



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2012

BIRDING AMERICA IX

Saturday, March 17, 2012 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
North Park University, 3225 West Foster Ave, Chicago, Illinois

Joe Lill, Birding America Chair
Chicago Audubon Society

As you saw in our last issue, our ninth biennial conference returns on March 17, and you won't want to miss these excellent presentations of places to bird and what you'll find there! Discover great places, great people, and great birds! This symposium is your opportunity to discover some of the most rewarding places to bird locally, nationally and internationally (with some butterflies thrown in, as well!). Local and national experts will help you plan birding trips and vacations

around hotspots, highlighting resident birds as well as migrants.

Registration is \$40 for Chicago Audubon or National Audubon members and \$50 for non-members. Lunch is available for \$12 (must be ordered by March 9th). You may fill out the pre-registration form below and mail it to us, or, if you prefer,

you may register and pay online through our secure site at chicagoaudubon.org.

If you have questions, please call the Chicago Audubon office at (773) 539-6793. For directions to North Park University, see page 3.

*Peregrine Falcon in banking turn.
Photo by John Harper.*



Symposium Schedule

8:30–9:15 a.m.	Registration and refreshments
9:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erik Johnson
	Presentations
10:30 a.m.	<i>Birds of Costa Rica and Panama</i> Dr. Agustin Zuniga
10:30 a.m.	<i>Chicago's Peregrine Falcons</i> Mary Hennen
10:30 a.m.	<i>The History of Big Years (from Emerson to Vanderpoel)</i> Joe Lill
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
	Presentations
12:30 p.m.	<i>Pacific Pelagic Birding</i> Todd McGrath
12:30 p.m.	<i>Birding the Indiana Dunes through Four Seasons</i> Brad Bumgardner
12:30 p.m.	<i>Operation Migration</i> Joan Garland (International Crane Foundation)
	Presentations
1:45 p.m.	<i>Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area, Indiana (Hooded Crane!)</i> Lee Sterrenburg
1:45 p.m.	<i>Butterflies of the American Prairie</i> Doug Taron
1:45 p.m.	<i>Chicago's Yearly Visitors: Migratory Birds in the City</i> Annette Prince (Chicago Bird Collision Monitors)
3:00 p.m.	Closing Speaker: Greg Miller

About the Keynote speaker:

Dr. Erik Johnson

Dr. Erik Johnson is Audubon's Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi Flyway conservation biologist. Dr. Johnson holds a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, for which he examined effects of forest fragmentation on Amazonian bird communities. At Audubon, Dr. Johnson works to understand baseline populations and trends of birds of conservation concern in the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi Flyway. He is also an integral part of the conservation team working on conservation planning and implementation for this vital region. During the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, Erik worked with another Louisiana State University researcher to organize a citizen science monitoring program in Loui-



*Snowy Owl. Montrose Point.
Photo by Al Podgroski, Chicago Sun-Times.*

siana to track the extent and frequency of oiling of waterbirds. Audubon expanded a modified version of the survey protocol as the Audubon Coastal Bird Survey. These combined efforts have created the only independent dataset of oiled bird survey data from the Gulf oil spill.

Pre-registration form

Pre-registration for BIRDING AMERICA IX

Saturday, March 17, 2012 from 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.

North Park University, 3225 West Foster Ave, Chicago, Illinois

IF YOU PREFER, YOU MAY REGISTER ONLINE AT chicagoaudubon.org

Please complete the form and mail to the address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please register _____ attendees at the price(s) of:

_____ \$40 each (Chicago Audubon Society or National Audubon members)

_____ \$50 each (Non-members)

Please specify Audubon Chapter: _____

Also _____ lunches at \$12 each (must be ordered by March 9).

Total \$ _____

Send form with check made payable to:

Chicago Audubon Society

5801-C North Pulaski Road • Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057

About the Closing speaker:

Greg Miller

Greg has been birding for over 50 years in 50 states and much of Canada. In 1981, he zigzagged across the continent attempting to see as many species of birds in one calendar year as possible. He was able to exceed the 700-species mark—an achievement many birders aspire to in an entire lifetime. That same year, two other birders, Sandy Komito and Al Levantin, were also doing “big years,” and they also broke the 700-species mark. The competitive quests of all three are documented in the book, **The Big Year**, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Mark Obmascik.

