



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

Chicago Audubon's 2014 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 grocery, pet, or discount stores. Also, forty percent 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 ongoing 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!*

GOT SEED?



Seed Order deadline:
October 6
(online or mail-in form)

Seed Pickup date and time:
October 25
9:00 a.m. to Noon
(for both locations)

Bluebird. Photo by Michael L. Smith.

indicate your pickup location preference so that we know where to have your seed delivered—and be sure to write in a contact phone number—which is also very important. If you are mailing in your order, please make a copy of it first for your records as a precaution. If you prefer to phone in your credit card purchase instead of going online or filling out the form, please call our office at 773-539-6793. If you get the voice mail when you call, just leave a message with your name and phone number (only) and the Administrator will return your call as soon as possible. Also, please note that every year, as a courtesy to our purchasers, everyone who has placed an order will be called a few days in advance of the pickup date to remind you of the upcoming date and time. If you are unable to pick up your order on October 25, please make arrangements for someone to pick it up for you and be sure that they know to be at your chosen pickup location by noon on October 25—this is very important (and please be sure to give a copy of your order to that person). If you have any questions about the ordering procedure, please don't hesitate to call our office (773-539-6793). Thank you very much! We look forward to seeing you there! **Remember, the deadline for ordering is October 6.**

Volunteers!

We could not do this without volunteers helping us organize and distribute bags of birdseed on pickup day at both the Chicago and the River Forest locations. Volunteers are welcome for all or part of the morning, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (buyers begin arriving at 9:00 a.m. until noon). If you are able to help us out, please indicate your preference of hours and the location on the order form, or you can call our office by Monday, October 6 at 773-539-6793.

You do not have to place an order to be a Volunteer. Remember, without our volunteers this wonderful sale would not be possible!

The Chicago Audubon Society appreciates all of you who have been purchasing birdseed and volunteering 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. Thank you!



Goldfinches at birdfeeder. Courtesy of backyardbirper.com

Pickup Locations:

(Please be sure to indicate your preference when you fill out the order form on this page or online.)

▶ NATURE HOUSE

3100 West Grand Ave, Chicago

(Nature House is one block north of Chicago Ave and one block east of Kedzie Ave. Go to the loading area behind the building. If you have problems locating this address, call Chris at 312-520-1266.)

OR you can pick up at:

▶ GOOD EARTH GREENHOUSE & CAFÉ

7900 West Madison, River Forest

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

How does this work?

There are several ways to place your order. You can fill out the order form on this page (or print the form off of our website at www.chicagoaudubon.org), then mail the completed form to us at the address printed on the form. Please do not mail cash and be certain that all of your contact information is on the form whether you are enclosing a check or filling in your charge card information. Another option for ordering is to complete the entire order online at our website, www.chicagoaudubon.org. In either case, be sure to

BIRDSEED SALE 2014 ORDER FORM

Order Deadline: MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014

Another option for ordering:
You may order online at our website,
www.chicagoaudubon.org.

Qty	Description	Price	Total
	40 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	\$21.00	
	20 lb. Chicago Audubon Premium	\$11.25	
	40 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	\$15.25	
	20 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	\$8.50	
	40 lb. Black Sunflower	\$21.50	
	25 lb. Black Sunflower	\$14.00	
	25 lb. Cracked Corn	\$7.50	
	25 lb. White Proso Millet	\$11.00	
	25 lb. Medium Sunflower Chips	\$35.25	
	25 lb. Safflower Seed	\$26.50	
	25 lb. Nyjer Seed	\$28.75	
	10 lb. Nyjer Seed	\$12.00	
	Case of Nyjer Seed (Five 10-lb bags)	\$59.00	
	10 lb. Peanut Pieces	\$13.50	
	Case of Peanut Pieces (Five 10-lb bags)	\$67.00	
	1 Wild Bird Blend Suet Cake	\$1.25	
	Case of Suet Cakes (12 cakes)	\$12.25	
	1 Sunflower Bell (15 oz)	\$3.25	
	Case of Sunflower Bells (6 bells)	\$18.25	
GRAND TOTAL		\$	

I will pick up my seed order on October 25 at:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago
Nature House/Erva Tool
3100 W Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60622
<i>(Loading area behind building)</i> | <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 _____

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 Pickup Day, October 25, at:

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

Please mail your completed seed order form (and your check if that is your selected payment method) to:

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

The Downy Woodpecker

A Feeder Favorite

As you may have noticed, woodpeckers in general do not sing the melodic melodies of songbirds. They have a sound sequence which is a distinctive sharp “pik pik” followed immediately by very rapid repetition of the “pik.” The rapid repetition of the “pik” resembles the cadence and “melody line” of a horse’s whinny. The whinny is immediately followed by very rapid drumming. It’s all rather amazing and can never be mistaken for anyone but a woodpecker! This drumming is sometimes mistaken to be part of their feeding habits, but, in fact, birds make surprisingly little noise while they are eating, even when they’re digging vigorously into wood. They probably

don’t want to draw attention to what they are doing from larger competitors!

