



# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2011

## Environmental Awards Banquet

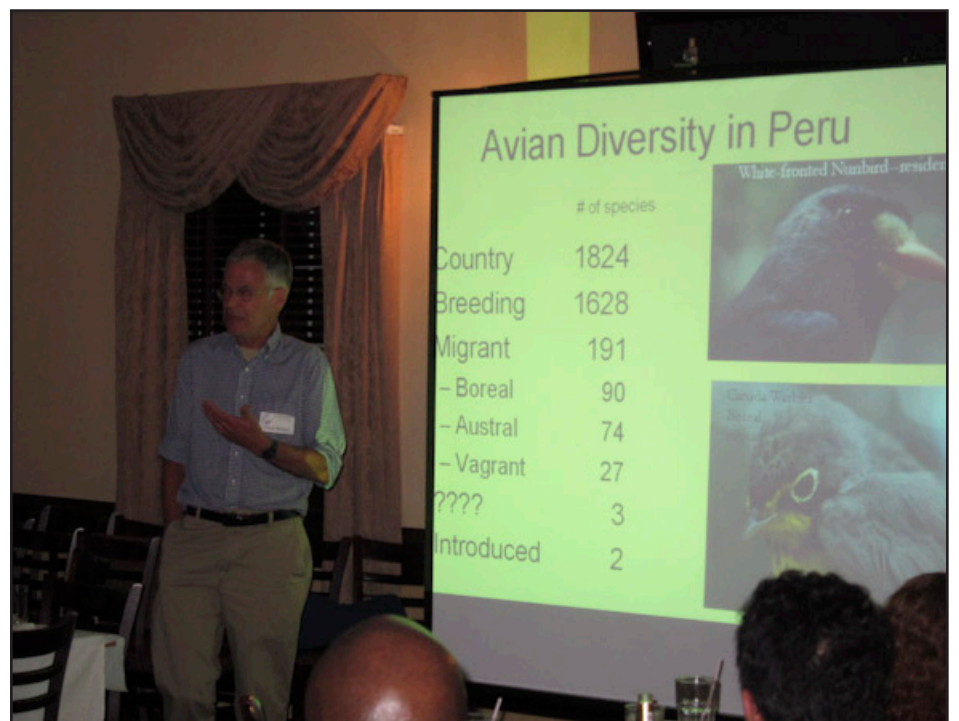
The Chicago Audubon Society held its biennial Environmental Awards Banquet on April 30th at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines. These awards honor those who have made contributions to conservation and birding in the Chicagoland area. Dave Willard of the Field Museum presented the evening's well-received program, *Birds of Peru*. A Silent Auction of donated items was held during the evening which included books, scopes, miscellaneous equipment and beautiful original-design birdhouses. The Banquet, the Presentation, and the Silent Auction were all great successes. Come and join us at the next Banquet two years from now. We would love to see you!

Here is a complete list of the Awardees:

- 1) Excellence in Environmental Reporting:  
**Chicago Wildlife News; [chicagowildlifeneeds.com](http://chicagowildlifeneeds.com)**
- 2) Protector of the Environment, Educator:  
**Carl Strang**, Naturalist with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Wildthings – Wildlife News Program on WDCB, Nature Inquiries Blog.
- 3) Protector of the Environment, Single Act, Individual – Avocation (3 individuals):
  - i) **Judith Lihota**, President, Calumet Ecological Park Association.
  - ii) **Annette Prince**, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors.
  - iii) **Joe Suchecki**, Steward and Bird Monitor, Springbrook Prairie.
- 4) Protector of the Environment, Single Act, Group:  
**No Games Chicago**, Tom Tresser.
- 5) Protector of the Environment, Avocation:  
**Conrad Fialkowski**, Chicago Audubon Society, Save the Prairie Society, Steward (Cook County and Dupage County), Bird Monitor.
- 6) Protector of the Environment, Vocation (2 recipients):
  - i) **Gerald Adelman**, Openlands, Canal Corridor Association.
  - ii) **Dick Young**, Kane County Forest Preserve District (Posthumous Recognition).
- 7) Service to Chicago Area Birders:  
**Paul and Janice Sweet**, Illinois Beach Hawkwatch.
- 8) Chicago Audubon Good Business Neighbor:  
**De Long Company Inc**, Supplier of high-quality birdseed for Chicago Audubon's Annual Birdseed Sale.



Recipients of Chicago Audubon's Environmental Awards presentation banquet April 30 at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines. See complete list of Awards. Photo by Gail Gammel.



