



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015



Snowy feeder. Photo by Robin Larkspur.

*Chicago Audubon Wishes Everyone
A Very Happy New Year!*

*Thank you for your caring support
throughout the year and may your new
year be filled with many many birds!*



Courtesy of birdsdonteatcows.com.



Courtesy of Lazy B Farm.

CHICAGO AUDUBON PRESENTS

*Get to Know the Birds
in Your Backyard
and Neighborhood*

**JANUARY 5
FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.**

**The Eisenhower Public Library District
4613 North Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights**

Enjoy the beauty of your backyard birds and become more aware of what they are doing as you watch them. This presentation will help you learn more about their lives, behaviors, songs, and what you can do to attract them to your yard.

The program will be presented by Roberta Asher, Chicago Audubon Board Member. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Penny Blubaugh at 708-867-2258.

The Autumn Seed Sale was a Great Success!

We wish to thank Nature House on Grand Avenue in Chicago and Good Earth Greenhouse & Café in River Forest for hosting our seed delivery day again in October. Your support is essential to our success. Thank you so much!! To our Wonderful Volunteers, we could not do this without you!! Your cheerful willingness to work so hard is appreciated more than we can ever say. Thank you all!! Very Very Much!!



Some of our quality bird seed on pickup day at Nature House in Chicago and Good Earth Greenhouse & Café in River Forest.



Photo by Melissa Penta.



Photo by Pat Cheal.

A Few Things to Keep in Mind About Birdfeeders — In Winter and All Year —

Placement for Reducing Window Strikes: Placement of feeders within three feet of a window or more than 30 feet away from a window are the safest positions. When feeders are close to a window, a bird leaving the feeder cannot gain enough momentum to do itself harm if it strikes the window. And if feeders are more than 30 feet from a window, the birds are less likely to perceive windows as a pathway to other parts of your yard.

Some other possibilities for hanging a feeder include hanging from the eaves at the corner of a house, or fixing

it directly to a window. Also, periodically moving feeders to a different location helps to minimize the build up of waste on the ground. And placement near (but not over) a water feature, such as a bird bath, will almost ensure that birds will find your feeder.

Providing Safe Haven Near the Feeder: Birds are more often than not completely out in the open when at a feeder, making them targets for local predators. A brush pile or shrub within about 10 feet of the feeder will provide a place for birds to quickly fly

into when a predator is within striking distance.

The term “brush pile” describes a mound or heap of woody vegetative material, usually loosely constructed to furnish additional wildlife cover. Brush piles can be tidy or wild, large or small, and mostly made up of wood which can be alive or dead. Discarded Christmas trees (without the tinsel) can be used as a base for a brush pile—then build up from there. Our resident and migrating birds need the kind of cover that brush piles offer.

Three Seeds that Attract Many Birds

Black Oil Sunflower

A favorite with many species—Cardinals, Woodpeckers, Blue jays, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches and others. Because of raccoons and squirrels, it’s best to put most of your sunflower seeds in hanging feeders.

The black sunflower seed, sometimes called oil seed is best, rather than the grey-and-white-striped sunflower seed. It’s called black oil because they are higher in oil content and they also have softer shells.

Nyjer

Goldfinches adore Nyjer seed. It is also very popular with Pine Siskins, Common Redpolls and other small-billed seed-eating birds—Nuthatches, Chickadees, Doves, and Downy Woodpeckers—but no one loves it more than Goldfinches!

And Nyjer doesn’t look large enough to have a shell but it does! And because it’s so small, it’s easy to mistake ground debris under a Nyjer feeder for seed that has

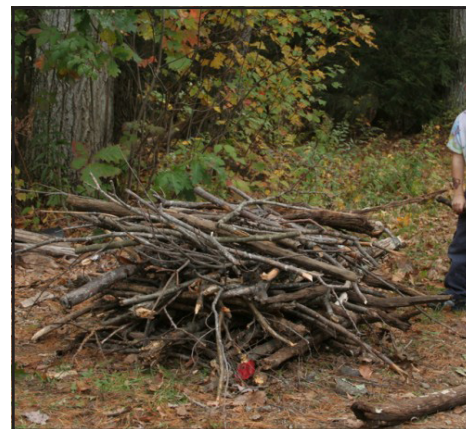
fallen, but take a closer look at what looks like fallen seed—it’s most likely tiny Nyjer seed shells on the ground. The birds eat the seeds and the shells drop.

And, happily for the birds, squirrels typically ignore Nyjer seed (which is good for you as well because it is expensive). Do not mix the Nyjer with other seeds because you will have squirrels and Grackles sweeping through the mixture to get at what they want.

Safflower

Squirrels do not like Safflower, and Grackles may try it once but then generally leave it alone after the first encounter. Its thick shell is difficult for some birds to crack open, but it is loved by many species and high in protein.

Put Safflower in tube feeders for House Finches, Chickadees, and Nuthatches. Use elevated feeders for Blue Jays, Cardinals, and other Grosbeaks, and put it in ground feeders for Doves. And as with the Nyjer, be careful not to mix Safflower in with other seed.



