



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2011

CHICAGO AUDUBON'S 2011 ANNUAL BIRDSEED SALE !!

BIRDSEED PICK-UP DAY: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9 AM TO NOON DEADLINE FOR ORDERING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

It's time for our yearly sale of birdseed! As you may know, the seed that you purchase through Chicago Audubon is much higher in quality than seed available at the pet, grocery, or discount stores. Also, 40% of the total purchase price is tax deductible. This higher quality seed is excellent for the birds, and the proceeds from the Sale are a very important source of support for our on-going educational efforts and projects. If you have never ordered seed this way before, please consider joining us this year—*it's great for the birds!*

How does this work? First, fill out the order form below or print the form off of our website at www.chicagoaudubon.org. Mail the completed form to: Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60646. Please do not mail cash and be certain that all of your contact information is on the form whether you are sending a check or filling in your charge card information. Also, it's very important to indicate your pick-up location preference so that we know where to have your seed delivered. As a precaution, please make a copy of your order before mailing it. If you prefer to phone in your credit card purchase instead of filling out the form, please call our

office at (773) 539-6793. If you get the voice mail, just leave a message with your name and phone number (only) and the Administrator will return your call as soon as possible. Again, that number is (773) 539-6793.

Orders:

Orders will be accepted up to and including Saturday, October 29. Orders cannot be accepted after that date because of our commitment to the supplier's deadline. Our Pick-up date this year is Saturday, November 12 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at either the River Forest or the Chicago locations listed below. For your convenience, we will list all relevant dates at the end of this article.

Pick-up Locations:

This year, as last year, the Chicago pick-up location will be at the Nature House / Erva Tool Company. We wish to extend many, many thanks to them for their help again this year and to Good Earth Greenhouse & Café for their assistance last year and again this year. The gracious donations of the use of these two locations for our pick-up date are essential to the success of this sale. Our deepest thanks for their support and generosity!!

On the order form below, please be sure to choose one of the two locations for pick-up:

In Chicago: Nature House / Erva Tool at 3100 West Grand Ave, Chicago.

Nature House is one block north of Chicago Ave and one block east of Kedzie Ave. The loading area is behind the building. If you have problems locating this address, call Chris at 312-520-1266.

OR

In River Forest: The Good Earth Greenhouse and Café. 7900 West Madison, River Forest.

Volunteers!

We could not do this without volunteers helping us organize and distribute bags of birdseed on pick-up day at both the Chicago and the River Forest loading areas. Volunteers are welcome to help for all or part of the morning, starting one hour before the official pick-up time begins (8:00 a.m.). If you are able to help us out, please indicate your preference of hours and the location on the order form provided, or you can call our office (without making a purchase) by Friday, October 14 (773-539-6793). You will be called by one of us to

confirm your volunteer hours and location. Remember, without our volunteers this wonderful sale would not be possible!

Reminder Calls:

As a courtesy to our purchasers, everyone who has placed an order will be called a few days in advance of the pick-up date to remind you of the date and time.

CALENDAR FOR BIRDSEED SALE IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, October 14: Deadline for potential volunteers to call and make arrangements with our office (773-539-6793).

Saturday, October 29: Deadline for birdseed orders by phone or by mail.

Saturday, November 12: Birdseed Order Pick-up day from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

The Chicago Audubon Society appreciates all of you who have been purchasing birdseed with us over the years, and we look forward to having many newcomers this year. If you have any questions, please call our office (773-539-6793).

We look forward to seeing you on pick-up day Saturday, November 12!

Birdseed Sale 2011 Order Form Order Deadline: Saturday, October 29, 2011.

Qty	Description	Price	Total
___	40 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	\$24.75	_____
___	20 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	13.00	_____
___	40 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	19.00	_____
___	20 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	10.50	_____
___	40 lb. Black Sunflower	31.50	_____
___	25 lb. Black Sunflower	19.50	_____
___	25 lb. Cracked Corn	9.00	_____
___	25 lb. White Proso Millet	19.00	_____
___	25 lb. Medium Sunflower Chips	36.75	_____
___	25 lb. Safflower Seed	24.00	_____
___	25 lb. Nyjer Seed	30.00	_____
___	10 lb. Nyjer Seed per bag	12.50	_____
___	Case Nyjer Seed (5 bags)	60.00	_____
___	10 lb. Peanut Pieces per bag	12.00	_____
___	Case Peanut Pieces (5 bags)	58.00	_____
___	1 Suet Cake	1.25	_____
___	Case Suet Cakes (12 Cakes)	14.00	_____
___	1 Fruit & Nut Bell (15 ozs)	4.00	_____
___	Case Fruit & Nut Bell (6 Bells)	22.75	_____
Grand Total			_____

I will pick up my order at: **Chicago: 3100 West Grand Ave (November 12) Nature House / Erva** (Loading area behind building.)