Dave Willard of the Field Museum giving his presentation on *The Birds of Peru* at the Chicago Audubon Awards Banquet in April. Photo by Gail Gammel.



Clymene moth.

Photo by Roger Shamley.

### Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. Chicago Audubon Society's Annual Meeting and Election Featuring Member's Program on Shorebird Identification

Location: North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski, Building D, Chicago. The Annual Meeting of the Chicago Audubon Society will be held at the North Park Village Nature Center on Thursday, July 21st. The election of six members of the Board of Directors will take place, to be followed by Walter Marcisz' highly regarded program entitled Shorebird Identification. Walter's program includes everything from the basics of identification to a detailed discussion of some of the more difficult groups. Although only current members of the Chicago Audubon Society (or National Audubon Society) are eligible to participate in the voting portion of the evening, everyone is welcome to attend the Program! Don't miss this rare opportunity!



## Report of Chicago Audubon Society Nominating Committee

The 2011 Nominating Committee of the Chicago Audubon Society nominates the following five candidates for three-year terms on the Chicago Audubon Society Board of Directors (terms expire March 2014): Alan Anderson, Alan Garrett, Ann Garrett, Carolyn Marsh, Jeffrey Sanders. There are six open positions that can be filled in this election. Further nominations of Directors may be made from among the membership by nominating petitions signed by not less than five members and accompanied by a written consent to serve executed by the proposed nominee. Petitions shall be filed at the office of the Society (5801-C North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60646) either by personal delivery or certified mail, not later than Saturday, July 16th, 2011. Certified letters postmarked by July 16th will be accepted.

The election of Directors will be held at the Annual Meeting to be held on July 21st at 7:15 p.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801-D North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60646. All current members of the Chicago Audubon Society (either through National Audubon or as a Chicago Chapter member) are eligible to vote in this election.

Chicago Audubon Society Nominating Committee:  
Michelle Devlin  
Joe Lill  
Roger Shamley



Editor: Skipper Joy Wolters  
Layout Design: Orca Graphics

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

Activity line: (773) 539-6793, press 1

Website: [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)

**Office Administrator:** Skipper Wolters (773) 539-6793, [cas@chicagoaudubon.org](mailto:cas@chicagoaudubon.org)  
**Office hours:** Monday-Thursday 9:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Fridays & Holidays.

#### OFFICERS

**President:** Roger Shamley, (773)

274-5362, [drongo@comcast.net](mailto:drongo@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Chris Van Wassenhove, (773) 477-4618, [cmvwchic@gmail.com](mailto:cmvwchic@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Bobbi Asher, (708) 771-2085, [roberta.asher@comcast.net](mailto:roberta.asher@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Annette Prince, (630) 841-7110, [aprincebird@msn.com](mailto:aprincebird@msn.com)

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Awards:** Alan Anderson (see Nominating below)

**Birdathon:** Joe Lill, (773) 631-3154, [trptjoe@aol.com](mailto:trptjoe@aol.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Carolyn A. Marsh, (219) 659-7904, [cmarshbird@prodigy.net](mailto:cmarshbird@prodigy.net)

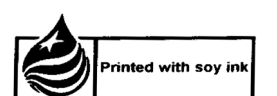
**Education Chair:** Roger Shamley, (773) 274-5362, [drongo@comcast.net](mailto:drongo@comcast.net)

**Field Trips:** Jeff Sanders, (847) 657-6431, [yellowstart5@yahoo.com](mailto:yellowstart5@yahoo.com)

**Stewardship:** Dave Kosnik, (847) 456-6368, [skokielaagoons@gmail.com](mailto:skokielaagoons@gmail.com)

**Nominating:** Alan Anderson, (847) 390-7437, [casresearch@comcast.net](mailto:casresearch@comcast.net)

**Program Chair:** Joe Lill, (773) 631-3154, [trptjoe@aol.com](mailto:trptjoe@aol.com)



## Birdathon! 2011

First things first! Many thanks to all who birded, pledged or otherwise supported the efforts of the three teams that competed in the Chicago Audubon Society Birdathon on Saturday, May 21st. Here are the final tallies from that day (all species were seen on Saturday, May 21st, within the confines of Cook County):

- 151 - Field's Flickers (Nick Block, Josh Engel, Jason Weckstein, Ben Winger)
- 147 - Steel Belted Kingfishers (Joe Lill, Jeff Sanders, Randy Shonkwiler, Jeff Sundberg)
- 63 - Covert Ops (Michelle Devlin, Jim O'Toole, Lauren Biron, Melissa Foster, Chris Monaghan, Barbara Pearce).

