



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

Periodicals

# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2018

## *Congratulations to the Winners of the Chicago Audubon Third Annual Photo Contest*

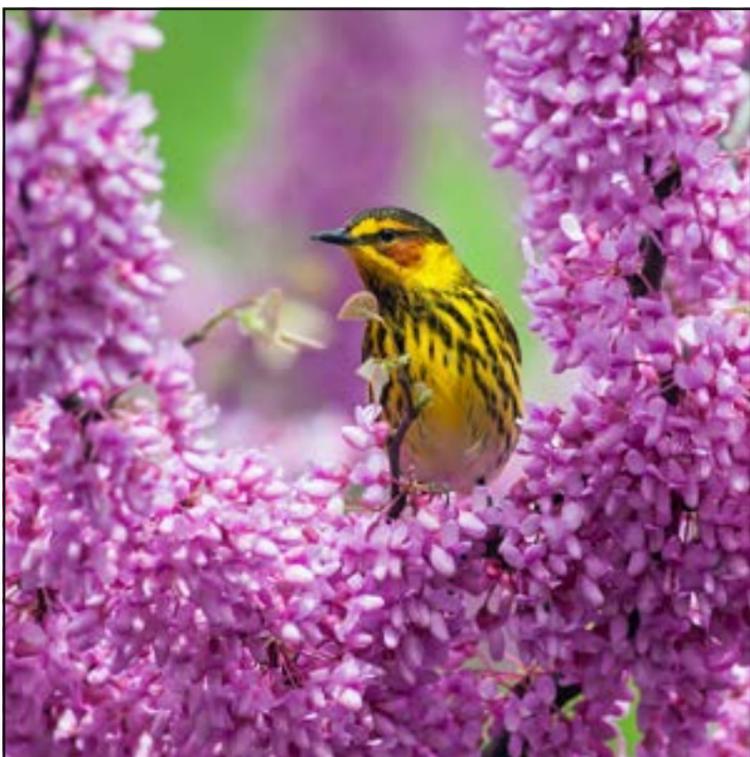
We would like to thank all of you who entered this year for sharing your beautiful images with us, and for helping us promote ethical bird photography. We also thank our judges for their valuable time and support. Many thanks to the the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanic Garden for donating prizes.



*First Place*  
Cedar Waxwing. Photo by Emil Baumbach.



*Second Place*  
Double-crested Cormorant with catfish. Photo by Leo Estrada.



*Third Place*  
Cape May Warbler. Photo by Michael Ferguson.



*Fourth Place Honorable Mention*  
Yellow-rumped Warbler. Photo by John Picken.



*Fifth Place Honorable Mention*  
Red-tailed Hawk pursuing Killdeer. Photo by Demayne Murphy.

### **~Saving the Earth and Dollars~ Change in *Compass* Delivery**

One of Chicago Audubon Society's (CAS) larger expenditures has been printing and mailing the bi-monthly *Compass* newsletter. In addition to the monetary cost, CAS is concerned about the cost to the environment of paper and the printing process. For those reasons, we no longer print and mail a hard copy of our newsletter. Instead, it will be delivered as a pdf via email to members of the Chicago Audubon Society Chapter for whom we have email addresses.

If you did not receive your copy of the most recent issue of the *Compass*, March-April 2018, it's because we don't have your email address. To receive future issues, please send your email address to [cas@chicagoaudubon.org](mailto:cas@chicagoaudubon.org). And remember, as always, current and back issues of the *Compass* are available on our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)), under the Newsletters tab.

You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend our programs or join any of our walks.  
For updates on dates and times, visit [chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org).

**Double Bird Blitz in the Palos & Sag Valley Preserves: Any day in June, 2018.** Last June, birders found 5,478 birds of 108 species in the hilly woods and prairies of the Palos and Sag Valley Preserves ... but we think there are more! We sighted the state-threatened Black-billed Cuckoo, the county's only June records for Prairie Warbler and Ring-necked Duck, 36 Orchard Orioles, and so much more! This June, we're going to beat that number. If you blitzed with us last year but want to spend more time in your section, please do! And if you didn't blitz with us last year but have spent the whole year regretting it—this is your big chance. Experienced birders can volunteer to cover a section that was not blitzed last year. To register for a section, go to our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)), or call our office at 773-539-6793. And anyone can join one of our two field trips taking place on June 1 and June 10. See below for details of the field trips:

