



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

Periodicals

# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2015



Wild Dog. Photo by Dave Willard.



Greater Kudu. Photo by Dave Willard.



Kori Bustard. Photo by Yves Thonnerieus.



Hoopoe. Photo by Dave Willard.

The Hoopoe is notable for its distinctive "crown" of feathers. They are exotic in appearance, but are open-country birds—birds of savanna and broken woodlands. They are named for the sound they make—hoop hoop hoop.

## Chicago Audubon Program *Namibia and Botswana— Where Deserts Come Alive!*

**Tuesday, May 12**

**Program begins at 7:30 p.m.  
(Socializing and Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.)**

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

The abundant and amazing wildlife of the wide open expanses of southwestern Africa—which stretches across the countries of Namibia and Botswana—will all be presented by Josh Engel of the Field Museum. Josh has returned to Namibia and Botswana a dozen times in the last nine years, drawn there by the wonderful birding and wildlife, the stunning scenery, and friendly people. Desert habitats dominate the region, taking myriad forms, from coastal sand dunes to the rocky central

highlands and scrub-filled Kalahari sands, to the lush Okavango Delta—all filled with incredible birds and mammals. The Program will be lavishly illustrated in a virtual tour of one of the most amazing parts of the world.

Chicago Audubon Programs are always free and open to everyone—membership is not required. Again, the Program begins at 7:30 p.m., but please plan to arrive at 7:00 for refreshments and socializing. Bring Family and Friends!



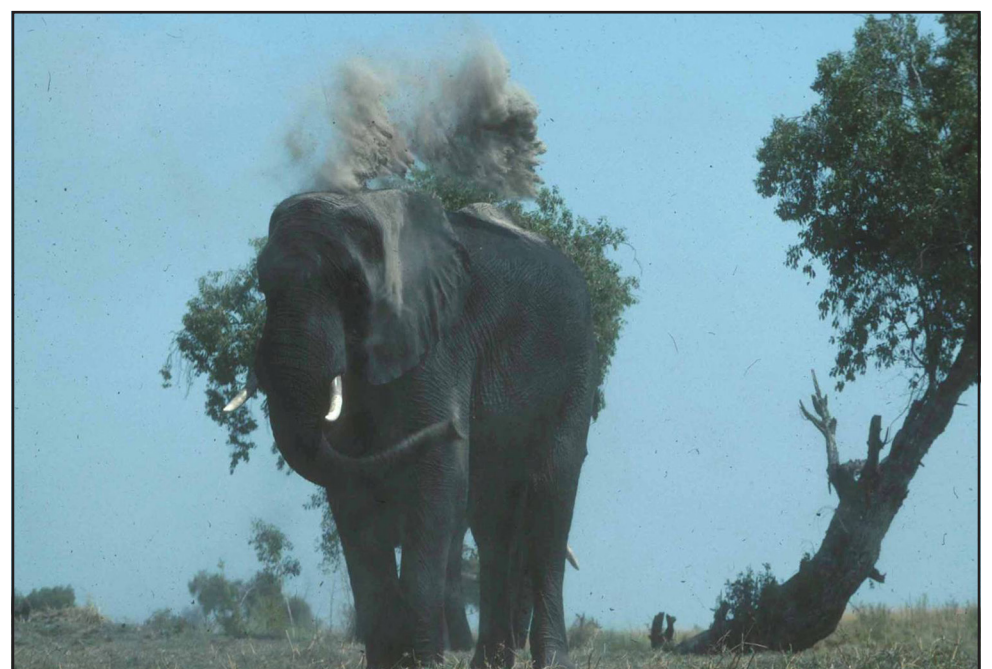
Kori Bustard. Photo by Dave Willard.



Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill. Photo by Jean-Louis Vandevivere.



Hoopoe. Photo by Dov Kalay.



Dusting Elephant. Photo by Dave Willard.

**August House Studio presents**

**BIRDS I HAVE KNOWN**

*The Bird House Show*

April 25 through May 23

Chicago Audubon is pleased to announce that our sister organization, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM), will be participating in *The Bird House Show* at the August House Studio located at 2113 West Roscoe in Chicago. Bird houses created and donated by CBCM volunteers and friends will be displayed and available for purchase with proceeds



benefiting CBCM. This is a unique opportunity for people to view CBCM talent and to learn more about their conservation work. The show will run from April 25 through May 23. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Saturdays from Noon to 5 p.m. (Donations can also be made at the time of viewing.) We hope you will be able to come by and see this interesting and creative show. Bring family and friends!

... and then there are some birds who find unique places to nest that don't involve a house!



