



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

THE CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS
BIRDING AMERICA XII

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018
NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
3225 WEST FOSTER AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Whooping Crane. Photo Courtesy of International Crane Foundation.

The Keynote Speaker will be George Archibald, Co-founder and Senior Conservationist of the International Crane Foundation.

Mark your calendars now for this exciting day of programs.

Details of programs, schedules, and registration will be published in the January–February issue.

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 118th Annual Christmas Bird Count



Great Horned Owl. Photo by John Elliott.

such as *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 17, Chicago Urban: Jeffrey Sanders, email at yellowstart5@yahoo.com.

Monday, December 18, Barrington: Duane Heaton, email at dheaton19@comcast.net.

Saturday, December 30, Sand Ridge, South Holland: John Elliott, email at johnelliott4@gmail.com.

New participants will join experienced birders. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to participate in any of our events. Everyone is welcome!

*John Elliott, Conservation Committee
Chicago Audubon Society*

Tis the Season ... to join friends, fellow birders, and conservationists for the 118th 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. Over the years since then Chicago Audubon Society members have taken part in any of ten Chicago Region counts. Many of us join friends and newcomers in groups



*Video still photo from Christmas Bird Count told by Chan Robbins. Circa 1930s.
Courtesy of National Audubon Society.*

This is migration time ... just a friendly reminder...

What to do if you see a Whooping Crane

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.



Adult and Juvenile Whooping Crane. Photo Courtesy of International Crane Foundation.

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 www.bringbackthecranes.org.

Thank you!

Calendar of Events

November/December 2017

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

For current updates on dates and times, please keep checking our website, chicagoaudubon.org.

Sunday, November 5 (1:00 p.m.). Chicago Audubon Program: Migration Mystery. Trailside Museum, River Forest. In November, fall bird migration winds down and we begin to watch for winter visitors. Join John Elliott to review what we know about migration of birds and other animals and to ponder unsolved mysteries. Feeder watching and perhaps a short walk will wind up the program. Our programs are always free but please register in advance at 708-366-6530. For information contact John Elliott at johnelliott4@gmail.com. The Trailside Museum is located at 738 Thatcher Ave, at Chicago Ave, River Forest. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend our programs or events.

Tuesday, November 14 (7:00 p.m.). Chicago Audubon Program: The "Ghosts" of Conservation. Do you believe in ghosts? North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. Like touching an artifact, we will visit the places people lived and worked to keep them alive. We will bring our own interpretation and ideas to their work and writings. Take the time to reflect on how we fit into these people's ideas and accomplishments. Take a virtual trip to the iconic places that some of our heroes and heroines of conservation lived and worked. What do they tell us today? The program will be presented by Chicago Audubon Board member John Elliott. If you have questions or need directions to the Nature Center, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793.

Sunday, November 19 (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). Camp Pine Woods Seed Cleaning and Scatter, Glenview. The Camp Pine shrubland bird habitat improvement project is making great progress. On two beautiful September and October days, we collected seeds of 26 native plant species. Now is the time to clean and scatter the seed across the camp area before the winter months. We will meet at the Camp Pine location to both clean

and scatter seed. Meet at the farthest parking lot at Camp Pine Woods on 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 (turn around on River Road). No RSVP required, but if you need more information, contact Laurel Ross at lross@fieldmuseum.org. Please join us for this next stage in the restoration project.



Great Horned Owl nest with chicks. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Great Horned Owl and chick. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Wednesday, November 22 (8:00 a.m.): Chicago Audubon Birding Trip to Bemis Woods North, Westchester. Late fall migrants, sparrows, kinglets, creepers, and more. Leader: Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com). Meet at Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, at easternmost part of parking lot, Westchester.

Sunday, December 17 (6:00 a.m.): Owl Calling and Urban Count,

Trailside Museum, River Forest. Contact John Elliott, at email johnelliott4@gmail.com for information about this early but fascinating event! The Trailside Museum is located at 738 Thatcher Ave, at Chicago Ave, River Forest.

Sunday, December 17. Christmas Bird Count, Chicago Urban. Groups will be formed to count winter birds during the holidays. For information, contact Leader: Jeffrey Sanders, email at yellowstart5@yahoo.com. See Page 1 for further information and a brief history.