In winter, the “Downies” can be seen at backyard feeders mixed in with flocks of chickadees, nuthatches, and other small species. The protection of the flock provides them more security against predators and better luck finding food. In warm weather, the Downy eats mainly insects, beetle larvae from inside wood, tree bark, ants, and caterpillars. They also eat pest insects including corn earworm, tent caterpillars, bark beetles, and apple borers. About twenty-five percent of their diet consists of berries, acorns, and grains. They also eat foods that larger woodpeckers cannot reach, such as insects living on or in the stems of



Downy Woodpecker on suet feeder.
Photo by Janet Allen.

weeds. And, as mentioned, in summer, winter, fall or spring, they are often at backyard feeders with fellow species, munching away at the suet and black oil sunflower seeds.



Downy Woodpecker. Photo by Steven David.



Downies have been known to visit hummingbird feeders. Courtesy of Wild Bird Sanctuary.

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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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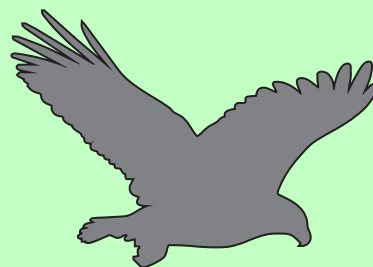
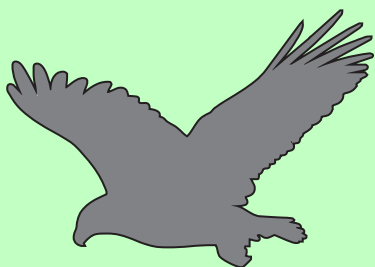
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EAGLE OPTICS IS COMING!



OCTOBER 11, 2014

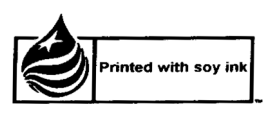
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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. If you are thinking of making a purchase or just have questions, mark your calendars for October 11 because this is a great opportunity to talk to the experts—and possibly even make a purchase. (No purchase necessary to ask questions!) And for those of you who have never attended one of these events, please note that it is open to the public. Friends and family are welcome. If you have questions or need directions, call Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793.

Pre-Eagle Optics Bird Walk: This is a special opportunity to begin October 11 on a positive note—plan on joining a bird walk field trip at Montrose Point (the Magic Hedge) from 7:00 to 9:30 a.m. Meet at the Magic Hedge. Group leader will be Chicago Audubon’s Jeff Sanders. The Walk will finish in time to be off to the Nature Center at North Park Village for coffee, tea, and some bird talk. Then starting around 10:00 a.m. you can enjoy Eagle Optics Day right there at the Nature Center. If you have any questions about the Walk, contact Jeff at yellowstart5@yahoo.com.

Eagle Optics generously donates a percentage of all sales on Eagle Optics Day to Chicago Audubon.





It is Important To Feed Backyard Birds All Year Round



And we're not just saying that because we sell birdseed every fall!

Seriously, if at all possible, please keep putting out seed and suet all year round. Whether they are arriving in early spring, leaving in the fall, or staying all winter, they need nutrition and energy for different reasons at different times of the year. In the spring they may have traveled a very long way and may still have a long way to go before reaching their breeding grounds. In summer, even though food may be abundant, their energy requirements are higher because they must feed their young. When they migrate again in the fall, they need additional energy for the long journey. And if they chose to stay here through the winter, their normal supply of warm weather food will be covered with snow and ice. And if you have been feeding hummingbirds, keep in mind that they will migrate when they are ready to go and feeding them into late fall does not delay their departure. A few other general things to remember:

During warm weather (we may still have some coming our way):

- Keep an eye on the condition of your feeder seed. Dispose of wet or moldy seed.
- Change water in birdbaths daily.
- Change hummingbird nectar every three days.
- Remove suet in hot weather. It will spoil quickly.

If you feed hummingbirds:

- Nectar should be one part ordinary white cane sugar to four parts water. This mixture approximates the average sucrose content (about 21%) of the flowers favored by North American hummingbirds without being so sweet it attracts too many



Cardinals. Courtesy of Wild Birds Unlimited.