**Friday, June 1 (7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon).** **Chicago Audubon Field Trip at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center/Bergman Slough Lemont, 1254 West 111th Street, Lemont.** June is a peak time for nesting birds in northeastern Illinois. We will hike Sagawau's trails to identify birds by field marks, vocalizations, behavior and habitat. Then, about 10:15 we will car pool to a nearby site, Bergman Slough, which is about 3.5 miles south, with different habitat, to continue our Birding Bonanza. Bring binoculars, camera, and dress for the weather of the day! Location: 1254 West 111th Street, Lemont; Sagawau Environmental Learning Center 630-257-2045; [Sagawauenvironmental.learningcenter@cookcountyil.gov](http://Sagawauenvironmental.learningcenter@cookcountyil.gov).

**Sunday, June 10 (8:00 to 10:00 a.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Field Trip, Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs.** Take a morning bird walk through various habitats in search of birds nesting in the area. Dress for the weather; bring binoculars if you have them. Little Red Schoolhouse 708-839-6897. [littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:littlered.schoolhouse@cookcountyil.gov).

**Saturday, June 16 (7:30 a.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Summer Nesting Bird Hike, Trailside Museum of Natural History, 738 Thatcher Ave, River Forest.** Look for resident and migratory nesting birds. Binoculars available if needed. Walk leader: John Elliott ([johnelliott4@gmail.com](mailto:johnelliott4@gmail.com)).

**Wednesday, July 18 (8:00 a.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods North Bird Walk.** Look for breeding woodland birds. Interesting species

that have summered here in recent years include Pileated and Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-eyed Vireo, Hooded and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Summer Tanager. Location: Wolf Road, between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz ([dfstotz@gmail.com](mailto:dfstotz@gmail.com)).

**Wednesday, August 22 (8:00 a.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods North Bird Walk.** Look for the tail end of breeding woodland birds, and the earliest fall migrants. Interesting species that have summered here in recent years include Pileated and



Chicago Audubon Bird Walk at Bemis Woods North, Westchester. Walk leader, Doug Stotz. May 15, 2018. Photo by John Elliott.

Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-eyed Vireo, Hooded and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and Summer Tanager. Location: Wolf Road, between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just east of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz ([dfstotz@gmail.com](mailto:dfstotz@gmail.com)).

**Tuesday, September 11 (7:00 p.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Program: Liam Heneghan, author of *Beasts at Bedtime: Revealing the Environmental Wisdom in Children's Literature*. North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 N Pulaski Road, Building D.** Liam is a conservation biologist (and father). He will examine the environmental underpinnings of children's stories and discuss how classic children's stories can provide a complete guide to environmental literacy. Please join us for socializing at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:15 p.m. If you have questions or need directions, call Chicago Audubon's office at 773-539-6793. Everyone is welcome!

**Every Saturday, All Year (8:00 a.m.).** **Bird Walks, Wooded Island, Jackson Park.** These wonderful walks continue throughout the year, weather permitting. Bring binoculars, field guides, and dress for the weather. Many species are

seen. Meet at the east side of Clarence Darrow Bridge, just south of Museum of Science and Industry. For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at [pat.durkin@comcast.net](mailto:pat.durkin@comcast.net).

**Every Second Saturday, All Year (10:00 a.m.).** **Skokie Lagoons Workdays.** These workdays are sponsored by Chicago Audubon. Activities include buckthorn cutting, brush pile burning and other management endeavors. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge, in Winnetka. For further information, please call Dave Kosnik at 847-456-6368.

*Every Friday starting August 24 through October 12 ...*

**Every Friday, August 24 through October 12, Chicago Audubon Bird Watching at the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (or whenever people feel like leaving).** Meet at the viewing platform on the east side of the Sanctuary. The group will remain on the viewing platform so people can arrive after 7:30 if they need to. Directions: Exit Lake Shore Drive at Irving Park, turn east and follow

that road (called Recreation Drive) south through parking lots. Go about half-mile to the large Totem pole. The Sanctuary is right behind the Totem pole. A scope will be available and coffee will be provided. For further information or questions, contact Josh Engel at [jengel2@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:jengel2@fieldmuseum.org).