Monday, December 18. Christmas Bird Count, Barrington. Groups will be formed to count winter birds during the holidays. For information, contact Leader: Duane Heaton, email at dheaton19@comcast.net. See Page 1 for further information and a brief history.

Saturday, December 30, Christmas Bird Count, Sand Ridge. Groups will be formed to count winter birds during the holidays. For information, contact Leader: John Elliott, email at johnelliott4@gmail.com. See Page 1 for further information and a brief history.

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.

COMPASS

CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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



Editor: Skipper Joy Wolters

Layout Design: JustSayJoy.com

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.

Compass (ISSN 1097-7899) is published bi-monthly by the Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C North Pulaski, Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057. Distributed to membership (\$5 allotted from dues). Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois. Postmaster: Send address changes to Compass, c/o Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C North Pulaski, Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057.

Report sightings to: 773-539-6793

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

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

Treasurer: Jessica Johnson, 312-519-2781, towerlobbyfloor@gmail.com

Secretary: Annette Prince, 630-841-7110, aprincecbem2@msn.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards: Alan Anderson, 847-390-7437, casresearch@comcast.net

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

Bird Seed Sale: Chris Van Wassenhove, 312-520-1266, cmvwhic@gmail.com

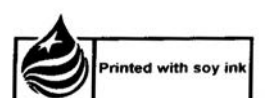
Conservation: Judy Pollock, 847-864-6393, jpbobolink@gmail.com

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

Stewardship: Dave Kosnik, 847-456-6368, skokielagoons@gmail.com

Nominating: Alan Anderson, 847-390-7437, casresearch@comcast.net

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



How Birds Survive The Cold: Feathers + Food = Warmth

By Charles Eldermire, Bird Cams Project Leader
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

On cold winter days I am always astounded that there are any birds left alive, especially considering that most winter feeder visitors weigh in around 10–25 grams (the weight of 2–5 nickels)! But it turns out that birds employ many of the same strategies I was using inside my house—plus a couple more—to keep their motors running through cold snaps.

So here's my 5-step survival guide for birds in the cold, complete with links to some fascinating research papers (or at least they were fascinating to me, back in the days when I was a graduate student researching winter survival in Montana).



A mixed group of birds at a snowy feeder.
Photo by Steve Shelasky via Birdshare.

1. Get Some Friends To Hang Out With

Especially if the weather is crummy. Ever notice that nearly all of the birds that hang around in the winter do so in flocks? Having other birds around makes it less likely that something will eat you; more eyes = less chance of a predator sneaking up. Plus, if something does sneak up, you only have to be faster than the guy foraging next to you! Friends are also good at letting you know where the primo food is.



Blue Jays fill up on needed calories.
Photo by Kathleen via Birdshare.

2. Eat. As Much As Possible

Park yourself in front of a feeder, some seedy plants, or anywhere there is food (preferably the heaviest, fattiest foods possible, like black-oil sunflower and suet, yum!) and consume. If anyone gets in your way,

chase them off and keep eating—unless, of course, they chase you off first. However, don't eat too much, because it also makes you slower and more likely to get eaten.



A fluffed up Black-capped Chickadee.
Photo by Mike Wisnicki via Birdshare.

3. When You Can't Eat More, Get Puffy And Rest

Your fluffy down feathers help complete the food + feathers = warmth equation. With food in your belly, you can use your metabolism to generate heat. Feathers, in addition to keeping cold air away from your skin, do a great job of trapping body heat instead of letting it dissipate. If you get the chance, tuck a foot or a whole leg up in there. But if you're a woodpecker—tough luck, because you don't have any down feathers.



A Downy Woodpecker in the wind.
Photo by Barbara Lynne via Birdshare.

4. Stay Out Of The Wind

Here's an important hint: if the wind is blowing, go to the other side of the tree and avoid it. Seems simple, right? But it works—trust me (or trust Dr. Thomas Grubb and his 1977 treatise *Weather-dependent foraging behavior of some birds in a deciduous woodland: horizontal adjustments*). And for any birders out there—you might be surprised how often you see birds doing this (whether to dodge wind or to avoid rain or hot sun) once you start looking for it.



