



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2014

*It isn't too late for
advanced registration to*
**BIRDING
AMERICA X**

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2014

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

**NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY
3225 WEST FOSTER AVENUE, CHICAGO**

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



Snowy Owl. Photo by Rachel Bilodeau.

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.



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

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



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

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. Here is what we have planned:



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

**Registration form
and driving directions
on Page 2**

Symposium Schedule

Keynote Speaker—9:00 a.m.

STEVE KELLING

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

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

Presentations—Session #1, 10:15 a.m.

- John Elliott—*Birds and Nature of the Palos region Forest Preserves*
- David B. Johnson—*Birding Bad in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Sandia Crest/ Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge)*
- Josh Engel—*Bustards and Bobotie: A Virtual Tour of South Africa*
- Geoffrey Williamson—*Birding Basics: What you need to know*

Presentations—Session #2, 11:15 a.m.

- Vic Berardi—*Hawkwatching in Northeastern Illinois*
- Fran Harty—*The Greater Kankakee Ecosystem*
- Craig Stettner—*Costa Rican Conservation, Biodiversity and Birds*
- Stephen Packard, Steve Kelling and Judy Pollock—*Monitoring for Local Bird Habitat Conservation*

Lunch—12:15 p.m.

Presentations—Session #3, 1:00 p.m.

- Walter Marcisz—*Birding the Calumet Area*
- Al Batt—*Northern Minnesota: Who are Sax and Zim, and why do they have a bog of owls?*
- Mary Lou Mellon—*Colombia, S.A.: A four-wheel-drive birding adventure through the Colombian Andes*
- Julie Sacco—*The 4 B's: Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Bats*

Presentations—Session #4, 2:00 p.m.

- Steven Byers—*Building the case for Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge*
- Terri Fuller—*Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge*
- Steve Bailey—*Birding Continental Ecuador*
- Ron Larkin—*Migrating Birds in the Dark*

Closing Speaker—3:00 p.m.

AL BATT

Writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist

“A Life Gone to Birds”

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

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 Expressway) 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.

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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

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Closed Fridays and holidays

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EAGLE OPTICS DAY Will Be Held on October 11 This Year



Mark Your Calendars With The New Date!

Please note that the Chicago Audubon Eagle Optics Day has been moved from our traditional month (April) to October 11. The location will be the same as usual: 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 optical supplies. A variety of

equipment will be on display and experts will be available all day to answer questions and give guidance. Further details will be published in the September/October issue and on our website (chicagoaudubon.org). For those of you who have never attended one of our Eagle Optics Day events, please note that this event is open to the public. Plan on bringing family and friends!



The brilliant and familiar sight of the male Northern Cardinal during our long snowy winters is always a comforting sight. His presence combines the familiar with that instant moment of joy when he is first sighted. And the brown female with her warm red accents has her own unique elegance. Because this species neither migrates nor molts into a dull plumage, the breathtaking coloration of the male and the subdued elegance of his mate can be seen throughout the year.



Northern Cardinal. Photo by John Baxter.

*Gem of The Long Winter Snows
The Northern Cardinal*

Northern Cardinals mate for life and while the courtship is in progress he will often bring her seeds which he feeds to her, beak-to-beak. Interestingly, the female is one of the few female songbirds that sing—most females do not. After becoming a mated pair, they will actually share song phrases by singing duets. Before they begin building the nest, the female visits possible sites and the

male will follow along. The pair will call back and forth while assessing each site, holding nesting materials in their bills. Once a site is chosen, they both gather nest material. She crushes twigs with her beak and then turns in the nest to bend the twigs around her body. Then she pushes them into a cup shape with her feet. The nest usually takes from three to nine days to build and is only used once. She will often sing while sitting on the nest. It is believed that this may give the male information about when to bring her food while she is nesting.

Originally a bird of the Southeast, the Northern Cardinal's range expanded north and northwest along the Mississippi River and its tributaries during the last 100 years. By 1895 it had reached the Great Lakes and by 1910 its range included southern Ontario. We are grateful for their company!