Even a small brush pile provides habitat for a number of backyard wildlife, including ground-feeding birds, chipmunks, snakes, and even hummingbirds, who like to use the twiggy perches to look around for bugs to eat. Photo by Ellen Sousa.



Courtesy of Town&Country Gardens.



Photo by Mariann Simms.

Reminder to our readers:

The Compass can be read and enjoyed in color on our website, chicagoaudubon.org. Just click on the word “Newsletters” 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!

COMPASS
CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
5801-C North Pulaski Road
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057
www.chicagoaudubon.org
773-539-6793



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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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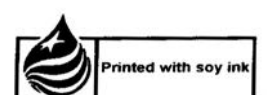
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IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHICAGO AUDUBON'S BIENNIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM, ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS WILL ALL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015

For over forty years, the Chicago Audubon Society Environmental Awards have been given to honor people from many walks of life for their contributions to conservation and birding—individuals and organizations who have helped to conserve, preserve, and enhance the varied habitats and open space of the greater Chicagoland area. **This year both the Awards Banquet and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on the same day, at the same location: The Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee/Manheim Avenues (between Algonquin and Oakton) in Des Plaines.**

First: The Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. (with a cash bar at 5:30 p.m.). The Awards Program will begin around dessert.

Second: The Annual Members Meeting will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. following the Awards

dinner. If you will be attending the Annual Meeting only, please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Committee (Alan Anderson, Jeff Sanders, and Bonnie Duman) will present the slate of names to be voted on for election to the Chicago Audubon Board of Directors. Chicago Audubon is proud to have nominated the following individuals for election: Steve Bailey, Michelle Devlin, John Elliott, Judy Pollock, Julie Sacco, Craig Stettner.

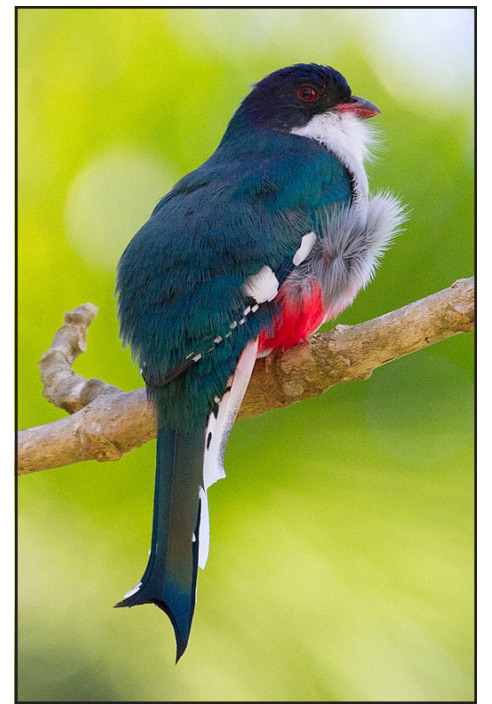
Third: Following the Members Meeting and election, the evening's Program, *A Birder's Trip to Cuba*, will be presented by Chicago Audubon Board Member, Bobbi Asher. This will be a multi-media presentation about Cuba, an island of enchanting scenery, rich culture, and friendly people—and one of the most important countries for neotropical migratory birds.

If you wish, you may attend the Awards Banquet, the Annual Meeting and the Program. The charge for the Banquet dinner will be \$33. Of course, there is no charge for the Annual Meeting or the evening's program. To make dinner reservations or if you have questions, please contact Alan Anderson at casresearch@comcast.net.

If you wish to only attend the Membership meeting (which includes the program, *A Birder's Trip to Cuba*), please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m. This is an important meeting for all of our Members.

Of course, we hope that everyone will be able to attend both the Awards Banquet and the Annual Meeting!

We look forward to seeing you on March 28!



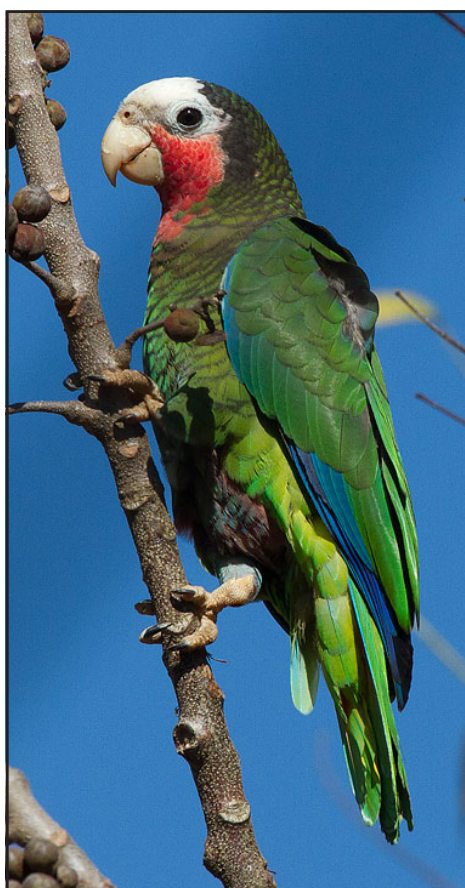
Cuban Trogon.
Photo by Ian Merrill.