River Forest: 7900 West Madison (November 12) Good Earth Greenhouse & Café

Regardless of payment method, please completely fill out all contact information below.

My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (cell and/or home): _____

Email: _____

OR: To use credit card, fill out lines below (and above) -- or call office at (773) 539-6793 (Visa-MC-Discover).

Credit Card Number: _____

Expir. Date: _____ Name on card: _____

Please mail your order to:

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

Office: (773) 539-6793. Orders must be received by Saturday, October 29.

Saturday November 12 is pick-up day!

Please mark your calendars and keep a copy of your order for your records. Thank you for your order!!

The Magnificent Wanderer

The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), once thought to be a symbol of the wilderness, is now a familiar sight in many cities across this country. The word “peregrine” is from the latin word peregrinus, which means “wanderer.” As we know here in Chicago, their nests can be found on top of skyscrapers, ledges, cornices of tall buildings, bridges, and in nooks and crannies of the taller buildings. For many years now, the Peregrine has been frequently sighted in downtown Chicago and throughout the six-county area. Its residency in downtown Chicago over many years has been so successful, it has been designated as the Official Bird of Chicago.

Peregrine Falcons mate for life and mated pairs can be seen sitting together on their snow covered breeding ledges in January as far north as the Aleutian Islands. The depth and breadth of its habitat is possible because of the bird’s ability to adapt to a wide variety of diet, which includes hundreds of bird species, bats, rodents, and probably other species as yet unobserved by humans. In some regions, they have become food specialists.

On the hunt, the Peregrine captures birds almost exclusively in midair either by direct pursuit or, more famously, by the lethal “stoop” maneuver in which the bird makes a sudden vertical drop toward its prey below with the wings pulled close to the body to allow for maximum speed. The stoop dive has been clocked at speeds exceeding 200 miles per hour. Even in dim light, they see extremely well because of their “binocular” vision, which is up to eight times more powerful than our own and enables them to see detail from over six miles away. They prefer to hunt in the open where there is no cover to obscure their view. Although each dive they make to capture prey is clearly an essential part of the Peregrine Falcon’s survival, it is also one of the most magnificent demonstrations of aerodynamic perfection ever known!

Once a federally endangered species, peregrines had all but completely disappeared from the Midwest by the 1960s. Many factors contributed to their decline, including habitat loss, hunting, and egg collecting, though the predominant cause was effects of organochlorines such as DDT. By comparing the egg shell thickness of the few remaining peregrines to historic zoology collections, including that of the Field Museum, scientists discovered that DDT and its byproducts interfered with calcium production in females causing them to lay thin eggs which subsequently were crushed during incubation.



Peregrine Falcon.

Photo by John Harper.

During the 1970s, recovery efforts for the peregrines began with the banning of DDT in 1972 and with placing the species on the Endangered Species List in 1973. During the 1980s, Chicago joined other programs in the Midwest to help reintroduce the peregrine back into the wild. Over the last 20 years, Mary Hennen and her fellow team members of Field Museum’s Chicago Peregrine Program have helped to successfully reintroduce these beautiful birds back into the Midwest. The team directs its focus toward monitoring and managing any peregrines in Illinois by monitoring nest sites, tracking parent IDs, as well as watching offspring hatch, mature, and fledge (take their first flight). Through these observations, scientists can determine how well their efforts are working to create a self-sustaining population of peregrines. The last 20 years of banding has allowed the team to look at the dispersal and longevity of the peregrines found in Illinois and the Midwest.



Two of five Peregrine chicks from the Savanna site on banding day.

Photo by J. Pond.

