



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

Periodicals

# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 5

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

**I**t'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!

**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](http://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 with your credit card online at our website, [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org). In either case, be sure to 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 order using a credit card 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, 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

## Chicago Audubon's 2015 Annual Birdseed Sale

**ORDER DEADLINE:  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**ORDER PICKUP DATE:  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**



*White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Roger Shamley.*

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 November 14, 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 November 14—this is very important. Please be sure to give a copy of your order to that person. If you have any questions about the ordering procedure, please do not 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 19.**

**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. to noon (buyers arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 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 19 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!

**An important change in the Chicago Audubon Premium mix:** Our premium birdseed mix has historically been comprised of 40% white millet, 35% black oil sunflower, 15% cracked corn, 5% safflower and 5% peanuts. This mix is by far our most popular seed available during the sale. In order to be kinder to the planet and to upgrade the premium mix to benefit the birds, we have decided to substitute the GMO cracked corn with re-cleaned wheat. Re-cleaned wheat is a favorite for most birds and is an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, as well as helping birds gain weight. We are happy to be able to offer this higher quality seed at the same price as last year for the Premium mix. *We believe your birds will be happy too!*

*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!*

### BIRDSEED SALE 2015 ORDER FORM Order Deadline: MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

If you prefer, you can place an order online at [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://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	\$15.00	
	20 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed	\$8.25	
	40 lb Black Sunflower	\$22.00	
	25 lb Black Sunflower	\$13.75	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	\$7.50	
	25 lb White Proso Millet	\$9.25	
	25 lb Medium Sunflower Chips	\$28.75	
	25 lb Safflower Seed	\$21.00	
	25 lb Nyjer Seed	\$42.00	
	10 lb Nyjer Seed per bag	\$17.00	
	Case Nyjer Seed (five 10 lb bags)	\$85.00	
	10 lb Peanut Pieces per bag	\$13.50	
	Case Peanut Pieces (five 10 lb bags)	\$67.00	
	Wild Bird Blend Suet Cake	\$1.25	
	Case Suet Cakes (12 cakes)	\$12.50	
	Sunflower Bell (15 oz)	\$3.25	
	Case Sunflower Bells (6 bells)	\$18.25	
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	

I will pick up my order on November 14 between 9 a.m. and noon at:

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chicago</b><br>Nature House/Erva Tool<br>3100 W Grand Ave<br>Chicago, IL 60622<br>(Loading area behind building) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>River Forest</b><br>Good Earth Greenhouse & Café<br>7900 W Madison St<br>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 call office at 773-539-6793 to charge your order over the phone.

I would like to volunteer on Seed Pickup Day, November 14, 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



**Chicago Audubon Program**  
***Climate Change and Birds in the Chicago Area***  
**Tuesday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
**North Park Village Nature Center**  
**5801 North Pulaski in Building D**

Over the past several decades the flora and fauna of the upper Midwest have begun responding to increases in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. This presentation will focus on how climate change affects the timing of migration and breeding and what additional changes are expected in the wintering and

breeding range of birds in the Chicago region. The full spectrum of environmental factors to which birds may be responding will be covered—and which of these factors may be the most important to plan for in the future. The Program will be presented by Dr. Doug Stotz, Senior Conservation Ecologist of the Field Museum.

Light refreshments and socializing at 7:00 p.m. The presentation begins at 7:30. Chicago Audubon programs are always open to the public. Membership is not required. Bring family and friends to join us for this important program. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Calendar of Events**

**Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs**

**September/October 2015**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 7:00 p.m. CHICAGO AUDUBON PROGRAM, *Climate Change and the Birds of Chicago*.** See announcement above.

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. Everyone is welcome!*

south of 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Westchester. Our walks are always open to everyone. Membership is not required. *For further information or if you have questions, contact John at 708-567-4363.*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 7:30 a.m. CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRD WALK AT SKOKIE LAGOONS.**

This Walk will precede the regularly scheduled Skokie Lagoons Workday. Everyone is welcome to the Walk and then you are also welcome to join us for the Workday which begins around 10:00 a.m. For the Walk, meet at Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge. For information and directions, please contact John Elliott at 708-567-4363. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon. *Everyone is welcome!*



*White-breasted Nuthatch.*  
*Photo by Mike E. Worthington.*

**EVERY SATURDAY BIRD WALKS, ALL YEAR, WOODED ISLAND IN JACKSON PARK, 8:00 a.m.**

Weather permitting, 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 OF EVERY MONTH, 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, call Dave Kosnik at 847-456-6368 or email skokielagoons@gmail.com.*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22. BIRD WALK AT BEMIS WOODS-NORTH, WESTCHESTER, 7:30 a.m.**

This walk will be led by John Elliott, Chicago Audubon Board member, to represent Chicago Audubon's support of the celebration of the Cook County Forest Preserve District's Centennial. Meet at the shelter at the far west end of the grove entrance on Wolf Road. The entrance to the grove road is a small road approximately one-quarter mile

