



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

Chicago Audubon's Annual Birdseed Sale

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 the 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. This year you may order online at our website, www.chicagoaudubon.org. 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.

Got Seed?

How About Some Suet?

Bluebird. Photo by Michael L. Smith.

Seed Order Deadline Saturday, October 12

Pick-up Date and Locations

Our pick-up date this year is Saturday, November 2 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This year, as in past years, the Chicago pick-up location will be at the Nature House/Erva Tool Company, 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.

The pick-up location in River Forest will be at the Good Earth Greenhouse & Café at 7900 West Madison, River Forest.

We wish to extend many, many thanks to both Good Earth and to Nature House for hosting our pick-up days again this year. Our deepest thanks for their support and generosity!!

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 locations. Volunteers are welcome to help for all or part of the morning, beginning at 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 by Friday, October 11 at 773-539-6793. Remember, without our volunteers this wonderful sale would not be possible!

Thank you!

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 at 773-539-6793.

BIRDSEED SALE 2013 ORDER FORM

Order Deadline: Saturday, October 12, 2013

Qty	Description	Price	Total
	40 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	\$25.00	
	20 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	\$13.25	
	40 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	\$17.50	
	20 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	\$9.50	
	40 lb. Black Sunflower	\$22.75	
	20 lb. Black Sunflower	\$14.50	
	25 lb. Cracked Corn	\$7.75	
	25 lb. White Proso Millet	\$14.50	
	25 lb. Medium Sunflower Chips	\$41.50	
	25 lb. Safflower Seed	\$21.75	
	25 lb. Nyjer Seed	\$28.50	
	10 lb. Nyjer Seed	\$12.00	
	Case of Nyjer Seed (Five 10-lb bags)	\$59.00	
	10 lb. Peanut Pieces	\$12.25	
	Case of Peanut Pieces (Five 10-lb bags)	\$60.00	
	1 Suet Cake	\$1.50	
	Case of Suet Cakes (12 cakes)	\$15.75	
	1 Sunflower Bell (15 oz)	\$3.25	
	Case of Sunflower Bells (6 bells)	\$19.50	
	GRAND TOTAL	\$	

I will pick up my seed order on November 2 at:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago
Nature House/Erva Tool
(Loading area behind building)
3100 W Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60622 | <input type="checkbox"/> River Forest
Good Earth Greenhouse & Café
7900 W Madison St
River Forest, IL 60305 |
|--|---|

Your contact info (please fill out completely)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (cell and/or home) _____
Email _____

This year you may order online at our website, www.chicagoaudubon.org.

Please select your payment method and complete the required information.

- My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.
- Please charge my credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover).
Credit card number _____
Exp. date _____ Name on card _____

OR you may call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793 to charge your order over the phone.

I would like to volunteer on Seed Pick-up Day, November 2, at:

- Chicago from _____ to _____ River Forest from _____ to _____

Please mail your completed seed order form to: Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C North Pulaski Rd
Chicago, IL 60646



Blue Jay. Photo by Jim Ridley.

The Blue Jay...



Blue Jay. Photo by Jim Ridley.

Familiar—
yet Mysterious

Blue Jays, known for their beauty and intelligence, have complex social systems, tight family bonds and often mate for life. Thousands of these beautiful birds migrate in loose flocks along the Great Lakes and Atlantic coasts. You can recognize them by their steady flight, rounded wings, long tails and white undersides (the male and female have almost identical coloring). However, much about their migration choices remains unfathomable. Some jays are present throughout winter in all parts of their range—as we already know from seeing them at bird feeders all through the winter. However, some individual jays migrate south one year, stay north the next winter, and then migrate south again the following year. Young jays may be more likely to migrate than adults, but many adults also migrate—sometimes. The reasons behind this eclectic migration behavior remains a mystery.

The calls of the Blue Jay are complex and carry for long distances. They



Blue Jays. Photo by Chris Hill.

Blue Jays build their nests in the crotch or thick outer branches of deciduous or coniferous trees, usually 10 to 25 feet above the ground. Male and female both gather materials and build the nest, but on average the male does more gathering and the female does more building. Twigs are gathered for construction of the outer part of the nest and are usually taken from live trees—the birds often need to struggle hard to break them off of a branch. Jays also may fly great distances to obtain rootlets from recently dug ditches and newly fallen trees. The

female incubates the nest while the male provides food for her throughout the incubation period. After the chicks are hatched, both male and female share in the feeding of the family.

While these magnificent birds have been observed taking and eating the eggs and nestlings of other birds, it is not known how common this practice is, and actually it may not be as common as originally believed. In an



Blue Jay. Photo by Nancy Castillo.

extensive study of their feeding habits, only 1% of jays had evidence of eggs or birds in their stomachs. Most of their diet was composed of insects and nuts. Interestingly, their fondness for acorns is credited with helping to spread the oak tree across the Blue Jay's wide-ranging territory of the continent, beginning just after the end of the last glacial period—10,000 years ago.



Blue Jay with nestlings. Photo by Isidor Jeklin.



The Blue Jay Poem Susan Hartley Swett

... Did you dip your wings in azure dye, when April began to paint the sky,
that was pale with the winter's stay? Or were you hatched from a blue-bell bright,
'neath the warm gold breast of a sunbeam light,
by the river one blue spring day? ...