Congratulations to the Flickers! The total species from the combined teams was 163. For the list of species, please go to our website: [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org). Again, our thanks to all who participated, pledged or donated (or will donate)! We are happy to announce that this year, for the first time, you can donate online directly on our website using your charge card.

A fine time was had by all! Please come join us next year!

Joe Lill  
CAS Birdathon Coordinator  
Chicago, Cook County



Red-tailed Hawk.

Photo Ivan Petrov.

**To our readers:** Please note that it is never too late to participate in Birdathon as a donor. If you missed the initial pre-event donation period, please feel free to contribute at any time. This is one of our primary fundraisers each year, and we rely on your support for our upcoming programs and goals. We have included a pledge form with this issue. Also, if you wish to make a donation using a credit card, please go to our website: [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org). If you prefer to not use the website to make a charge, you may call our office to do so (773) 539-6793. Thank you again for all your support!

### Birdathon! 2011

My tax deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Make check payable to: **Chicago Audubon Society**  
Mail check to: 5801-C N. Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60646

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

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Street Address

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City, state, zip

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Phone(s)

OR: You may use your credit card:  
MasterCard    Visa    Discover

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Print name exactly as on card

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Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date

If you prefer, you can call our office to use your card: (773) 539-6793. You can also go online to the Birdathon link on our homepage: [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)

**Thank you for participating in Birdathon! 2011!!**



## 2011 Sustainable Backyard Program sponsored by the City of Chicago

Chicago's Sustainable Backyard Program is an educational and incentive program that highlights the many ways Chicago residents can create more environmentally-friendly landscapes in their own yards. The City of Chicago is offering rebates to Chicago residents of up to 50% off of their next local purchase of:

Trees (up to \$100 back)  
Native Plants (up to \$60 back)  
Compost Bin (up to \$50 back)  
Rain Barrel (up to \$40 back)

Rebate amounts were allocated based on the value of the ecosystem services provided by each product. Ecosystem services are the additional benefits of healthy ecosystems, including stormwater management, improved air quality, and improved human health.

Trees can provide many benefits to our quality of life. For each tree we plant we receive ecosystem services valued at roughly \$1,200 over the life of that tree. All of these environmentally-friendly products are worth the investment!

For rebate forms and more complete information, go to the website: [cityofchicago.gov/rainbarrel](http://cityofchicago.gov/rainbarrel). If a computer is not available to you at this time, just call (312) 743-9283—and you may also call that number with any questions. To receive rebate forms Chicago residents will not be required to participate in a Sustainable Backyard Workshop (described below), but are encouraged to do so to learn more about how to install, plant, and maintain these green infrastructure best management practices.

### Free Workshops

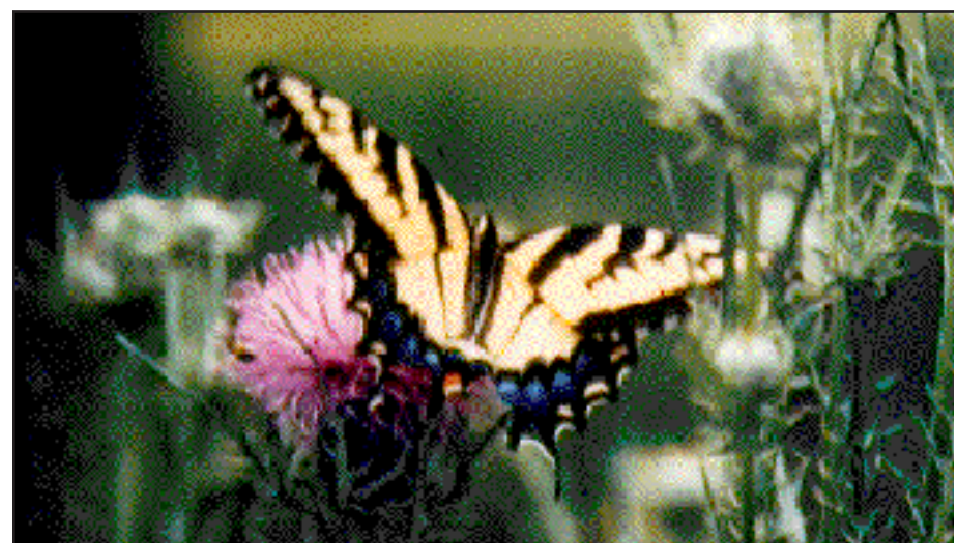
These workshops will help you learn how to make your back, front or side yard more environmentally sustainable. They cover the basics of installing a rain barrel, setting up a compost bin, planting a tree, planning a native garden and more. The workshops are free and registration is not necessary. More workshops and events will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Please check back at the website or call the number below.