**EVERY SATURDAY IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER BIRD WALKS AT 8:00 a.m. THE CHICAGO AUDUBON BIRD WALKS TAKE PLACE AT NORTH PARK VILLAGE NATURE CENTER, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. It's migration time and the birds will be passing through!**

Come join us to walk through the beautiful autumn woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are

**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!



**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](mailto:jim@oldoakhollow.com).

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

**COMPASS**

CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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 Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057  
[www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)  
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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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*"The Skokie Lagoons are a prime destination for water exploration in northern Cook County. This network of pools, channels and islands winds between Winnetka, Northfield and Glencoe. With public boat access (boasting some of Cook County's best fishing), biking and hiking trails and picnic areas, this well-loved, wooded preserve offers peaceful retreats and activities around every bend. The Skokie Lagoons Forest Preserve covers 894 acres."*

*Cook County Forest Preserve District  
fpdcc.com/skokie-lagoons*



*Skokie Lagoons. Photo courtesy of Forest Preserve District of Cook County.*

## The Skokie Lagoons A Jewel for Recreation—A Paradise for Volunteers

*By John Elliott  
Chicago Audubon Society  
Conservation Committee*

Long before there was a forest preserve, before a settlement called Chicago was founded on the prairie, before Jean Baptiste DuSable built a trading post on the Chicago River, when explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet made the first recorded passage by Europeans over the Chicago Portage, a grand old bur oak much like the one pictured here would have already been a maturing tree. Known to relatively few, the original still stands today surrounded by a tangle of buckthorn on the western edge of Erickson Woods preserve of the Skokie Lagoons. When the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the Skokie Lagoons during the great depression of the 1930's, the region gained a fishing, boating, hiking and biking recreation area—at the cost of losing a diverse marshland home to many wild creatures. From Willow Road to Lake-Cook Road the only remnants of those original communities is a sedge meadow and the neighboring grand old oak that lie between



*Bur Oak. Photo by A.L. Gibson.*

the levee and drainage channel of the lagoons.

Over the years much of the land was overrun by buckthorn and other invasive species of marginal value to wildlife. After the lakes of the lagoon system were dredged and rehabilitated in the 1990's, some hardy volunteers took on the challenge of remedying at

least a small portion of past neglect. Chicago Audubon's Jerry Garden was the first volunteer steward to work on removing invasive species at a lagoon site along Tower Road in Winnetka, beginning at the shore just east of the parking area along Tower Road. After Jerry left us for Alaska, Dave Kosnik and Daniel Kielsen took over as stewards. A few years later, Gary Morrissey also joined the stewardship team. In the past few years, work has been concentrated north of Tower, working east towards Forestway Drive.

Buckthorn has been removed from much of the target area. While buckthorn removal remains a regular workday activity—and a favorite of many volunteers—there is a renewed emphasis on follow-up work. Even though "it's not as much fun," Dave says, follow up maintenance is defense against re-colonization and is now a very important task. In spring, control of garlic mustard is also needed.

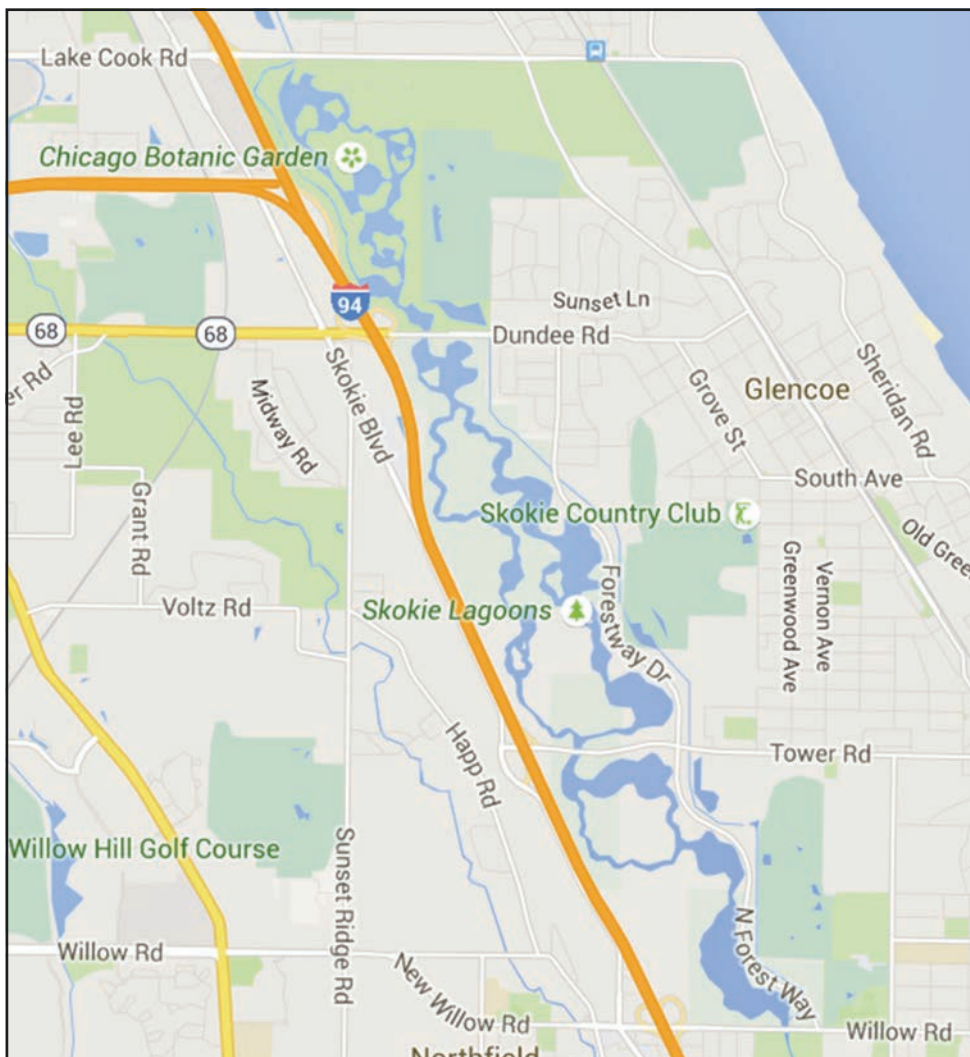
Quite a few years ago I put in my small bit of effort working with Mighty Acorns school groups removing buckthorn around that historic oak. In the past few years, responsibility for restoration there has fallen to Adam Kessel of the Cook County Forest Preserves. Unfortunately, he reports, the last school working there left the program two years ago, and the re-sprouting of buckthorn threatens to overwhelm what had been accomplished.