*Resplendent Quetzal. Costa Rica.
Photo by Ralph Padnessa.*



New Window Tape Can Significantly Reduce Bird Collisions at Homes



A new, translucent adhesive tape which tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors, is now available to the public. The product is being sold by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and is produced by ABC. BirdTape is made possible through the generous support of the Rusinow Family Foundation.

Birds can't see glass and don't understand the architectural cues, such as window frames, mullions, and handles, that alert people to the hazard. Experts estimate that up to one billion birds may die each year from resulting collisions. Unlike some sources of bird mortality that predominantly kill weaker individuals, there is no distinction among victims of glass. Because glass is equally dangerous for strong, healthy, breeding adults, it can have a particularly serious impact on



populations. Studies have shown that even small windows can be dangerous to birds that are accustomed to flying through gaps between trees and shrubs.

To learn more about ABC BirdTape, go to: www.abcbirdtape.org. ABC has produced a video that demonstrates how to install the bird tape. Or for more information, you can call toll free: 1-888-247-3624.

Birds that perceive their reflections as an intruder on their territory will keep flying into that window at high speeds attempting to chase the intruder away. This can kill the bird. Other times, because of their sensitivity to polarized light, they may not see the glass at all. Whatever the case, window collisions are a real problem for birds. Some of us have a hard time understanding why birds collide into windows, but it's not their fault, and it's not because they are "stupid." Birds perceive things differently than humans.

Photo courtesy of wildthingssanctuary.org.

Announcing ...

Chicago Audubon Society's Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2012
7:30 p.m.

North Park Village Nature Center
5801 North Pulaski Road
Building D

Chicago Audubon's Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at the North Park Village Nature Center.

The evening's program, entitled *The New Openlands Lakefront Preserve*, will be presented by Glenda Daniel,

Associate Director of Openlands. The Openlands Lakefront Preserve is located at Fort Sheridan in Lake County, Illinois. Glenda was a former editor of Chicago Audubon's newsletter, the Compass, and is author of a number of books, including **Dunes Country: A Hiker's Guide to the Indiana Dunes**. She also served as Executive Director of the Lake Michigan Federation for a number of years. For more background on the Openlands Lake Front Preserve, visit <http://openlands.org/special-projects/openlands-lakeshore-preserve.html>.

Also at this meeting, we will have our annual election. Board Members and Officers that have been nominated are shown in the table at the bottom of this page. This meeting is open to the public. For information or directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at (773) 539-6793.

Chicago Audubon will sponsor a field trip to the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve and the Bartlett Ravine/ Openlands Lakefront Preserve on Saturday, April 28th, 2012. Co-leaders are Alan Anderson (casresearch@comcast.net) and Jeff Sanders (yellowstart5@yahoo.com). See page 4 for directions to Fort Sheridan.



Snowy Owl. Montrose Point.

Photo by Al Podgroski, Chicago Sun-Times.

Chicago Audubon Officer and Board Member Nominations

Term length	Term	Office	Nominee
2-year term	March 2012– March 2014	President	Roger Shamley
		Vice President	Chris Van Wassenhove
		Treasurer	Bobbi Asher
		Secretary	Annette Prince
3-year term	April 2012– March 2015	Board member	Julie Sacco*
		Board member	Alan Garrett*
		Board member	Michelle Devlin*
		Board member	Steven Bailey
		Board member	Craig Stettner
		Board member	Dave Willard

*Current board member who has been re-nominated for another term.



Tiger Swallowtail. Photo by Glenda Denniston.

COMPASS

Chicago Audubon Society
North Park Village
5801-C N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60646-6057
www.chicagoaudubon.org
(773) 539-6793



Editor: Skipper Joy Wolters
Layout Design: Orca Graphics

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 N. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60646-6057. Distributed to membership (\$5 allotted from dues). Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Compass, c/o Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C N. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 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: Roger Shamley, (773) 274-5362, drongo@comcast.net

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

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

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

Conservation Chair: Carolyn A. Marsh, (219) 659-7904, cmarsbird@prodigy.net

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

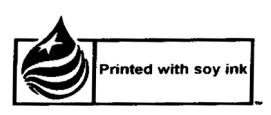
Field Trips: Jeff Sanders, (847) 657-6431, yellowstart5@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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



EAGLE OPTICS DAY IS COMING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2012
10:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.



NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER
5801-D NORTH PULASKI ROAD

This is Chicago Audubon's annual visit from the largest independent dealer of high quality binoculars, scopes, and all types of optic equipment. Experts will be available all day at the Nature Center to help answer questions or help you make decisions about binoculars and all other types of optic equipment and to make purchases.

Light refreshments will be available and there is plenty of free parking. For those who have never attended one of these exciting events and have never been to the Nature Center, it is located in North Park Village, (the exact address is 5801-D North Pulaski Road in Chicago). The entrance to North Park Village is on Pulaski at the first stoplight south of the intersection of Pulaski and Peterson. Once inside the Park, go to Building D which is the Nature Center. If you need additional directions or have any questions, just call our office at (773) 539-6793.

Eagle Optics generously donates a portion of their sales at this event to Chicago Audubon. The event is open to the public, so be sure to bring family and friends!

PLUS ... !! AN EARLY MORNING BIRD WALK ON EAGLE OPTICS DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7 A.M. AT MONTROSE POINT

EVEN IF IT'S TOO COLD AND TOO EARLY,
WE'RE GOING TO MONTROSE POINT ANYWAY!

This morning walk on Eagle Optics Day will take place at the incredible Magic Hedge on the lakefront at Montrose. Unless we're having a heat wave, be sure to dress for the early morning chill. Meet at Montrose Point at 7:00 a.m., see many migratory birds, leave around 9:30 for North Park Village Nature Center to warm up with

some hot coffee and tea and some bird talk. Then starting around 10:00 a.m., enjoy Eagle Optics Day, as described above. If you have questions about the Walk, please contact the leader, Jeff, at yellowstart5@yahoo.com. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to join any of our walks! All are welcome!

Snowy Owls in record numbers



Flocks of Snowy Owls (called parlements) have been arriving all over the United States from coast to coast and all the way to Hawaii. A striking number of these birds have been swooping onto shorelines and flying over fields this winter, delighting birdwatchers and the general public alike. Their abundance has stirred speculation about the cause of this enormous spike in movement. Snowy Owls live in the Arctic the rest of the year and are known to fly south in large numbers every few winters in what is known as an irruption. This year, and beginning in late fall last year, the numbers have been unusually high—record-breaking. They have been seen

all across the country by the thousands—from Boston to the Great Lakes, from southern United States up to Vancouver. Ninety showed up in Kansas, so you can image the excitement! Their diet is varied, consisting of everything from mice, voles and ducks, to even fish. But primarily they eat lemmings, a small rodent which had a population boom, but then the population crashed. Because of the initial boom in the lemming population, the Owls had a good breeding year last year, but then the sudden decline in lemming population may have been the cause of the huge exodus to search for food—causing a Snowy Owl irruption as never seen before!



Snowy Owl. Montrose Point.

Photo by Al Podgroski, Chicago Sun-Times.



Black-capped Chickadee avoiding birdwatcher.

Photo courtesy of sodahead.com.

Continued from page 1 ...

Getting to BIRDING AMERICA IX

Driving Directions to North Park University at 3225 West Foster Ave, Chicago

From the north:

Take I-94 eastbound (Edens Expressway) to the Cicero (to Foster) exit. Take Cicero south to Foster Avenue, turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about two miles.

From the south:

Take I-94 westbound (Dan Ryan Expressway) and proceed northwest on I-90/94 (Kennedy Expressway). Exit at Kimball Avenue. Travel north (right) on Kimball about two miles to Foster Avenue and turn east (right). Proceed two blocks, to Kedzie.

From the west (or O'Hare Airport):

Take I-90/94 eastbound (Kennedy) to the Austin (to Foster) exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn east (left) and follow the curve to reach Foster. Turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

From the east:

Take Lake Shore Drive (from either direction) to the Foster Avenue exit. Travel west on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

For more information, contact the Chicago Audubon office at (773) 539-6793 or go to chicagoaudubon.org. Parking is free in the University lot on the southeast corner of Foster and Kedzie.