Using spider web to affix its nest to a single bulb in a strand of holiday lights, this tiny Anna's Hummingbird successfully hatched two chicks. Photo by Kathy West/CUBs.

**COMPASS**  
CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
5801-C North Pulaski Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057  
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

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Closed Fridays and holidays

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*Chicago Audubon Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet 2015 A Great Success!*

The Chicago Audubon Society held its Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet on March 28th at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines. The Awards honor those who have made contributions to conservation and birding in the Chicagoland area. Please come and join us at the next Banquet two years from now. We would love to see you!

Here are the Awardees for 2015:

*Excellence in Environmental Reporting*  
**Jeff Reiter, Columnist, Daily Herald**

*Protector of the Environment—Educator*

**Stacy Iwanicki, Naturalist, Volo Bog, IDNR**

*Protector of the Environment—Political Service*

**Toni Preckwinkle, Board President, Forest Preserve District Cook County**

*Protector of the Environment—Single Act (Individual)*

**John and Jane Balaban, Bunker Hill Prairie and North Branch Prairie**

*Protector of the Environment—Single Act (Group)*

**Loyola University, Reuben Keller and class, working with Chicago Bird Collision Monitors**



Recipients of the Chicago Audubon Environmental Awards at the Environmental Awards Banquet, March 28, 2015, Silver Stallion Restaurant, Des Plaines. Photo by Alan Anderson.

*Protector of the Environment—Avocation*

**Kathleen Marie Garness, Botanical Illustrator, Educator, Steward, Monitor**

*Protector of the Environment—Vocation*

**Doug Taron, Curator of Biology, Notebaert Nature Museum**

*Protector of the Environment—Group*

**Chris Anchor (FPDCC Wildlife Biologist) and Stan Gehrt (Ohio**

**State University) Urban Coyote Study**

**First Friend of Chicago Audubon North Park Village Nature Center**

**Service to Chicago Area Birders Rena Cohen, President, Lake-Cook Audubon**

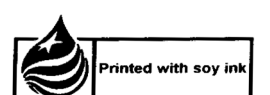
**Young Environmentalist Nick Minor, Illinois Young Birder**



**For Sale: Little Cabin in the Woods—**

A one of a kind home sitting on three secluded and restored hardwood forested acres adjacent to a 40-acre wetland conservation area. If this property is sold through our advertisement, Chicago Audubon will receive a donation of 2.5% of the sale price. Interested parties please contact Jim Pitsch at 815-342-8080 or jim@oldoakhollow.com.

*“We can never have enough of nature.”*  
Henry David Thoreau



# Birdathon! 2015

Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17

The word *Birdathon* is a combining of the words *birdwatching* and *marathon* to describe a friendly sport which originated in England years ago. For the past fourteen years, the Chicago Audubon Society has held the Annual Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon! Cup Challenge as one of our major fundraising events.\* It involves teams of people competing to see how many different species of birds they can identify within a specified time limit.

Here is how this works: *Birdathon* teams comb Cook County (or Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane or Will) on a specified date. This year those dates are Saturday, May 16 or Sunday, May 17 (or both if you have the energy). The teams identify as many species as they can within one day within the county of

their choosing. The team that identifies the most species in the designated time period will gain possession, for one year, of the coveted Beecher Cup.\*

Anyone interested in participating on either day, whether part of a team or individually, should contact Dave Willard as soon as possible ([dwillard@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dwillard@fieldmuseum.org)). New birders are encouraged to participate—this is much more about fun than competition!

There are a number of ways to donate or pledge. You may donate a flat amount (as many have done in the past), or you may pledge an amount per total species identified by your favorite team, or you can pledge an amount based on the total species count of all teams, which last year was 163.

If you wish to donate or pledge by credit card, please go to our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)), or you can call our office to use your card over the phone (733-539-6793). The form on this page can also be used to make a donation by sending it to our office with a check or with your credit card information. All donations and pledges are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. All funds raised through *Birdathon* go toward Chicago Audubon programs. More than ever before, your support is essential and greatly appreciated!



Mourning Warbler.  
Photo by Roger Shamley.

## Good Birding!

Dave Willard  
Birdathon Coordinator  
Chicago Audubon Society  
[dwillard@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dwillard@fieldmuseum.org)

*It has become more important than ever that each local Audubon chapter raise more of its operating expenses on its own. Our efforts in education, preservation, restoration and advocacy continue to be well received, and we look forward to continuing our goal of creating more awareness of the natural environment that surrounds us all. This is a major fundraiser and your support is greatly appreciated!*

\*Dr. Beecher was Director Emeritus of the Chicago Academy of Sciences and one of the pioneering birders of the Chicago area. Some years ago, he honored Chicago Audubon by consenting to allow us to use his name for our annual fundraising event.