Meanwhile, volunteers worked with district contractors to remove teasel from the sedge meadow. Dave Kosnik reports success. If all goes well the meadow will only need prescribed fire for maintenance. Teasel removal

was spearheaded by the site's bird monitors who then documented the return of shrubland birds like Willow Flycatchers.

Daniel Kielsen is also president of an organization called the Backyard Nature Center (BYNC) which works with schools, turning the lagoons into something of an outdoor classroom. Their main focus of late has been on aquatics. The BYNC is a community organization in New Trier Township spanning Glencoe and Winnetka that works to connect children, youth, and adults with local natural areas. It is particularly active in bringing school groups to the Lagoons (and other preserves) for science lessons and service learning.

*Continued on Page 4 ...*



*Left to right: Volunteer Katie DeVogelaere; BYNC President Daniel Kielsen; Volunteer Dave Kosnik. Photo courtesy Forest Preserve District of Cook County.*



*Stewardship. New Trier High School: Backyard Nature Center is in its seventh consecutive year working with New Trier sophomore advisory groups doing service work in the Skokie Lagoons and local park districts. The groups usually remove buckthorn or garlic mustard and are always excited and enthusiastic to be doing service work. Photo Backyard Nature Center Newsletter 2014.*



## The Skokie Lagoons continued ...

Prothonotary Warblers and Red-headed Woodpeckers that have nested here testify to the importance of restoration for habitat. Migrant birds are finding critical resting stops here now. Lake restoration greatly improved resources for wintering waterfowl, including a Barrow's Goldeneye that was a winter visitor several years ago.

Dave says, "The Skokie Lagoons is a special place, a big area with a lot of diverse habitat in the middle of suburbia.

Many people use the lagoons for recreation, and the many native and migrant birds and other animals that live there make it a really important place." Thanks Dave, Daniel, and Gary! Thanks volunteers!

Workdays every second Saturday of the month welcome any and all volunteers.



Skokie Lagoons. Photo courtesy of Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

The reward is knowing you have contributed in a perhaps small but no doubt valuable way to the revival of habitat for birds and other creatures.

**Special Bird Walk Skokie Lagoons. September 12, 7:30 a.m.** Chicago Audubon is sponsoring a bird walk that will precede the regularly scheduled

monthly Skokie Lagoons Workday.

Everyone is welcome to the Walk and then you are also welcome to join us for the Workday which begins around 10:00 a.m. For the Walk, meet at Tower Road

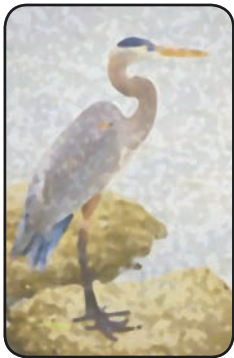
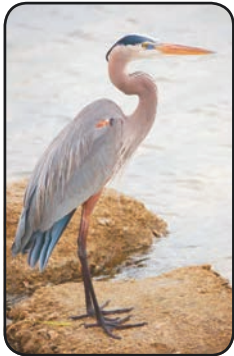
parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge. For information and directions, please contact John Elliott at (708) 567-4363. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to participate. Everyone is welcome!



Stretch of Tower Road opposite the bike trail parking lot in 2009, before habitat restoration, showing a continuous thicket of invasive buckthorn. Photo Google Street View.



Same stretch of Tower Road in 2012, showing progress of volunteer restoration efforts. Since this photo was taken, work has progressed all the way east to Forestway Drive, with similar results. Photo Google Street View.



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:**

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