**Chapter Members Annual Meeting with Program
March 20, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.**

**North Park Village Nature Center
5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D**

Important meeting for Members to attend!

The Nominating Committee of the Chicago Audubon Society met in February to develop the slate of nominees for possible new Board officers and Board members for election by the Chapter Membership. The names of the nominees will be published on the Chicago Audubon website (chicagoaudubon.org), and Chapter Members will have the opportunity to vote on the slate of possible new board members at the Annual Meeting on March 20. **It is important for Members to vote at this meeting ... and then stay for this wonderful program ...**

Come and say hello to the junco—a common yet amazing backyard bird! Although the junco is one of the most abundant songbirds found

in North America and easily observable by millions of people daily, few realize how remarkable these “ordinary” birds are. They exhibit stunning diversity in appearance and behavior across their range and have much to teach us about bird behavior, ecology and evolution. Join us for the screening of *The Ordinary, Extraordinary Junco*, a documentary film based on the life-long research of Dr. Ellen Ketterson and her colleagues in junco research. Segments of the film include: The Appalachian Spring, Diversification South of the Border, The Mysterious Juncos of Guadalupe Island, and Evolution-in-Action on the campus of University of California at San Diego. Don't miss this amazing film! We look forward to seeing you!!



American Goldfinch. Photo by Gerry Sibell.

**Birdathon! 2014
Saturday, May 17**

Chicago Audubon announces its 15th Annual Beecher Cup Competition, which will place Saturday, May 17. This competition is an important fundraiser for Chicago Audubon. The goal of Birdathon! is to see how many species can be identified in one day. The team with the highest number of species will take home the

coveted Beecher Cup. For information on how to join a team, contact Joe Lill at trptjoe@aol.com. Please support the team efforts by sending in your donation with the form below. Funds raised will help to further Chicago Audubon programs and goals.

Thank you for your support!

Birdathon! 2014

My tax-deductible gift to Chicago Audubon's Birdathon! 2014 of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please send your check to: Chicago Audubon Society, 5801-C N Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60646

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Or you may call the office and give your charge card information on the phone (773-539-6793).



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

Exact 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

March/April 2014

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

MARCH 8: BIRDING AMERICA X. ALL DAY SYMPOSIUM AT NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY. See Pages 1 and 2 of this issue for full details, including driving directions.

MARCH 20: CHICAGO AUDUBON MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER, 5801 NORTH PULASKI ROAD, BUILDING D, CHICAGO. Chicago Audubon Members are encouraged to attend. Socializing and light refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30. Membership will participate in an election of slated officers. The evening's program will follow the election and will be the screening of the film, *The Ordinary, Extraordinary Junco*, a wonderful documentary about a very unusual "common" bird. See Page 3 for more details. Members, please plan on attending, and you are welcome to bring family and friends. *If you have questions or need directions to the Nature Center, please call our office at 773-539-6793.*

APRIL AND MAY, EVERY SATURDAY: CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRD WALKS AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER, 5801 N. PULASKI ROAD, BUILDING D, CHICAGO. Once again our popular spring bird walks will take place every Saturday morning throughout April and May to view the spring migration. Learn about birds and their habitats while walking through the beautiful woods surrounding the Nature Center. The walks are led by expert birders who welcome questions from all levels of birders. *For information or directions to the Nature Center, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. You do not need to be a Chicago Audubon member to join the walks. Everyone is welcome!!*

MAY 17: BIRDATHON! 2014. Come join a team for a day of counting species! The goal of each team is to see how many species can be identified on Saturday, May 17, 2014. The team

with the highest number of species will take home the coveted Beecher Cup. See Page 3 and the next issue for more details.

OCTOBER 11: EAGLE OPTICS DAY. This year the Chicago Audubon Eagle Optics Day will be held on Saturday, October 11 at North Park Village Nature Center. **Be sure to put this new date on your calendar (it was usually held in April).** We will publish times and details in upcoming issues and on the website.

WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR: WOODED ISLAND BIRD WALKS IN 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.*

MONTHLY, EVERY SECOND SATURDAY. SKOKIE LAGOONS WORKDAYS AT 10:00 a.m. 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 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!