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Report sightings to: (773) 539-6793

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

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

Website: www.chicagoaudubon.org

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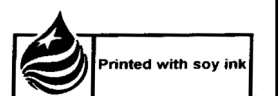
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Highlights of the 2011 Peregrine Nesting Season

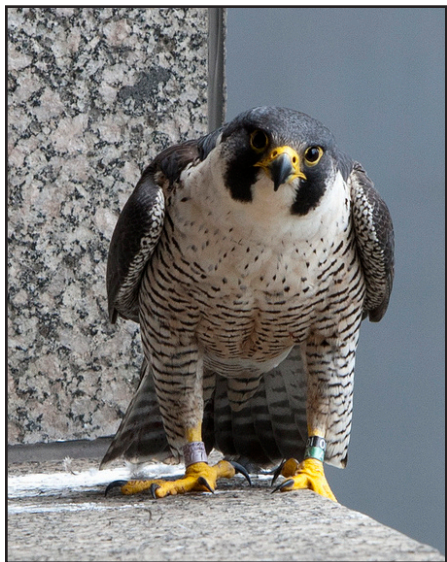
By Mary Hennen

Director of Chicago Peregrine Program - Field Museum Bird Division

While the majority of Peregrine Falcon monitoring takes place during the breeding season, the Chicago Peregrine Program is active year round. Fall migration is fast approaching and work begins to assist with the next year's nesting. Courtship begins in winter so fall provides the ideal time for repairing nest boxes, cleaning windows for web-cam views, replacing gravel for nest sanitation and overall maintenance repairs to the nest site.

This has been a good year for the Peregrines of Illinois. Of the 25 territories in the state, birds attempted to breed at 21 sites. Seventeen were successful and a total of 40 young fledged. Though the majority of the nests are in the Chicagoland area, sites range from Alton at the southern end of the state up to Savanna in the northwest. A map of these sites can be found on the Field Museum's Illinois Peregrine website: <http://fieldmuseum.org/explore/illinois-peregrines>.

The positive identification of nest locations for a number of new pairs highlights the top of the 2011 list. For instance, we've known peregrines were hanging out in the vicinity of Millennium Park last year. But without any positive identification



Female Peregrine named Rahn at Wacker site. Photo by S. Ware.



Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.org.

from bands, there was always the possibility we were observing the nearby River Birds rather than a new pair. When this pair was not present on the online map, a number of alert Peregrine watchers reported the falcons location. We identified the adults and because the nest site was accessible, we were able to band their two juveniles.

Certainly the lowest point of the year would be the failure of our Wacker Drive site. By the first week in April, the Wacker Peregrines had laid 3 eggs. On the 7th of April, a fight between two Peregrines was observed at the nearby Willis Tower. A dead Peregrine was retrieved and identified as Haiden, a 6-year old male who had not been sighted since he fledged in Milwaukee in 2005. The Wacker adult female, Rahn, was present at the site after the fight but later abandoned her eggs. Historically, from 1951 to 1987, Wacker was the very first site used by peregrines after they had disappeared as a breeding bird in Illinois. Over the years, a total of 55 peregrines have fledged from this eyrie.

For the remainder of the nesting season, Rahn was observed periodically with a male peregrine who, unfortunately, we were not able to identify. Nor had we been able to confirm prior to the fight, the identity of the adult male. It seems unlikely that her previous mate from 2010 (Joe) was around at least after the fight because they probably

would have continued to nest. During the next month and half, Rahn laid an additional 11 eggs but failed to successfully incubate any of them. What happened to Joe? And with whom did Haiden fight? Who was periodically at the site with Rahn? We may never know the answers, but it will be interesting to see what happens at the Wacker site in 2012.

Overall, our Illinois Peregrines are doing just fine. The species has been off of the Federal Endangered List for over a decade and, at the state level, it is likely they will be delisted from their current Threatened status within the next few years. For the Chicago Peregrine Program, monitoring of nest sites resumes in late winter when courtship begins again. Anyone with questions regarding Illinois Peregrines or who would like to report a sighting can contact Mary Hennen at mhennen@fieldmuseum.org.

Mary Hennen is Collections Assistant and Director of the Chicago Peregrine Program in the Bird Division at Field Museum. She has been with Field Museum and the Peregrine Program since 1989.



Female Peregrine named Zoom with her eggs. Uptown Theatre site. Photo by S. Ware.



Matt and Dave carrying repaired Uptown Theater Nest box. Photo by S. Ware.



Millennium Park Peregrine Falcon male.

Photo by S. Ware



Peregrine Falcon in tear drop stoop dive. Photo by Ted Swem.

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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.