Reminder to our readers

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

Great Blue Heron.
Photo by Daniel Cardiff.



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

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

Bringing The Benefits Of Nature To Your House

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

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.

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 Chicago 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 support 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, please fill out the form below and send it to our office at:

Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C North Pulaski Rd
Chicago, Illinois 60646

Chicago Audubon Membership Form

You may charge your membership online using our secure website, chicagoaudubon.org, or call the office at (773) 539-6793 and charge your membership over the phone, or mail in this form.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Minimum yearly membership: \$25

New Members at \$65 or above receive a nice hat.

We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

Name on card:

Card number:

Expiration date:

Chicago Audubon Society does not rent, lease, trade, or otherwise disclose any membership information whatsoever.

Calendar of Events



Workdays, Birdwalks, Special Events

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 will begin again in early Spring.

Volunteers will be needed to help with weeding, mulching, planting native shrubs and trees. We have also been 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!*

Birding America is coming! Saturday, March 17, 2012. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to plan on attending our 9th biennial Birding America—a day of exciting and informative workshops led by speakers who are experts in all aspects of birding from all over the country and internationally. *More details inside this issue.*

Eagle Optics Day is coming!

Saturday, April 7, 2012. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801-D North Pulaski Road. SAVE THE DATE

for our annual visit from the largest

independent dealer of high quality

binoculars, scopes, and all types of optic equipment. Experts will be available all day to help answer questions or help you make decisions about binoculars and all other types of optic equipment. Light refreshments will be available and there is plenty of free parking. Eagle Optics generously donates a percentage of their sales on this day to Chicago Audubon. *If you have questions or need directions, please call the Chicago Audubon office at (773) 539-6793. Bring family and friends and all your birding equipment questions!*

It's Too Cold And Too Early But We're Going to Montrose Point Anyway! Saturday, April 7 at 7 a.m.

It's worth getting up early for this: A pre-Eagle Optics Day Birdwalk at the incredible Magic Hedge. Dress for the early morning chill. Meet at Montrose, see many birds, then depart for North Park Village Nature Center for hot coffee with fellow birders. Then, starting around 10:00 a.m., Eagle Optics Day will begin. You do not need to be a member to join any of our walks. *If you have questions, please contact the walk leader, Jeff, at yellowstart5@yahoo.com. All are welcome!*

Chicago Audubon Annual Meeting and Program. Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening's program, entitled *The New Openlands Lakefront Preserve*, will be presented by Glenda Daniel, Associate Director of Openlands. Glenda was a former editor of this newsletter and is author of a number of books, including *Dunes*

Country: A Hiker's Guide to the Indiana Dunes. *For more details, see the inside of this issue.*

Fort Sheridan Field Trip. Saturday,

April 28 at 8 a.m. Chicago Audubon will sponsor a field trip to Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve and Bartlett Ravine/Openlands Lakefront Preserve. Target birds: Migrating waterfowl and raptors, early grassland migrants including sparrows, Red-headed Woodpeckers. This area is the subject of the evening's program at the Annual Meeting on April 26th (see page 2 of this issue). Co-leaders are Alan Anderson (casresearch@comast.net) and Jeff Sanders (yellowstart5@yahoo.com). *Directions: Take Sheridan Road north of Highwood to Old Elm/Simonds Way. Enter on Simonds Way, turn left on Leonard Wood Drive North, then left on Gilgare Lane. Meet at the main parking lot closest to the lakefront.*

Birdathon! 2012 is Coming!!

Saturday and Sunday: May 19th and 20th. The annual and most fun bird count is coming up in May.

If you are interested in joining a team, be sure to put one or both dates aside and come help us count the birds. This is an important fundraiser for Chicago Audubon, so even if you are unable to join a team, you may donate directly by giving a straight donation or a set amount per species for a particular team. More details will be in the next issue and on our website (chicagoaudubon.org). *For more information, contact our Birdathon leader, Joe Lill, at trptjoe@aol.com. Everyone is welcome to participate!*



March 31, 2012, 8:30 PM

Please mark your calendars. On March 31 at 8:30 pm local time, hundreds of millions of people around the world will turn off their lights for Earth Hour, the world's largest collective display of commitment to protect the planet. Photo courtesy of World Wildlife Fund.