Tuesday, July 26, 6:00-8:00pm  
Chicago Center for Green Technology  
445 N. Sacramento Blvd.

To receive periodic updates about the program including new incentives and possible additional workshop dates, send an email to [rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org](mailto:rainbarrel@cityofchicago.org) or call (312) 743-9283. You will automatically be added to the contact list.

Funding for rebates comes from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Pollution Prevention Program and a grant from the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

*If it's good for the environment, it's good for the birds!*



Swallowtail butterfly visiting native plants.

Photo courtesy of US EPA.



Rainbarrel.

Photo courtesy US EPA.



Cottonwood foliage. Photo courtesy of [treeplantflowerid.com](http://treeplantflowerid.com)

#### Coming up in September-October:

**Our annual Birdseed Sale will be here before you know it! Details of seed prices and seed pick-up date and locations will be in the fall issue.**

**The results of the Spring Bird Count are being compiled and will be featured in the fall issue. Also, keep an eye on our website for full details, including participants names and a complete list of species ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)).**

**Chicago Audubon's wonderful autumn birdwalks begin the first Saturday of September at 8:00 a.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center and continue through every Saturday in September and October.**

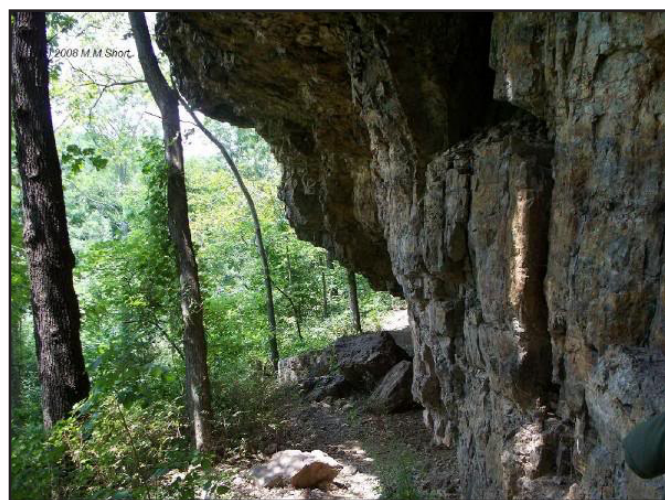
**See Calendar of Events on Page 4.**

## Joplin Missouri Audubon Center Helps Community Heal

One month after an EF-5 tornado ravaged Joplin, Missouri, killing 156 people and destroying a third of the city, Audubon staff in Joplin and across the country are working to help the city – especially its children – heal through the tonic of nature.

Generous financial support from the Audubon family has allowed staff at Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Joplin to launch new summer camps and other programming for its neighbors affected by the deadly tornado.

In keeping with its role as a vital community resource for nature education and inspiration, the center has launched Operation Backyard Recovery to focus on the community's short- and long-term needs during the crisis.



It is similar to an effort launched by Audubon's Pascagoula River Audubon Center in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

In Joplin, Audubon is reaching out to local partners such as the Boys & Girls Clubs to offer additional summer camps and environmental education programs free of charge during

*Missouri has many kinds of glades—granite, limestone, shale, sandstone, dolomite, but chert is the most rare. Chert can be underlying bedrock covered with moss and lichen or cliffs. There are only 60 acres of quality chert glades in the entire world. WildCat Park is home to 27 acres of that total. Photo courtesy of National Audubon.*

this crisis. Programs will be tailored to integrate art therapy, nature journaling, volunteerism opportunities, and other learning activities to help the people of Joplin experience the healing power of nature.

This week, the center's Boys & Girls Clubs partner, which helps some of the most economically disadvantaged

children in the community, brought the first of many groups to the center. Robin McAlester, Wildcat Glades' executive director, recalls the response: "The Club's director was very touched. After sharing that many of their staff lost their homes in the tornado and three of their young members lost their lives, she expressed a heartfelt thank you saying, 'This is just the kind of program our kids and staff need, but with limited funding and no more capacity for so many children, we wouldn't have been able to provide it for them.'"

Another program will use bird sounds to introduce visually impaired children to the wonders of nature. "I've seen this program in action, and it's one of the most powerful opportunities to watch a child's world change," said Tony Robyn, executive director of Audubon Missouri.

*Continued on page 4*



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## Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

Bright lights from buildings, along with reflective or transparent glass in windows and lobbies, are hazards for birds migrating through Chicago.