An Eastern Screech-Owl roosting in a tree cavity.
Photo by avicentric via Birdshare.

5. Roost In A Cavity

You'll never find a warmer spot to sleep than in your own down feathers, nestled in a nook small enough that you can warm it up with any extra heat that does escape. Old woodpecker cavities, crannies beneath the eaves of houses, even a tunnel in the snow... they're all warmer than spending the night (literally) out on a limb. As an additional trick, some small birds such as kinglets and chickadees can drop their body temperature and go into controlled hypothermia to save energy.



Eastern Bluebirds at a suet feeder.
Photo by Bob Vuxinic via Birdshare.

6. (Bonus Step) Put It All Together

Finally, whenever possible, combine guidelines 1–5 for the ultimate in energy-saving & crop-filling goodness (as illustrated here by these puffy Eastern Bluebirds, perched comfortably within bill's reach of a cake of fatty suet).

Article and photos courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Even though it's months before planting season, it's never too early to think about spring—and it's good for the soul to think about planting native plants that attract birds. In case you haven't seen it before, here's a handy link to National Audubon's list of native plants organized by zip code. The birds will love you!

www.audubon.org/native-plants

Don't miss these Chicago Audubon Programs and a Special Gathering:

Migration Mystery
Sunday, November 5
(1:00 p.m.). Trailside
Museum, River Forest.

*The "Ghosts"
of Conservation*
Tuesday, November 14
(7:00 p.m.). North Park
Village Nature Center.

*Camp Pine Woods Seed
Cleaning and Scatter*
Sunday, November 19
(10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.).
Glenview.

See Calendar on Page 2 for details.



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.

1-800-342-3782
Over 95% of our products are manufactured in our factory in Chicago.

Bringing The Benefits Of Nature To Your House

PLEASE RECYCLE
Our aluminum martin houses are manufactured from 100% recycled aluminum.

naturehouseinc.com
NATURE HOUSE IS A BRAND OF ERVA TOOL & MANUFACTURING CO.

ERVA® 3100 West Grand, Chicago, IL 60622-4324
Phone 1-800-342-3782 Fax 1-800-342-3781

Nature House products encourage the reciprocal relationship inherent between people and nature. Nature House is a brand of Erva Tool & Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer and distributor of nature conservation and nature related products.

Wrought Iron & Tubular Feeder Poles • Quick Connect™ Hooks & Hangers • Baffles • Bird Houses & Feeders and more!

erva **NATURE HOUSE** **Pole Feeder** **SCHWEGLER**

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

Postal regulations require annual publication of Statement of Ownership.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **COMPASS**

2. Issue Frequency: **BI-MONTHLY**

3. Filing Date: **Oct. 1, 2017**

4. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **Oct. 1, 2017**

5. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):
**CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**

6. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
**CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**

7. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
 Publisher: **SKIPPER WALTERS
 CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**
 Editor: **SKIPPER WALTERS
 CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**
 Managing Editor: **SKIPPER WALTERS
 CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
 5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**

8. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
 Full Name: **CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY**
 Complete Mailing Address: **5801-C N. PULASKI ROAD
 CHICAGO, IL 60646**

9. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None

10. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title: **COMPASS**

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **October 1, 2017**

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: **BI-MONTHLY PERIODICAL NEWSLETTER TO MEMBERSHIP**

a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	15,353	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	3,558	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	4,131
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)					
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			83	84	
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)			3,188	4,047	
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®			-0-	-0-	
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)			-0-	-0-	
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))			3,271	4,131	
d. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			-0-	-0-	
e. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541			-0-	-0-	
f. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)			-0-	-0-	
g. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)			-0-	-0-	
h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d, (e), (f), (g), and (h))			-0-	-0-	
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15h)			3,271	4,131	
j. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page K3))			-0-	-0-	
k. Total (Sum of 15i and j)			3,271	4,131	
l. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15i times 100)			98.65%	98.65%	

*If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation: **- NONE -**

a. Paid Electronic Copies		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)					
c. Total Free Distribution (Line 15h) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)					
d. Percent Paid (Both Paid Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)					

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership: If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed: **Oct-Dec 2017** Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **SKIPPER WALTERS** Date: **Oct 1, 2017**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).