



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

Periodicals

# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014



*Bee-eaters, South Africa. Photo courtesy es.upphotos.net.*

## BIRDING AMERICA X

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY  
3225 WEST FOSTER AVENUE  
CHICAGO



*Giant Antpitta, the largest of all Antpittas, Ecuador, affectionately named Maria. Photo by Steven D. Bailey.*

The Chicago Audubon Society is happy to announce its 10th Birding America Symposium, to be held once again at North Park University. Join us to discover great places, great people and great birds at this all-day event which will be packed with presentations given by experts from all over the country. The presenters will offer inside information on some of the most rewarding places to bird locally, nationally, and internationally—from Michigan to Ecuador to South Africa—highlighting resident birds as well as migrants—colorful songbirds the world over. In addition, there will be opportunities to attend special sessions on bird migration and monitoring and to share your enthusiasm with others who love birds and want to protect them.

The keynote speaker, Steve Kelling of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, will explore birding and citizen science and how you can get involved. Closing speaker, Al Batt, will be here from Minnesota to entertain and regale everyone with his stories.

Nestled in between will be presentation sessions packed with photographs of gorgeous scenery and birds, along with tales of the feathered creatures that live in the Midwest, in North America, and around the world. A wide range of possibilities will be presented on where and how to plan your next birding excursion. And in between the sessions, there will be time to browse vendor booths displaying birding books, field equipment, and other birding-related items and information.

Registration for Birding America X is \$40 for Chicago Audubon Society members and for Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology members and \$50 for non-members. The fee includes all sessions. If you register by February 27, lunch will be available for \$12.

For up-to-date information and details on our guest speakers, please visit our website at [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org). Here is what we have planned:



*Snowy Owl. Photo by Rachel Bilodeau.*



*Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Ecuador. Photo by Dusan M. Brinkhuizen.*

### Symposium Schedule

#### Registration and Refreshments

8:15–9:00 a.m.

#### Keynote Speaker

9:00 a.m.

STEVE KELLING

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

“The Birder Effect: Birding,  
Science, and Conservation.”

#### Presentation Times\*

10:15 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

#### Lunch

12:15 p.m.

#### Presentation Times\*

1:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m.

#### Closing Speaker

3:00 p.m.

AL BATT

Writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist

“A Life Gone to Birds”

\*For those registering early: We will email you the times for presentations listed here on the right so that you can email us your preferences. We can then assign room locations for each presentation based on everyone's responses, which will help us greatly because all the rooms are different sizes.

Thank you!



Registration form and driving directions on Page 2 »

### PRESENTATIONS

#### Local Chicago Area Birding Spots:

- Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge*  
Steve Byers
- Calumet Area*  
Walter Marcisz
- Hawkwatching at Illinois Beach State Park and Fort Sheridan Preserve*  
Vic Berardi
- Palos Area Forest Preserves*  
John Elliott

#### Other U.S. Birding Locations:

- Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge*  
Terri Fuller
- Sandia Crest/Bosque del Apache, New Mexico*  
David Johnson
- Minnesota*  
Al Batt
- The Greater Kankakee Ecosystem*  
Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy

#### Beyond North America:

- South Africa*  
Josh Engel
- Ecuador*  
Steve Bailey
- Costa Rican Conservation, Biodiversity and Birds*  
Craig Stettner
- Colombia*  
Mary Lou Mellon

#### Other Birding Topics:

- Birding Basics: What you need to know*  
Geoffrey Williamson
- Migrating Birds in the Dark*  
Ron Larkin
- The Four Bs: Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bats*  
Julianne Sacco
- Monitoring for Local Bird Habitat Conservation*  
Steve Packard, Judy Pollock, and Steve Kelling

## Get ready for BIRDING AMERICA X

### Registration for BIRDING AMERICA X

**Date: Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Location: North Park University, 3225 West Foster Ave, Chicago**

Please complete the form and mail with your check to the address below.  
(Do not mail your check to North Park University.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please register a total of \_\_\_\_\_ attendees at the price(s) of:

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each for Chicago Audubon, National Audubon and  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) Members

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 each for Non-members

Please specify Audubon or CLO membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Also (optional) a total of \_\_\_\_\_ lunches at \$12 each  
(Lunches must be ordered by February 27, 2014)

Grand Total (attendees plus lunches) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with check made payable to:

**Chicago Audubon Society**

5801-C North Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60646-6057

OR you may register at our website, [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)

If you have questions, call Chicago Audubon office phone at 773-539-6793.

\*For those registering early: We will email you the times for presentations listed on Page 1 so that you can email us your preferences. We can then assign room locations for each presentation based on everyone's responses, which will help us greatly because all the rooms are different sizes. Thank you!

**Driving directions to North Park University, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Chicago:**

#### From the north

Take I-94 eastbound (Edens Express way) to the Cicero exit (to Foster). 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) on Foster. Proceed two blocks, to Kedzie.

