



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

SPEAKING OF ROBINS SINGING...



American Robin.

Photo by Gregg Lee.

More and more often, we receive calls from people who wonder if it's really possible they were awakened in the middle of the night by a Robin singing. This phenomenon has increased to the point where studies have been conducted to find the reasons. Some studies have shown that an increase in the levels of light and sound pollution during the nighttime hours has caused the normal early morning singing behavior of Robins to change. Over the past years, Robins have begun singing earlier in areas of higher light and noise levels, especially in areas where this increase remains high all through the night. The other side of this coin was the result of a study done by researchers in England. They found that the British robin was forced to sing at night because daytime traffic was drowning out his mating serenades. And there are other species as well that are affected by the increase in light and noise. In fact,

many birds are now heard chorusing during "true night," that is, up to three hours, or more, earlier than before. Evidently, many birds are mistaking the higher levels of light and sound at night for the start of a new day. In areas where light and sound levels have remained low, the Robin and other species do not begin singing earlier than they did before. Most likely there will be more studies in the future, but it seems the phenomenon will remain with us—or become even more prevalent.



Robin in the Snow.

Photo by Sharon Emenhiser.



Volunteers working on Bird Seed pickup day at the Chicago location, Nature House/Erva Tool.
Photo by S.J. Wolters.

2012 BIRD SEED SALE A HUGE SUCCESS

The Bird Seed Sale in November was a huge success! And the pickup day was equally successful because of our wonderful Volunteers at both the Chicago location (Nature House, 3100 West Grand Ave) and the River Forest location (Good Earth Greenhouse & Café, 7900 West Madison). We could not do this without our Volunteers. And we are grateful that people return year after year to order our quality seed. This event is a major fundraiser for all of our programs.

**And, most important, it's good for the birds!!
Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!**



Volunteers on Bird Seed pickup day at the River Forest location, Good Earth Greenhouse & Café.
Photo by Les Szcwcyk.



Some of our quality bird seed on pickup day at Nature House in Chicago and Good Earth Greenhouse & Café in River Forest.

Hummingbird Feeders

In anticipation of spring, which will be upon us before we know it, here is more information about hummingbird feeding habits and hummer feeders. We hope this is helpful.

Specialty Eaters

As you know, hummingbirds specialize in eating nectar, evident by their elongated bills which are ideal for probing tubular flowers. Though their bills may vary slightly in size and shape, each protects a long and sensitive forked tongue, which is used to lick nectar at its source—whether from a flower or feeder. The flicking is done anywhere from 3 to 13 times a second. The fork forms a trough that draws nectar up by capillary attraction. (In case you have not run across that word in awhile, capillary attraction, or capillarity, is the ability of a liquid to flow in narrow spaces without the assistance of gravity.) And as described in our last issue, the elongated bill and forked tongue are quite often used for capturing unsuspecting insects.

Feeder Facts

Maintaining a backyard hummingbird feeder can help provide the birds with nectar critical to their survival, especially during the fall when they need to double their body mass before migration. Contrary to a common fear, the extra food will not stop a hummer from migrating south when it's time for it to go.

Keeping feeders clean and full of fresh nectar water into the late fall season is a great help to providing needed energy for their long flight ahead. Follow these steps to ensure your yard is a safe and nutritious stopover for hummingbirds:

Instead of one large feeder, hang several smaller ones in different locations. Keep the feeders far enough apart that the hummers cannot see one another; this will prevent one bird from dominating the rest.

Hang your feeders in the shade to discourage fermentation and spoilage of the sugar solution.

Be sure to change the sugar water regularly—before it gets cloudy—or about twice a week in warm weather.

Clean the feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water about once a week. If your feeder has become dirty, try adding some grains of dry rice to the vinegar solution and shake



Hummingbird at feeder.

Photo by Nannette Richford.

Fill the feeders with sugar water made by combining four parts hot water to one part white sugar, boiled for one to two minutes. NEVER use honey, which promotes the growth of harmful bacteria, or artificial sweeteners. Also avoid red food coloring.

vigorously. The grains act as a good abrasive. Rinse your feeder well with warm water three times before refilling with sugar solution.

In the fall, keep your feeders up for at least three weeks after you see the last bird using it.

If you are interested in learning details of how to keep the feeders warm in winter, go to <http://www.hummingbirdsplus.org/winterfeeder.html>



Hummingbird at feeder.

Photo by Cameron Delaney.

COMPASS

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Report sightings to: 773-539-6793

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

Website: www.chicagoaudubon.org

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Office hours: Monday–Thursday
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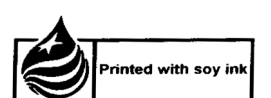
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Chicago Audubon's Biennial Environmental Awards Program



In April 20, Chicago Audubon will hold its Biennial Environmental Awards

Banquet to honor those who have made contributions to conservation and birding in the Chicagoland area. We are asking our members and others involved in and/or interested in conservation to submit nominations for the 2012 awards.

Awards will be presented only to those who have been officially nominated and voted on. The Chicago Audubon Board of Directors chooses final Award recipients.

To submit your nomination by email, please use casresearch@comcast.net.

To submit your nomination by regular mail, fill out the form and mail to:

Alan Anderson
1633 Howard Ave
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Thank you for taking the time to make a nomination for Chicago Audubon's Biennial Environmental Awards.

