

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

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

John Muir

The Man Who Saved Our Wilderness Father of Our National Parks System

"As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and birds and winds sing. ... I'll acquaint myself with ... wild gardens, and get as near the heart of the world as I can."

John Muír (1838-1914)

ohn Muir passed away one hundred years ago and as long as he lived he immersed himself as near to the heart of the natural world as possible for any human being. He walked the wilderness areas of this country, becoming ever more deeply connected to the purest places of nature. During his lifetime Muir published over 300 articles and 12 books describing the majesty of the wilderness he found. He greatly influenced the appreciation of those wilderness areas by encouraging people to regard wild nature with humility and respect for all life. He believed that humankind is only one part of an interconnected natural world—not its master.



Yosemite National Park. Photograph by Ansel Adams.

Today the legacy he left can be seen and felt throughout every national park in the United States, providing natural habitat and shelter for countess birds, wildlife, interlocking forests, rivers, canyons, meadows, rock formations, water falls, and wetlands—all natural tapestries of complex ecosystems more valuable than any amount of currency on earth. John Muir's long and often arduous efforts to save wilderness areas resulted in the creation and protection of Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, and Mt. Rainier National Parks—a legacy that can never be replaced and should be forever cherished.

The Editor



Piping Plover. Photo by Bill Hubick.



Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (female). Photo by Paul Burton.

CHICAGO AUDUBON PROGRAM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Behind the Scenes of Federally Endangered and Threatened Species in Illinois

Program at 7:30 p.m. Socializing and light refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

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

uesday, November 11, join
us to peek behind the scenes
to learn how the US Fish &
Wildlife Service works to protect, list,
and recover some of our most endangered and threatened wildlife and plant
species right here in the Chicagoland
area. Chicago Audubon welcomes
speaker Louise Clemency, Field
Supervisor with US Fish & Wildlife
who will provide an overview of the
species in our area protected under the
Endangered Species Act, including
which species are proposed to be listed,
and the recovery efforts thus far. The

Piping Plover, Northern Long-eared Bat, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, and Hine's Emerald Dragonfly are especially interesting and are just a few of the species to be discussed. If you love wildlife and wish to learn more about endangered species and the ongoing conservation efforts to save them, you will enjoy this presentation. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend. This program is free and open to everyone. If you have questions or need directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. Bring family and friends!



Northern Long-eared Bat. Photo courtesy of DurmPhoto.com.



Piping Plover Chick. Photo by Marshall Iliff.



Photo by Mike Redmer.

This is migration time ... just a friendly reminder...

What to do if you see a Whooping Crane



Whooping Cranes. Photo by Steve Hillebrand, US Fish & Wildlife.

Whooping Cranes. Photo by Laura Erickson.



Whooping Cranes. Photo by Larry Ditto.

Please keep the following guidelines in mind when viewing a Whooping Crane.

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership asks anyone who encounters a Whooping Crane in the wild to please give it the respect and distance it needs:

Do not approach birds on foot within 600 feet; remain in your vehicle; do not approach in a vehicle within 600 feet

or, if on a public road, do not approach within 300 feet.

Also, please remain concealed and do not speak loudly enough that the bird can hear you. Finally, do not trespass on private property in an attempt to view Whooping Cranes.

Also, to keep the amount of attention it receives to a minimum, please do not report the bird on a birding list such as In-bird or IBET or any social media or to the news media.

To safely report a Whooping Crane sighting, go to www.fws.gov/midwest/ whoopingcrane/sightings/sightingform.

For general information on the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, go to www.bringbackthecranes.org/ index.html.



Whooping Crane. Photo by Klaus Nigge, National Geographic.



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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

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Closed Fridays and holidays

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Hummingbird feeder. Courtesy of naturehouseinc.com.

Hummingbird Nectar

Sugar content of natural flower nectar varies. It is roughly comparable to sugar water mixtures ranging from a quarter to a third cup of sugar per cup of water. There is absolutely no reason to add any red dyes to hummingbird sugar water. Flower nectar is naturally clear. Sheri Williamson of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory and author of A Field Guide to Hummingbirds and Attracting and Feeding Hummingbirds, writes, "The bottom line is that 'instant nectar' products containing artificial coloring are at best a waste of your hard-earned money and at worst a source of disease, suffering, and premature death in hummingbirds." So please keep the water used for hummer feeders absolutely free of artificial dyes of any kind-only add sugar.



Hummingbirds feeding. Photo by Barb Gorges.

About the Hummers A Few Reminders



Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo by Joy Schmoll.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Photo by S. Michael Bisceglie.

Feeding

Availability of food does not influence when or whether a bird will start its migration. The most significant factor that contributes to beginning its journey is the length of the day. In late summer, as days become shorter they become restless and start to head south. Please keep the feeders up for several weeks after the last hummingbird leaves the area, just in case a straggler shows up. Hummingbirds migrate individually. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are strongly migratory, but their bodies need a high level of fat to fly long distances. As people bring in their feeders in fall and frosts kill nectarbearing flowers, those hummingbirds remaining must travel long distances between feeders. They are surprisingly hardy as long as they consume enough food each day, and during cold spells they need extra calories.

Please watch for our 2014 Annual Appeal mailing coming in November. This is one of our most important fundraisers of the year. We thank you for your past support and hope you will be able to help us again this year.

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.

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 11. CHICAGO

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

AUDUBON PROGRAM. Behind the Scenes of Federally Endangered and Threatened Species in Illinois. Tuesday, November 11, 7:30 p.m., North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Bldg D. Join us to peek behind the scenes to learn how the US Fish & Wildlife Service works to protect, list, and recover some of our most endangered and threatened wildlife and plant species right here in the Chicagoland area. Chicago Audubon welcomes speaker Louise Clemency, Field Supervisor with US Fish & Wildlife who will provide an overview of the species in our area protected under

the Endangered Species Act, includ-

ing which species are proposed to

be listed, and the recovery efforts thus far. The Piping Plover, Northern Long-eared Bat, Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid, and Hine's Emerald Dragonfly are especially interesting and are just a few of the species to be discussed. If you love wildlife and wish to learn more about endangered species and the on-going conservation efforts to save them, you will enjoy this presentation. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend. This program is free and open to everyone. Light refreshments and socializing at 7:00 p.m. The Program begins at 7:30 p.m. If you have questions or need directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. Bring family and friends.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015. WILD THINGS CONFERENCE at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This will be the 6th biennial Wild Things Conference—a great gathering of souls who live and breathe Chicago nature. The details are still being finalized, so save the date and keep an eye on the Habitat Project website for updates: www.habitatproject.org.

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.

November/December 2014

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.













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 or renew your existing membership, please fill out the form to the right 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.

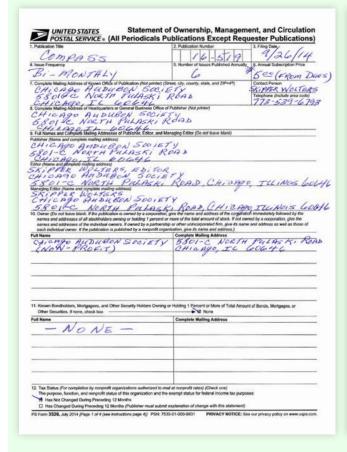


Chicago Audubon Membership Form

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 membe	rship: \$25		
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard	☐ Discover		
Exact name on card			
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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a)	•		
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c \times 100)	-		
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