*Every Saturday in September and October ...*

**Every Saturday in September and October (8:00 a.m.).** **Chicago Audubon Bird Walks at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D.** Come join us for migration time to see many birds and walk through the beautiful autumn 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 participate. Bring family and friends!



Wood Duck. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

## COMPASS

CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

5801-C North Pulaski Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60646-6057  
[www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)  
773-539-6793



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**Layout Design:** JustSayJoy.com

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

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**Office hours:** Monday – Thursday  
10:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
Closed Fridays and holidays

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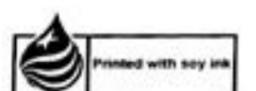
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**Editorial:** Skipper Joy Wolters, 773-539-6793, [cas@chicagoaudubon.org](mailto:cas@chicagoaudubon.org)



# The One Hundred Year Anniversary of *The Migratory Bird Treaty Act* A Most Important Treaty for the Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), signed into law in 1918, is among the oldest wildlife protection laws on the books. Its creation was one of the National Audubon Society's first major victories, and in the years since its enactment, the MBTA has saved millions, if not billions, of birds.

But despite its importance in the history of the conservation movement, many people may not really know what the MBTA is, what it protects, and what kinds of activities fall under the law. Read on to find out more about the MBTA, why it's at risk right now...

## What is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act?

The MBTA is a law that protects birds from people. When Congress passed the MBTA in 1918, it codified a treaty already signed with Canada (then part of Great Britain) in response to the extinction or near-extinction of a number of bird species, many of which were hunted either for sport or for their feathers.

[According to the US Fish & Wildlife Service \(USFWS\)](#), "The MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg or any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior. Some regulatory exceptions apply. "Take" is defined in regulations as: 'pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect.'"

Since its passage, the MBTA has broadened its international scope (via treaties with Mexico, Japan, and Russia) and has protected additional species (adding eagles, hawks, and other birds in 1972, for example). In 1962 it was updated to address how Native American tribes can collect feathers from protected birds for religious ceremonies (a practice otherwise banned by the MBTA).

## What birds has the treaty already helped?

The most obvious success story is the Snowy Egret, which was hunted almost to extinction for its delicate feathers before early conservationists like the Audubon Society, along with the federal government, stepped in to stop the slaughter. The MBTA is



Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Snowy Egret. Photo by Joy Schmoll.

credited with saving numerous other species from extinction, including the Wood Duck and Sandhill Crane. It continues to protect nearly all native birds in the U.S., covering more than 1,000 species.

Here's a link to the full list of the species protected under the treaty: [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Migratory Bird Program | Conserving America's Birds](#)

## Why are we talking about the MBTA now?

The century-old MBTA tries to keep birds as safe as possible. But many of the problems birds face today—oil pits and spills, high-tension power lines, communications towers, and the like—are (relatively) new. Birds can die when they land on an uncovered oil waste pit that appears to be typical pond, or run into an unseen power line. These kinds of deaths

are called "incidental takes," that is, deaths that occur due to activities that are otherwise lawful.

To limit incidental take, a number of companies, including in the oil and electric utility sectors, working with conservation groups and wildlife agencies, have already developed and often implemented best practices to protect birds, much of which are simple and cheap. ... When companies have failed to adopt these common sense practices and their activities have led to bird deaths, the MBTA provides a critical tool for accountability through enforcement of the law by issuing penalties in egregious cases, as well as a key incentive to implement these practices in the first place.

Legislation in Congress (HR 4239), and a new interpretation of the law by the administration, would end the ability to hold industries accountable for bird deaths. These proposals would prevent enforcement of "incidental" bird deaths, removing incentives for companies to adopt practices that protect birds from threats such as oil waste pits, and eliminating penalties for companies that kill substantial numbers of birds, including from large oil spills.