COMPASS
CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
NORTH PARK VILLAGE
5801-C N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60646-6057
www.chicagoaudubon.org
773-539-6793



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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

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

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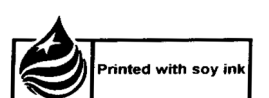
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Chicago Audubon Program

Thursday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. at the North Park Village Nature Center

Baker's Lake Heronry—An Apartment Complex for the Birds!



Baker's Lake Heronry. Photo by Robert Sliwinski.

Baker's Lake Heronry, located in Barrington, Illinois is a tiny island that changed dramatically over the last 40 years—from a lushly vegetated island in the 1980s to artificial nesting structures in 2000 that are home to nesting pairs of great blue herons, great egrets, double crested cormorants, and State Endangered Black-crowned night herons. Join Robert Sliwinski, wildlife biologist and designer of the Baker's Lake Heronry, as he presents how the current heronry was designed and reconstructed and how the birds have been using the nesting opportunities for the last 12 years. Very few are

allowed to visit this island up close and personal. This program will present close-up photos of all the nesting birds on this remote island getaway—and without all the smell! Robert Sliwinski is a Chicago Audubon Board member and Senior Environmental Resources Specialist with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. of Rosemont, Illinois.

For information and directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793.

The American Goldfinch

The Backyard Feeder Favorite

The American Goldfinch is an active acrobatic and handsome little finch that loves to visit backyard feeders to devour huge quantities of sunflower seeds and nyjer. They congregate in large numbers—much to the delight of the human-birdfeeder-watchers. Interestingly, Goldfinches are among the strictest vegetarians in the bird world, selecting an entirely vegetable diet and

only inadvertently swallowing an occasional insect. They are a small finch with a short, conical bill, small head, long wings, and short, notched tail. In spring and early summer, adult males are bright yellow with black forehead, black wings with white markings, and white patches above and beneath the tail. Adult females are duller yellow beneath and olive above.

Also interesting is the fact that American Goldfinches are the only finch that molts its body feathers twice a year—once in late winter and again in late summer. Also, they breed later than most North American birds, waiting until June or July to nest when the milkweed, thistle and other plants have produced their fibrous seeds, which they incorporate into the nests and also feed to their young. They nest in trees and shrubs and look for places near weedy fields, open floodplains, and other overgrown areas, where sunflower, aster, and thistle plants grow.

Each spring the appearance of the brilliantly yellow male Goldfinch is a welcome mark of approaching warmer months—and if he can find enough of his favorite seed, he'll stay throughout the winter!



Goldfinches.

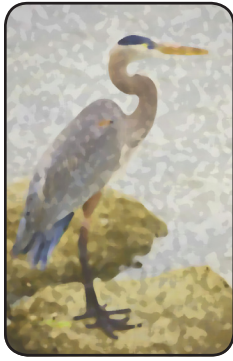
Courtesy of backyardchipper.com



Goldfinches. Photo by Ron Edmonds.



Goldfinch. Courtesy of ethericplanet.com



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, please fill out the form below and send it to our office.

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

Chicago Audubon Membership Form

If you wish to become a new member, you may either mail in this form 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 _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Minimum yearly membership: \$25

Visa MasterCard Discover

Name on card _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Mail your completed form to:

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

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Calendar of Events September/October 2013

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER— EVERY SATURDAY AT 8:00 A.M. CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRD WALKS. North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago.

Our popular fall bird walks start up again September 1 (Labor Day weekend) and continue every Saturday through October. Learn about birds and their habitats while walking through the beautiful woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are welcome. *For information or directions to the Nature Center, call the Chicago Audubon office 773-539-6793.*

CHICAGO AUDUBON PROGRAM. BAKER'S LAKE HERONRY—AN APARTMENT COMPLEX FOR THE BIRDS! Thursday, October 3, 2013. North Park Village Nature Center. 5801 N. Pulaski, Building D. 7:00 p.m. socializing; Program begins at 7:30 p.m. Baker's Lake Heronry, located in Barrington, Illinois, is a tiny island that changed dramatically over the last 40 years and now is the home for blue heron, great egrets, double crested cormorants, and State endangered Black-crowned Night Heron. The Program presenter, Robert Sliwinski, is a Chicago Audubon Board member, wildlife biologist and designer and senior Environmental Resources Specialist with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. He also is the designer of the Baker's Lake Heronry. *For information and directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. Our programs are open to members and non-members. Bring family and friends! See Page 3 for more details.*

ANNUAL CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRDSEED SALE! Deadline for ordering this year is October 12. *See Page 1 of this issue for full details.*



White-breasted Nuthatch. Courtesy of fetchdelivers.com

WOODED ISLAND BIRD WALKS. JACKSON PARK. Every 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. Everyone is welcome! *For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at pat.durkin@comcast.net.*

SKOKIE LAGOONS WORKDAYS. 10:00 a.m. monthly, every second Saturday. These workdays are sponsored by Chicago Audubon 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. Everyone is welcome! *For further information, please call Dave Kosnik at 847-456-6368.*

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.