## Five Competition Categories

### Open

The traditional Big Day challenge, with the slight variation that a team limits itself to Chicago and the collar counties: Cook, Lake, DuPage, McHenry, Kane, Will, and Kendall; all species identified anytime between midnight on May 16<sup>th</sup> and midnight on May 17<sup>th</sup>, using any type of transportation.

### Site/Area Big Day

A team chooses one site (a city park, a forest preserve, etc.) and then birds the heck out of it! This is the perfect choice for a team that can only bird for a few hours.

### Muscle-powered (on foot)

Once the clock starts, all species must be identified without using any other mode of transportation.

### Muscle-powered (bicycle)

Once the clock starts, all species must be identified without using any motorized form of transportation.

### Backyard sightings

Any species seen or heard in or from the backyard, from midnight May 16 to midnight May 17.



Great-crested Flycatcher.  
Photo by Roger Shamley.



House Wren.  
Photo by Roger Shamley.



Black-throated Green Warbler. Photo by Roger Shamley.

## Birdathon! 2015 Pledge Form

My tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

OR

I am happy to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per species.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **Chicago Audubon Society**.

OR pay with credit card:

Visa  MasterCard  Discover

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Card number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

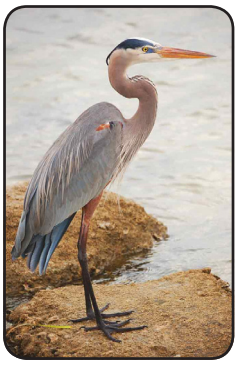
You may also charge a donation or pledge online by visiting the Birdathon link on our website, [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org), or you may call our office at 773-539-6793 to make a charge on the phone.

**Mail your completed form to:**

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

### 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 "Newsletters" in the top row of tabs 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!



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 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](http://chicagoaudubon.org)).

*Chicago Audubon Society does not rent, lease, trade, or otherwise disclose any membership information whatsoever.*

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**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](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. At \$65 or above, new Membership or Membership renewal includes an official Chicago Audubon hat.**

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**

**TUESDAY, MAY 12, CHICAGO AUDUBON PROGRAM: Namibia and Botswana: Where Deserts Come Alive.** North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski Road, Building D. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. (Socializing and refreshments at 7:00 p.m.) The abundant and amazing wildlife of the wide open expanses of southwestern Africa—which stretches across the countries of Namibia and Botswana—will all be presented by Josh Engel of the Field Museum. Josh has returned to Namibia and Botswana a dozen times in the last nine years, drawn there by the wonderful birding and wildlife, stunning scenery, and friendly people. Desert habitats dominate the region, taking myriad forms, from coastal sand dunes to the rocky central highlands and scrub-filled Kalahari sands, to the lush Okavango Delta—all filled with incredible birds and mammals. The Program will be lavishly illustrated in a virtual tour of one of the most amazing parts of the world. *Chicago Audubon Programs are always free and open to everyone—membership is not required. Again, the Program begins at 7:30 p.m., but please plan to arrive at 7:00 for refreshments and socializing. Bring Family and Friends!*

**Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs**



American Goldfinch.  
 Photo by Roger Shamley.

through the beautiful spring woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are encouraged to attend. The Walk leaders always welcome questions. *For information or if you need directions, call the Chicago Audubon office at 773-539-6793. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to join us. Everyone is welcome!*

**SATURDAY, MAY 16 and SUNDAY, MAY 17: BIRDATHON! 2015.** For the past fourteen years, the Chicago Audubon Society has held the Annual Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon! Cup Challenge as one of our major fundraising events. It involves teams of people competing to see how many different species of birds they can identify within a specified time

**APRIL AND MAY: EVERY SATURDAY AT 8:00 a.m. CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRD WALKS AT NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER,** 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. Migration time is here and the birds are passing through! Come join us to walk

limit. Please see Page 3 of this issue for full details. Anyone interested in participating on either day, whether part of a team or individually, should contact Dave Willard ([dwillard@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:dwillard@fieldmuseum.org)) as soon as possible. *New birders are encouraged to participate—this is much more about fun than competition!*

**MONTHLY—EVERY SECOND SATURDAY—ALL YEAR: 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.*

**ALL YEAR—SATURDAYS AT 8:00 a.m.: BIRD WALKS WOODED ISLAND JACKSON PARK.** Every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. These wonderful walks continue throughout the year, weather permitting. 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).*