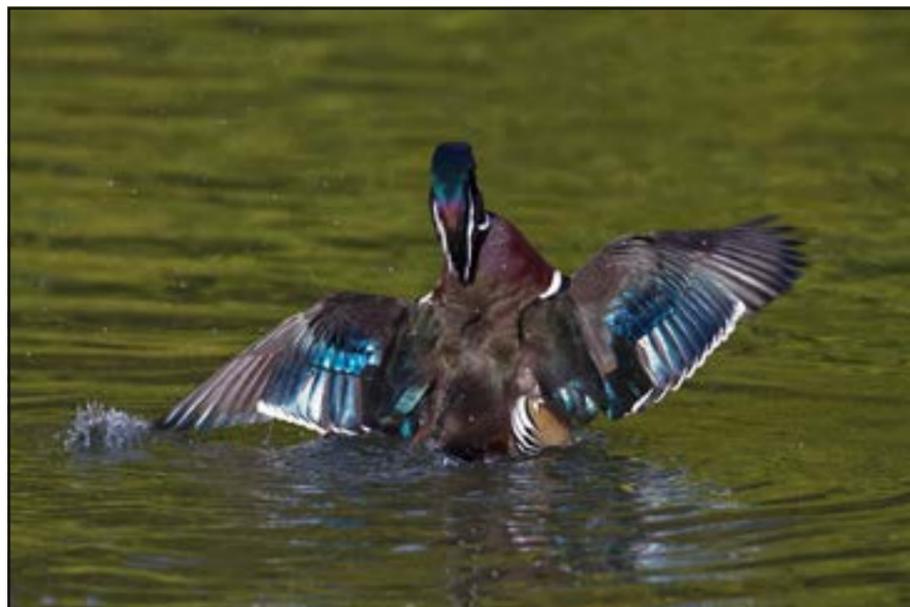
If these changes go through, only purposeful takes—say, shooting a Whooping Crane or stealing an eagle egg—would be prosecuted under the law. Imagine this: under these new proposed rules, BP would never have been liable for killing almost a million birds during the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Audubon vigorously opposes this revision to the MBTA.

## How many birds are at risk?

According to studies, power lines kill up to 64 million birds a year. Communications towers are estimated to kill up to 7 million birds per year, and uncovered oil waste pits account for up to another 500,000 to 1 million bird deaths every year. Data on wind turbines are harder to come by, but current estimates are approximately 234,000 bird deaths a year.

Here is the link that will help to voice your needed support of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: [https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/toJop1BDMESQACCpEh4SKQ2?ms=policy-adv-web-website\\_nas-engagementcard-20180112\\_mbt\\_a\\_alert](https://act.audubon.org/onlineactions/toJop1BDMESQACCpEh4SKQ2?ms=policy-adv-web-website_nas-engagementcard-20180112_mbt_a_alert)

Article compiled courtesy of National Audubon.



Wood Duck. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Snowy Egret. Photo by Krzysztof Kurylowicz.

## 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 with a check or your credit card information 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 code \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Minimum yearly membership: \$25. At \$65 or above, new Membership or Membership renewal includes an official Chicago Audubon hat.**

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Exact name on card \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail your completed form with check or credit card information to:**  
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Bright lights from buildings, along with reflective or transparent window and lobby glass, are hazards for birds migrating through Chicago.

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#birdthepreserves

# Double Bird Blitz

June 1 • Sagawau Environmental Learning Center • 7:30 am  
June 10 • Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center • 8 am

Male and female Orchard Orioles. Photos by Jerry Goldner.

## It's back ... Double Bird Blitz in the Palos & Sag Valley Preserves

Any day in June, 2018

Last June, birders found 5,478 birds of 108 species in the hilly woods and prairies of the Palos and Sag Valley Preserves ... but we think there are more! We had the state-threatened Black-billed Cuckoo, the county's only June records for Prairie Warbler and Ring-necked Duck, 36 Orchard Orioles, and so much more! This June, we're going to beat that number. If you blitzed with us last year but want to spend more time in your section, please do! And if you didn't blitz with us last year but have spent the whole year regretting it—this is your big chance. Experienced birders can volunteer to cover a section that was not blitzed last year.

To register for a section, visit [tinyurl.com/birdblitz](http://tinyurl.com/birdblitz) or call 773-539-6793.

Anyone can join one of our two field trips taking place on June 1 and June 10. See calendar on Page 2 of this issue and left side of our website homepage for details ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)).



Belted Kingfisher. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

The Chicago Audubon event, **“Camping with the Birds”** that was originally scheduled for May 11 and 12 had to be cancelled because the weather did not cooperate. Keep an eye on our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)) and on future issues of the *Compass* for news of possible rescheduling.