 19th century unregulated hunting and collecting decimated populations of all kinds of birds. Waterfowl and shorebirds were victims of market hunting — egrets, herons and songbirds provided decorations for elaborate ladies hats, and collectors for public and private museums took entire nests with eggs. Into this devastation stepped a hardy band of early champions for conservation, who among

other worthy efforts, started the first Audubon Societies.

One of the popular “sports” of the time was the Christmas side hunt. Families and groups that gathered to celebrate the holidays would choose sides for a day of competitive hunting. Whoever brought in the most feathered and furred victims — and any species was “game” — was the winner. As an alternative to such destruction, on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman, a pioneer in the new Audubon Society, proposed a “Christmas Bird Census” to count birds

during the holidays rather than hunt them.

Chicago Audubon Society members take part in any of ten Chicago Region counts. Many of us join friends on Chicago Urban and Chicago Lakefront, Waukegan, Calumet City/Sand Ridge, Barrington, Indiana Dunes and others. Each count is in a circle of a seven-and-a-half mile radius centered on a point chosen to include the most likely habitat for winter birds. A compiler coordinates assignment of parties, which can be from one to several counters, and collects the results for

submission to National Audubon. The Count Days and contacts for this season include:

Sunday, December 18, Chicago Urban: Jeffrey Sanders, email at yellowstart5@yahoo.com.

Monday, December 19, Barrington: Duane Heaton, email at dheaton19@comcast.net.

New participants will join experienced birders, so everyone is welcome!

*John Elliott, Conservation Committee
Chicago Audubon Society*



Video still from Christmas Bird Count told by Chan Robbins. Courtesy of National Audubon.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL

and Happy Happy New Year!!

*May your future be filled
with many many birds!*



Cedar Waxwing.

Photo by Jerry Goldner.

The 2017 Chicago Audubon Environmental Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting

March 25

Our biennial event will be held Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines at 1275 Lee/Mannheim Streets (between Oakton and Algonquin Roads). Cocktails (cash bar) will be available from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m. The cost this year is again \$33 per person. The names of the Award Recipients, as well as program speaker and topic, and details for registration will be announced in the

January/February issue of the Compass, and on our website (chicagoaudubon.org).

To see previous recipients of Chicago Audubon’s Environmental Awards, please go to chicagoaudubon.org/content/chicago-audubon-society-environmental-award-recipients-1977-2013

For online directions to the Silver Stallion Restaurant, here is a link to the google map: <http://tinyurl.com/silverstallion>

We hope you can join us!

This is migration time ... just a friendly reminder...
What to do if you see a Whooping Crane



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Whooping and Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Please keep the following guidelines in mind when viewing a Whooping Crane.

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership asks anyone who encounters a Whooping Crane in the wild to please give it the respect and distance it needs:

Do not approach birds on foot within 600 feet; remain in your vehicle; do not approach in a vehicle within 600 feet or, if on a public road, do not approach within 300 feet.

Also, please remain concealed and do not speak loudly enough that the bird can hear you. Finally, do not trespass on private property in an attempt to view Whooping Cranes.

Also, to keep the amount of attention it receives to a minimum, please do not report the bird on a birding list such as In-bird or IBET or any social media or to the news media.

To safely report a Whooping Crane sighting, go to fws.gov/midwest/whoopingcrane/sightings/sightingform.cfm.

For general information on the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, go to bringbackthecranes.org/index.html.



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Whooping and Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Joy Schmoll.



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

COMPASS
 CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

5801-C North Pulaski Road
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www.chicagoaudubon.org
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Report injured birds to Chicago Bird Collision Monitors: 773-988-1867

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 Closed Fridays and holidays

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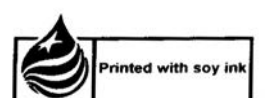
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Why Native Plants Are Better for Birds and People

Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

Each patch of restored native habitat is just that — a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat.

More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds and other wildlife.

To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for native birds — like having leaves that are unpalatable to native insects and

Bird-friendly landscaping provides food, saves water, and fights climate change.



Cerulean Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

caterpillars. With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food. No insects? No birds.

For example, native oaks support more than 530 different species of butterflies and moths alone. The non-native ginkgo tree supports just three. Caterpillars are the go-to food source for migrant and resident birds

alike. In the 16 days between hatching and fledging, a clutch of Carolina Chickadee chicks can down more than 9,000 of them.

Recent science points to native landscaping as a key tool in increasing bird diversity and abundance. In a study of suburban properties in southeast Pennsylvania, for example, researchers found eight times more Wood Thrushes, Eastern Towhees, Veeries, and Scarlet Tanagers (all species of conservation concern) in yards with native plantings as compared with yards landscaped with typical alien ornamentals.

What's more, the habitat provided by native plants can help birds adapt and survive amid a changing climate. More than half of North American bird species are threatened by climate change, and native plants can help increase their resilience by giving them food and places to rest and nest.

Courtesy of National Audubon: www.audubon.org/news/why-native-plants-are-better-birds-and-people.

Reminder to our Readers receiving a printed copy of our newsletter:

The Compass can be read and enjoyed in color on chicagoaudubon.org. Just click on the word "Newsletters" in the top row of tabs on the home page to visit our archives. Don't miss these wonderful birds in living color!



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Calendar of Events November/December 2016

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

Bird Walk. Saturday, November 19 (7:30 a.m.): Penny Road Pond Preserve, Barrington Hills. The winter birds will be here, and we will find them. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to join any of our walks. For further information, please contact Craig Stettner at cstettne@harpercollege.edu or at 847-239-3765. Everyone is welcome!

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. Everyone is welcome!



Red-tailed Hawk. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

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. Everyone is welcome!

Please watch for our 2016 Annual Appeal mailing coming in November. This is one of our most important fundraisers of the year. We thank you for your past support and hope you will be able to help us again this year.



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 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 _____

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

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