Last fall more than 1000 collision-injured birds were rescued – all from a relatively small area downtown. With your assistance, more birds can be saved.

### YOU CAN HELP BY:

- Joining **morning rescue teams**
- Monitoring buildings** where you live or work
- Transporting birds** to wildlife rehabilitation centers
- Supporting **collision prevention** work
- Assisting in **public outreach** and awareness programs



Visit [www.birdmonitors.net](http://www.birdmonitors.net) or  
call 773-988-1867

## Calendar of Events

## July/August 2011



Dickcissel. Photo by Ivan Petrov.

### Annual Meeting Members Program

**Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 7:15 pm:** Chicago Audubon Society's Annual Meeting, election, and an evening program featuring Shorebird Identification. North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski, Chicago, Building D. The Annual Meeting of the Chicago Audubon Society will include the election of six members to the Board of Directors to be followed by Walter Marcisz' highly regarded program entitled *Shorebird Identification*. Walter's program includes everything from the basics of identification to a detailed discussion of some of the more difficult groups. Although only current members of the Chicago Audubon Society are eligible to vote, all are welcome to attend the evening's Program!

### Workdays and Birdwalks

**Skokie Lagoons Workdays. 10:00 a.m. every second Saturday.** These workdays are continuous throughout the year. The Chicago Audubon Society sponsors regular monthly workdays at Skokie Lagoons every second Saturday of the month. Activities include buckthorn cutting, brush pile burning, and other management activities. Wear work clothes. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge. For further

information, please call Dave Kosnik at (847) 456-6368. Everyone is welcome!

**Montrose Point Magic Hedge Stewardship Workdays to be held on the following Saturdays from 9 to noon: July 9, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5.** (Most dates are the usual 2nd Saturday of the month except where major events or holidays occur.) Volunteers are needed to help with weeding, mulching, planting native shrubs and trees. We are also establishing a prairie! Wear work clothes. For information about work dates, to sign up, and for directions, please contact David Painter: (773) 383-0721 or email at [dvdpaint@yahoo.com](mailto:dvdpaint@yahoo.com). Everyone is welcome!

**Wooded Island Birdwalks. Jackson Park. Every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. and every Saturday at 8:00 a.m.** These wonderful walks continue throughout the year

up to New Year's Day. 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](mailto:pat.durkin@comcast.net). Everyone is welcome!

**Chicago Audubon Birdwalks will begin again in September and take place every Saturday throughout September and October beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D.** Mark your calendars and come join us to view birds of the fall Migration while walking through the beautiful early autumn woods surrounding the Nature Center. These walks are led by experts who always welcome questions from all levels of birders. For information or if you need directions to the Nature Center, call the Chicago Audubon office (773) 539-6793. Everyone is welcome!!



Robin at nest.

Photo courtesy of squidoo.com.

### Robin Spreads Wings Over Nestlings

The American Robin builds its nest in many diverse places, not just the usual shrub, tree branch or tree fork. Robins have been known to nest in hanging flower pots, door wreaths, on top of light fixtures, and many other man-made structures. The female does most of the nest-building, although the male often helps. The nest foundation is constructed of mud, twigs, grasses, and weeds and then lined with fine grasses. The clutch consists of 3 to 7 eggs, but usually 4. The eggs hatch in 14 days (give or take a day or two) and the nestlings leave the nest (fledge) two weeks later. The parents continue to "ground feed" the juveniles while they learn about flying and they are capable of sustained flight about two weeks later.

## Joplin, Missouri

*Continued from page 3*



Chert bedrock covered with moss and lichen. Photo courtesy of National Audubon.

Earlier this month, Turnaround Ranch, a residential facility that assists troubled youth, brought 17 students who had been in some way affected by the tornado to the center to reconnect with nature through a new program focusing on trails through the chert glades.

The chert glades at the Center represent a unique habitat type found primarily in southwestern Missouri. About 60 high-quality acres of this habitat are left in the world; 27 acres are within Wildcat Park, site of the center. Chert glades are very dry places with thin soils. Plants growing there include native grasses, cactus and wildflowers. Animals such as lizards, snakes, scorpions and tarantulas are closely adapted to the desert-like conditions. Roadrunners were once a more familiar sight on the glades, but are becoming increasingly uncommon due to shrinking habitat.

"We want our supporters to know the power of what they've done to help this community begin its long recovery," Robyn said. "The Audubon family in Missouri and across the country will help us show that nature can be a benevolent force as well as a destructive one."

Source: Courtesy of National Audubon ([audubon.org](http://audubon.org)).