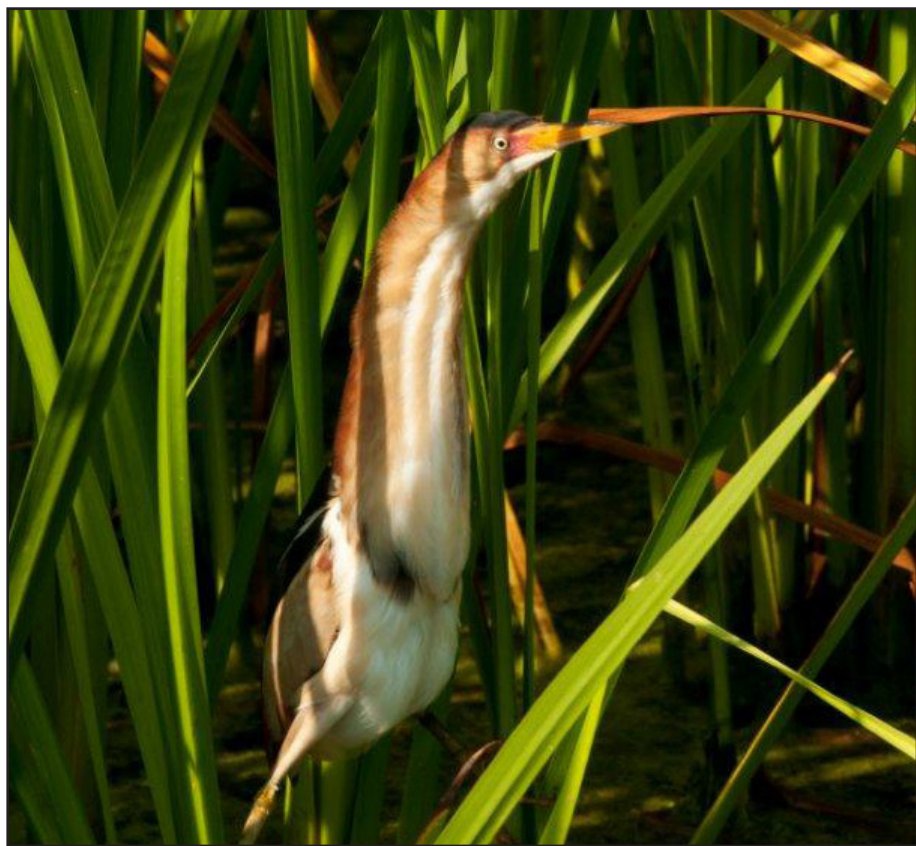
Last fall more than 1000 collision-injured birds were rescued – all from a relatively small area downtown.
With your assistance, more birds can be saved.

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 or
call 773-988-1867



Least Bittern male.

Photo by Roger Shamley.

Reminder to our readers:

The Compass can be seen in color on our website:
www.chicagoaudubon.org -- just click on the word "Compass" in the top row of links on the homepage. That will take you to our archives. Don't miss these wonderful birds in living color!



Peregrine Falcon.

Photo courtesy of treehuggers.com.

WE ARE SADDEN TO ANNOUNCE ...

Dale Pontius, a long-time Chicago birder and retired political science professor at Roosevelt University, passed away on Wednesday, July 20th at the age of 104. He had been birding in and around Chicago and in his Hyde Park neighborhood since 1947. To read an interview with him that was published in 2006, please go to our website at chicagoaudubon.org and click on the word Compass in the top row of links. That will take you to the archives and you will find the interview in the July/August issue of 2006. Chicago Audubon was among the organizations named to receive memorial donations for which we are most grateful. To make a donation in the memory of Dale Pontius, please go to our website homepage. If you prefer, you may call the office to make arrangements for a donation. Our sincere condolences to Dale Pontius' family and friends.

Chicago Audubon Society

Calendar of Events

September/October 2011

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: 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. 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. Everyone is welcome!

Chicago Audubon Birdwalks. Every Saturday in September and October beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. 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!!

Saturday, September 17, 2011. 9 a.m. to noon. Alliance for the Great Lakes Annual September Adopt-a-Beach Event. Help protect the Great Lakes! Family, friends, businesses, school or community groups can help to clean the beaches and shorelines of Lake Michigan (and record what you find). For information (Illinois and Indiana) contact: Frances Canonizado at (312) 939-0838. To register online go to www.greatlakesadopt.org. Remember, what's good for the environment is good for the birds!