Blue Jay. Courtesy of pupismyname.

insects. It is not necessary to boil the water. The microorganisms that cause fermentation do not come from the water. They are transported to the feeder on hummingbird bills. Unused nectar can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two weeks. Keep in mind that any nectar solution will spoil

eventually regardless of temperature so strict oversight of refrigeration storage time is necessary.

- Keep changing the nectar every three days and clean the feeder every time the nectar is changed. Feeders can be sanitized with a solution of one part bleach to

nine parts hot water. Commercial birdfeeder cleaning solutions are also effective. A mild solution of unscented dish detergent is acceptable as well. For the best sanitation and disease prevention, each feeder should be cleaned inside and out, including all feeding ports, perches, lids, platforms and poles. The feeder's hooks, poles and any other part where birds may perch or where feces may collect should also be cleaned.

- After cleaning, the feeder and all cleaned parts should be rinsed for at least 10 seconds in clear, clean water to be sure all chemical residue is removed. Wear rubber gloves and use stiff brushes to ensure thorough cleaning. Birdfeeder and pet supply stores offer specialized brushes for different sizes and shapes of feeders. However, regular everyday bottle brushes can also be effective. And an old toothbrush is a great option for cleaning small parts, feeding ports and tight corners.

- *Please keep filling the feeders throughout the fall months. In fact, the more the hummers can feed on nutritional fuel before they depart, the better chance they will have of arriving at their destinations. When the days get shorter, they will naturally move on regardless of whether they have access to filled feeders or not. So it is best that they leave on their journey as fattened up as possible! And please keep the feeders full for several weeks after you have seen the last hummer—just in case there are stragglers coming through in need of additional energy. You will be doing the hummingbird world a great service!!*

We are frequently asked why there are sometimes great fluctuations in backyard bird populations. There are a number of reasons for this:

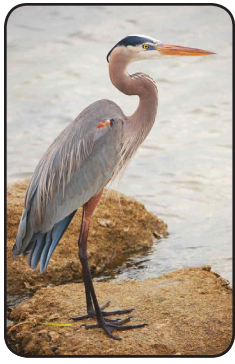
- Weather patterns often cause birds to shift ranges which will alter which species you will see at your feeders. And these days with severe weather happening off and on all year around, these changes can happen in any season, not just winter or early spring.
- If you are in a rural area, of course, you will have noticed that natural food supplies fluctuate from year to year. A shortage of cones, berries, seeds, and/or insects, will cause birds to shift ranges to compensate for food shortages.
- If a bird of prey has moved into your area, the birds will feed elsewhere until the predator moves on. If you see a predator and wish to discourage its activity in your backyard, you will need to take down your feeders for a few weeks. The smaller birds are already accustomed to fluctuating food supplies and will find food elsewhere, as will the bird of prey. Hopefully, when you refill the feeders a few weeks later, the predator will have found new hunting grounds and only the smaller birds will return to feed.



Hummingbird feeder. Courtesy of naturehouseinc.com.



Winter feeder. Photo by John Briggs.



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 or you may join online at our website (chicagoaudubon.org).

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 or to renew an existing membership, 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

September/October 2014

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, CHICAGO AUDUBON PROGRAM. The Raptor Relocation Program at O'Hare International Airport. North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Road, Building D. The Raptor Relocation Program has been developed to help minimize the risk of bird of prey strikes at O'Hare Airport. In an effort to keep both birds and airplanes apart, the Wildlife Services Staff of the US Dept of Agriculture manage wildlife at airports to reduce hazards to human health and safety by minimizing the risk of bird of prey strikes. Some hawks have been seen locally with numbered shoulder sleeves—they are part of the relocation program. Please join us to learn more about this innovative program and the wildlife biologists that work hard at keeping our skies safer for both birds and people. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. (come at 7:00 for refreshments). *No reservations are necessary. If you have questions or need directions, please call our office at 773-539-6793. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend. Everyone is welcome!*

OCTOBER 11. EAGLE OPTICS DAY! AT THE NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is a new date for Eagle Optics Day which was usually held in April each year, but the location will be the same as always:

North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. *Please see Page 2 for more details.*

OCTOBER 11 BIRD WALK. An early morning bird walk will take place on the same day as Eagle Optics Day described above. *For any questions about the bird walk, contact Jeff at yellowstart5@yahoo.com. Please see Page 2 for more details.*

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!



Bluebird on feeder. Courtesy of naturehouseinc.com.