#### From the west

(Or from O'Hare Airport) take I-90/94 eastbound (Kennedy) to the Austin exit (to Foster). 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.

**Parking is free in the University lot on the southeast corner of Foster and Kedzie.**

For more information, contact the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793 or go to [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org).

**COMPASS**  
CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
5801-C North Pulaski Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057  
[www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)  
773-539-6793



**Editor:** Skipper Joy Wolters

**Layout Design:** JustSayJoy.com

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 North Pulaski, Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057. Distributed to membership (\$5 allotted from dues). Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois. Postmaster: Send address changes to Compass, c/o Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C North Pulaski, Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057.*

**Report sightings to:** 773-539-6793

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

**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  
10:00 a.m.–4:15 p.m.  
Closed Fridays and holidays

#### OFFICERS

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

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

**Treasurer:** Jessica Johnson, 312-519-2781, [towerlobbyfloor@gmail.com](mailto:towerlobbyfloor@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Annette Prince, 630-841-7110, [aprincebcm2@msn.com](mailto:aprincebcm2@msn.com)

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

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

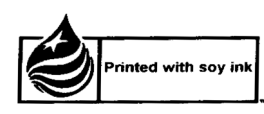
**Education Chair:** Roger Shamley, 773-274-5362, [drongo@comcast.net](mailto:drongo@comcast.net)

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

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

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

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



## The Chicago Audubon 2013 Bird Seed Sale was a Huge Success!

Many many thanks to all of our Volunteers at the River Forest and Chicago locations who worked so hard in November to help make our pickup day a great success! Everything went smoothly and we could not have done it without you! Our thanks to the Nature House at 3100 West Grand and to the Good Earth Greenhouse & Café in River Forest for so generously and graciously donating their locations for the delivery and distribution of thousands of bags of seed on pickup day!



Volunteers on seed pickup day at the Good Earth Greenhouse & Café in River Forest.  
Photo by Pat Szewczyk.



Volunteers on seed pickup day at the Nature House on Grand Ave in Chicago.  
Photo by S.J. Wolters.

**To all who purchased seed  
and to all our volunteers, we  
thank you very very much  
for your support, and we  
look forward to seeing you  
again next year!**

**Our Best Wishes for a Very  
Happy New Year Filled with  
Many Many Birds!**





## The Regal Silence of the Majestic Snowy Owl

**D**uring some years, a number of Snowy Owls remain at their breeding grounds in the arctic tundra all year long, while others migrate in winter to southern Canada and the northern half of the contiguous United States. In some areas such as the northern plains, New York, and New England, they do appear regularly in winter. However, elsewhere, such as here in the Midwest or the Pacific Northwest and eastern Canada, they are “irruptive,” that is, appearing only in some winters



Snowy Owls. Painting by Roger Tory Peterson.



Rock engraving bird figure, Arizona.  
Photo by Bill Thompson III.

but not in others. This winter (2013–2014) they have been spotted all over this region. They love visiting the shorelines of lakes and oceans as well as the open landscapes of farm fields, pastures and airports—anywhere there is a nearly endless unobstructed view. To maintain their vigil over the wide open spaces, they will perch for long periods of time, sitting quite still with an occasional swivel of the head—watching for prey. And they hunt a wide spectrum of wildlife—everything from small rodents to rabbits to other birds to fish. They perch on fence posts, dune crests, telephone poles, hay bales—whatever gives a good view of the surroundings. And although Snowy Owls have excellent eyesight, they obviously cannot see their prey beneath the snow or under thick layers of plants. They therefore rely on an extraordinary sense of hearing.