We are asking our members and others involved or interested in conservation to submit nominations to receive the 2014 Chicago Audubon Society's Biennial Environmental Awards, which will then be presented at the Awards Banquet on March 28. The award categories are listed on the form below. Awards will be presented only to those who have been officially nominated and voted on. The Chicago Audubon Board of Directors chooses final Award recipients. To nominate your candidate, please fill out the form completely. You may also submit your nominees by email to Alan Anderson

at casresearch@comcast.net. In the email, be sure to state the name, organization, and category for your choices, following the criteria below. As we try to always recognize those who have not previously been given awards, please review those we have already honored in the past at: <http://chicago-audubon.org/content/chicago-audubon-society-environmental-award-recipients-1977-2013> (or go to our home page at www.chicagoaudubon.org and look for the link on the left hand side of the homepage). We appreciate your support and participation!



Cuban Tody. Photo by Ian Merrill.



Cuban Parrot. Photo by Ian Merrill.

Chicago Audubon Environmental Awards Nomination Form

Awards will be presented only to those who have been officially nominated and voted on. The Chicago Audubon Board of Directors chooses final award recipients. To nominate your candidate, please fill out the form and **mail to: Alan Anderson • 1633 Howard Ave • Des Plaines, IL 60018**. You may also submit your nominees by **email to: casresearch@comcast.net**. In the email, be sure to state the name, organization, and category for your choices, following the described criteria below.

1) Your information

Your name

Your street address

Your phone number

Your email address

2) Nominee information

Name of candidate

Candidate's title (if applicable)

Candidate's street address

Candidate's phone number

Candidate's email address

3) Choose the Environmental Awards category

- Excellence in Environmental Reporting
- Protector of the Environment—Educator
- Protector of the Environment—Political Service
- Protector of the Environment—Single Act (individual)
- Protector of the Environment—Single Act (group)
- Protector of the Environment—Avocation
- Protector of the Environment—Vocation
- Service to Chicago Area Birders

4) Tell us why

Separately, please explain why you think this candidate is worthy of the particular award. Please cite specific examples of his or her work in the past two years that relate to the award category. Include names and phone numbers or email addresses of other people that can attest to this candidate's qualifications for receiving an award.

Thank you very much for your participation!





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:

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- Monitor a building** where you live or work.
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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 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

Calendar of Events

Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs

January/February 2015

JANUARY 5: Chicago Audubon presents GET TO KNOW THE BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD AND NEIGHBORHOOD.
Location: The Eisenhower Public Library District, 4613 North Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the beauty of your backyard birds and become more aware of what they are doing as you watch them. This presentation will help you learn more about their lives, behaviors, songs, and what you can do to attract them to your yard. The presentation will be presented by Roberta Asher, Chicago Audubon Board Member. If you have any questions or need directions, please contact Penny Blubaugh at the Library: 708-867-2258.

JANUARY 31: WILD THINGS CONFERENCE.
Location: The University of Illinois at Chicago, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This 6th Biennial day-long conference brings together the region's best experts, professionals, dedicated volunteers and all those who care about nature. Presentations and workshops will explore the latest in natural areas, conservation and advocacy, wildlife protection and monitors. The conference is for everyone from newcomers to experts, and showcases Chicago area places from backyards to refuges. Chicago Audubon Society and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors will have Information Tables available all day supplied

with printed materials and staffed by volunteers who can answer your questions. Please note that the lower-priced early registration is only available through January 5. For detailed registration information, directions, brochures, maps, go to: <http://www.habitatproject.org/WildThings2015/overview.html>.

FEBRUARY 14: GULL FROLIC.
Location: North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor. Start time: 9:30 a.m. until mid-afternoon. The Gull Frolic is a unique winter event at Illinois' premier gull-watching hotspot the North Point Marina. Bring binoculars, scope and cold weather gear to join birders outside of the yacht club to enjoy close study of some of our harder-to-find winter species such as Thayer's, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls! A variety of waterfowl typically make an appearance as well (scoters and other diving ducks), along with the occasional raptor, owl, or winter finch. Chicago Audubon and Chicago Bird Collision Monitors will share an Information Table supplied with printed materials and staffed by volunteers who can answer your questions. Go to www.illinoisbirds.org/14th-annual-gull-frolic for registration information and directions.

MARCH 28: CHICAGO AUDUBON BIENNIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS BANQUET AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. This year the Awards Banquet and Annual Membership

meeting are being held on the same evening at the same location: Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee/Manheim Avenues (between Algonquin and Oakton) in Des Plaines.
The Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet begins at 6:00 p.m. (with a cash bar at 5:30 p.m.) The Awards presentation will begin around dessert. See Page 3 for full details.

WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS—ALL 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.

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY—MONTHLY: 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.