Chicago Audubon Environmental Awards Nomination Form

Awards will be presented only to those who have been officially nominated and voted on. The Chicago Audubon Board of Directors chooses final award recipients. To nominate your candidate, please fill out the form and mail to: **Alan Anderson • 1633 Howard Ave • Des Plaines, IL 60018**. You may also submit your nominees by email to: **casresearch@comcast.net**. In the email, be sure to state the name, organization, and category for your choices, following the described criteria below.

1) Your information

Your name

Your street address

Your phone number

Your email address

3) Nominee information

Name of candidate

Candidate's title (if applicable)

Candidate's street address

Candidate's phone number

Candidate's email address

2) Choose the Environmental Awards category

- Excellence in Environmental Reporting
- Protector of the Environment—Educator
- Protector of the Environment—Political Service
- Protector of the Environment—Single Act (individual)
- Protector of the Environment—Single Act (group)
- Protector of the Environment—Avocation
- Protector of the Environment—Vocation
- Service to Chicago Area Birders

4) Tell us why

Separately, please explain why you think this candidate is worthy of the particular award. Please cite specific examples of his or her work in the past two years that relate to the award category. Include names and phone numbers or email addresses of other people that can attest to this candidate's qualifications for receiving an award.

Thank you very much for your participation!



Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY 2—WILD THINGS CONFERENCE. A day-long series of programs for volunteers, professionals and anyone interested in local nature. This conference brings together the region's best experts, hardest working professionals, most dedicated volunteers and anyone interested in nature. Technical presentations and interactive workshops will explore the latest in natural areas conservation, wildlife protection and monitoring. The conference is organized in "tracks" designed for everyone from newcomers to experts. There is special focus on empowering citizen scientists, stewards and advocates with information, networking and good ideas. Chicago Audubon and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors will co-sponsor an Information Table displaying ways to join efforts to protect migratory birds. *For more general information and registration, go to www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2013/. If you have questions, call 847-328-3910 ext. 21.*

MARCH 21—ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM, DAMSELS & DRAGONFLIES. North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. Chicago Audubon Chapter Members will have the opportunity to vote on the up-

Birdwalks, Workdays, Special events

coming slate of possible new board members. The Damsels & Dragonflies Program will be presented by two Chicago Audubon board members. The program and meeting are open to both Chapter members and non-members. Gather at 7:00 p.m. for socializing. The meeting begins at 7:30. It is important for Chapter members to attend this meeting and please bring friends and family. *For more information or directions, please call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793.*

APRIL 20—ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS DINNER. Chicago Audubon Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet. The Banquet will be held at the Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee/Manheim Avenues in Des Plaines (between Algonquin and Oakton). Complete time schedule and details of the evening's program will be published on the website in the near future and in the next issue of the Compass. Cash bar opens at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the evening's program. *Contact Alan Anderson at casresearch@comcast.net with questions. Everyone is welcome!*

APRIL 27—ANNUAL EAGLE OPTICS DAY. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. This is our annual visit

from the largest independent dealer of high quality binoculars, scopes, and all types of optic equipment. Equipment will be on display and experts will be available all day to answer questions and give guidance. Plenty of free parking and there will be light refreshments. For those who have never attended one of our Eagle Optics Days and have never been to the Nature Center, please call our office for information and directions: 773-539-6793. A portion of sales for the day goes to support the programs of the Chicago Audubon Society. *This event is open to the public. Bring family and friends!*

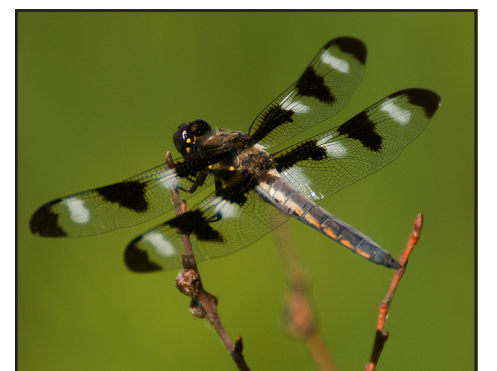
APRIL 27—ANNUAL PRE-EAGLE-OPTICS DAY BIRD WALK AT MONTROSE POINT AT THE LAKE (MAGIC HEDGE), starting at 7:15 a.m. Plan on joining this special pre-Eagle Optics Day bird walk field trip at Montrose Point from 7:15 to 9:30 a.m. All levels of birders are welcome. Group leader will be Jeff Sanders of Chicago Audubon. The walk will end in time for everyone to head over to North Park Village Nature Center for our Annual Eagle Optics Day. *If you have questions or need directions, please contact Jeff at yellowstart5@yahoo.com.*

WOODED ISLAND BIRD WALKS. JACKSON PARK. Every

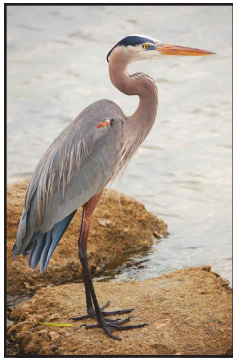
January/February 2013

Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. and every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. These wonderful walks continue throughout the year. 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!*

SKOKIE LAGOONS WORK-DAYS. 10:00 a.m. monthly, every second Saturday. These workdays are sponsored by Chicago Audubon Society and are continuous throughout the year. Activities include buckthorn cutting, brush pile burning and other management endeavors. 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!*



Twelve-spotted Skimmer (male).
Photo by Roger Shamley.



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 7000 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

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! For historical value, we have added a link to the very first Chicago Audubon newsletter. This link is sitting on top of the Archive list. Enjoy!



Clymene Moth.
 Photo by Roger Shamley.

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 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 to the right 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
 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.

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