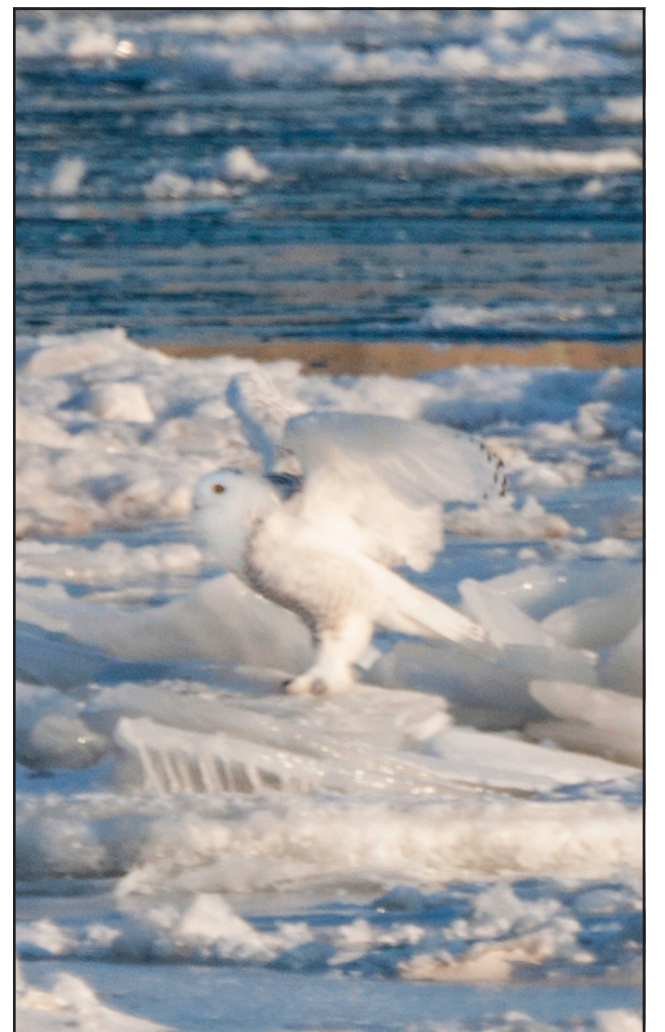
For anyone hoping to sight a Snowy Owl in an open snowy area, if the owl has chosen to sit directly on the snow-covered ground as a vantage point, he or she will be much more difficult to spot. Male Snowy Owls have markings of dark brown bars when they are young, which become whiter as they get older. Females keep some of the dark markings throughout their lives. Although the darkest males and the palest females are nearly alike in color, the whitest birds are always males and the most heavily barred ones are always females. Keep this in mind while looking across that wide snowy area as you will need to be alert for any irregularities in the surface of the snow. A lump of white or a dark patch of color could be a Snowy Owl facing away from you!

Their preference for open snowy areas for hunting and mating is their preference for nesting sites as well. They normally choose to place the nest where the surface rises slightly so that the nest will be, hopefully, drier and blown free of snow. The male selects the territory and the female chooses the nest site within the territory. She builds the nest by scraping out a shallow hollow on bare ground and then shapes it by pressing her body into the depression. The entire process takes a few days. She may lay anywhere from three to eleven eggs at a time, depending on food supply. Her mate feeds her while she’s on the nest and when food is scarce, she will lay fewer eggs than she might otherwise. These beautiful birds usually mate for life and they may use their original nest year after year for many years to come.

Within the wide spectrum of all the magnificent perfection and mystery of the seemingly endless variety of birdlife on this planet lies the wondrous sight of the majestic Snowy Owl, quietly watching the world through the silent falling snow ...



Cave wall engraving of owl figure, Chauvet Cave France, circa 30,000–32,000 years ago. Courtesy of [bradshawfoundation.com](http://bradshawfoundation.com).



Snowy Owl. Photo by Joy Schmoll.



Snowy Owls on Fishhook Pier, Montrose Point. Photo by Joy Schmoll.



Snowy Owl on surface ice off Montrose Beach. Photo by Joy Schmoll.



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](http://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](http://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

Exact name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your completed form to:**  
 Chicago Audubon Society • 5801-C North Pulaski Rd • Chicago, IL 60646

**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.

**erva** **NATURE HOUSE** **Polefeeder** **SCHWEGLER**

**Calendar of Events**

**January/February 2014**

**Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs**

**RECEPTION FOR BOOK PUBLICATION, JANUARY 23 AT THE PEGGY NOTEBAERT NATURE MUSEUM.** The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 North Cannon Drive, will host a reception on January 23 to celebrate the publication of *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction* by Chicago author Joel Greenberg. The publication marks the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. It is open to the public and admission is free. *For more information or questions, contact Peggy Notebaert Museum at [adultprograms@naturemuseum.org](mailto:adultprograms@naturemuseum.org) or 773-755-5100.*

**GULL FROLIC. WINTHROP HARBOR, WAUKEGAN. FEBRUARY 15, 2014. START TIME 8:00 a.m.** The Gull Frolic is a unique winter event at Illinois' premier gulling hotspot, North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor. A variety of waterfowl typically make an appearance, along with the occasional raptor, owl, or winter finch. The Gull Frolic is hosted by the Illinois Ornithological Society, with sponsorship help from many local bird clubs, organizations and individuals. Chicago Audubon Society and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors will participate with an information table available throughout the day. Pre-registration is required. *For registration details, location information and driving directions, go to [illinoisbirds.org/gull\\_frolic](http://illinoisbirds.org/gull_frolic).*

**BIRDING AMERICA X. ALL DAY SYMPOSIUM. SATURDAY, MARCH 8. NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY.** See Page 1 of this issue for details.

**CHICAGO AUDUBON MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING. MARCH 20 AT 7:00 p.m. NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER. 5801-D N. PULASKI ROAD.** Chicago Audubon's 2014 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, at the North Park Village Nature Center. Socializing and light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. The business meeting and voting will take place at 7:30 p.m., followed by the evening's program. Finalized details of the program will be published in the next issue and on our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)). Members, please plan on attending. You may bring family and friends. The meeting is open to non-members as well. Mark your calendars!

**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](mailto: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](http://chicagoaudubon.org). Just click on the word "Compass" in the top row of links on the home page 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.