



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3

MAY/JUNE 2017

The 2nd Annual Chicago Audubon Spring Photo Contest

Chicago Audubon Society (CAS) is happy to announce the 2nd Annual Chicago Audubon Spring Photo Contest. All levels of photography experience are invited to join us! If you are not already a member, send a request to join CAS's Public Group on Facebook at www.bit.ly/2oPT908. Post all your favorite bird photos of the 2017 Spring migration during the month of May. The winning photos must have been taken and posted during the month of May 2017. We will be featuring numerous images throughout the month on our two Facebook pages, the CAS Public Group and CAS Home Page.

To enter the contest you will be required to repost your ONE favorite photo with the tag #CAS from June 1st to June 4th. Multiple entries will be passed over. Please no photos of nesting birds, owls or pileated woodpeckers. We want this to be a positive experience for all! The winning images will need to be sent to CAS in full resolution for publication in the CAS Compass Newsletter. We recommend 240+ dpi for the best online quality. The winning photos will be announced on the CAS Facebook pages on Monday, June 12th.

Prizes To Be Awarded

1st Place: The Museum of Science & Industry "Household Membership"

2nd Place: Six daily passes to the Morton Arboretum

3rd Place: Chicago Botanic Garden's "Day in the Garden Package"



American Bittern. Photo by Barbara Mroz.

Birdathon! 2017

Saturday, May 13 through Sunday, May 14

For the past eighteen years, the Chicago Audubon Society has held the Annual Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon Cup Challenge as one of our fundraising events. 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. The Cup challenge 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, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane or Will counties on a specified date. This year those dates are Saturday, May 13 or Sunday, May 14 (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 have its name added to the Beecher Cup which is on display in the Bird Division at The Field Museum. Last year, six teams identified 172 species, with the winning team finding 156. 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). 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. If you wish to donate or pledge by credit card, please go to our website (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!

Five Competition Categories:

Open: The traditional Big Day challenge, with the slight variation that

a team limits itself to one of the following counties: Cook, Lake, DuPage, McHenry, Kane, Will, and Kendall; all species identified anytime between midnight May 13 and midnight on May 14, or midnight May 14 to midnight May 15, 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 13 to midnight May 14, or midnight May 14 to midnight May 15.

Good Birding!

Dave Willard

Birdathon Coordinator,
Chicago Audubon Society
dwillard@fieldmuseum.org



Willet. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Birdathon! 2017 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, 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

International Migratory Bird Day Festival

Saturday, May 20
LaBagh Woods
5400 North Cicero Avenue
(Foster Avenue and Cicero Avenue)
Chicago

From 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the beautiful LaBagh Woods, welcome back birds at this free International Migratory Bird Day Celebration. Enjoy seeing birds migrating from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Watch bird banding, meet a raptor, plant a shrub. Join a beginner bird walk, learn how to make your windows bird-friendly, tour the bird-friendly plantings. Listen to a local *a cappella* singing group "The Bullfrogs," which includes Chicago Audubon's own Laurel Ross. Participate in family activities and more. Refreshments will be available.

Chicago Audubon is a sponsor of this event. New graduates from their migration monitoring class will be

present, along with representatives of many other partner organizations. The event is part of the "Chicago Urban Treaty Project," generously funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star & Urban Waters Restoration Program through funding provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Bird Treaty Program. For more information, a map, and the list of partner organizations go to: www.fpdcc.com/event/international-migratory-bird-day-celebration or call 708-386-4042, or email experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov. LaBagh Woods is located at 5400 North Cicero Avenue, at the intersection of Cicero and Foster. Bring family and friends!



Golden-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Double Bird Blitz in the Palos & Sag Valley Preserves #birdthepreserves

June 3
**Sagawau Environmental
Learning Center**
12545 West 111th St, Lemont

June 17
**Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center**
*9800 Willow Springs Rd,
Willow Springs*

The Blitz is a joint project of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and Chicago Audubon Society and is sponsored by the Bobolink Foundation, the Forest Preserve Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Join birders of all levels as they scout the hilly woods and prairies for songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. Birding will start at 7:00 a.m. and go all morning. The results will help the Forest Preserves of Cook County to better manage biodiversity in this priority area.

Experienced birders are needed to lead small teams that will each cover a unique territory, and anyone can join a team. The countdown lunch begins at 11 each day at the nature center. Come to one or both dates and bring your friends — our goal is to count every bird in the Palos & Sag Valley Preserves! Details about start times and meeting locations for your team will be available from team leaders after you register.

Watch the Chicago Audubon website (chicagoaudubon.org) for registration info, or call (773-539-6793) to leave us your email address and we'll send you registration information.

Trail Nature Center for more information (847-824-9360).

Saturday, May 20 (9:00 to 11:30 a.m.). International Migratory Bird Day Festival. LaBagh Woods, Foster and Cicero, Chicago. See the top of this page for full description. Contact Phone is 708-386-4042, or email experience.nature@cookcountyil.gov.

Saturday, June 3 (7:00 a.m.). Birding Blitz at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, 12545 West 111th Street, Lemont. Join birders of all levels as they scout the hilly woods and prairies for songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. Bird counting will start early and go all morning. Watch the Chicago Audubon website (chicagoaudubon.org) for registration info, or call (773-539-6793) to leave us your email address and we'll send you registration information. See above on this page for more details.

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COMPASS

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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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Office hours: Monday – Thursday
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Closed Fridays and holidays

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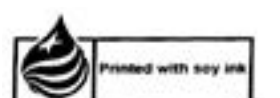
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Editorial: Skipper Joy Wolters, 773-539-6793, cas@chicagoaudubon.org



Calendar of Events Birdwalks, Workdays, Programs May/June 2017

You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to attend our programs or join any of our walks. They are all free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome! For current updates on dates and times, please keep checking our website, chicagoaudubon.org.

Thursday, May 11 (7:30 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Camp Pine Woods Bird Walk, Grove 1, E. Central Road, Glenview. Explore riparian woodlands and shrublands at this rarely visited site. Meet in last section of parking lot (south of Lake and east of the river). Walk leader: John Elliott (708-567-4363).

Tuesday, May 16 (7:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Skokie Lagoons Birding Trip, Winnetka. It should be the height of migration. Meet at Willow Road at I-94 (Erickson Woods Parking Lot). Walk leader: Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

Wednesday, May 17 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods Field Trip, Bemis Wood North, Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for migrant songbirds, especially warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and sparrows plus resident woodland birds.

Park at Bemis Woods North, eastern-most part of parking area, just west of Wolf Road. Leader is Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).



Blue-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Saturday, May 20 (6:00 a.m. to noon). River Trail Nature Center Big Sit, River trail Nature Center, 3120 Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook. See how many birds you can see without moving from a central spot! Call River

Book Review

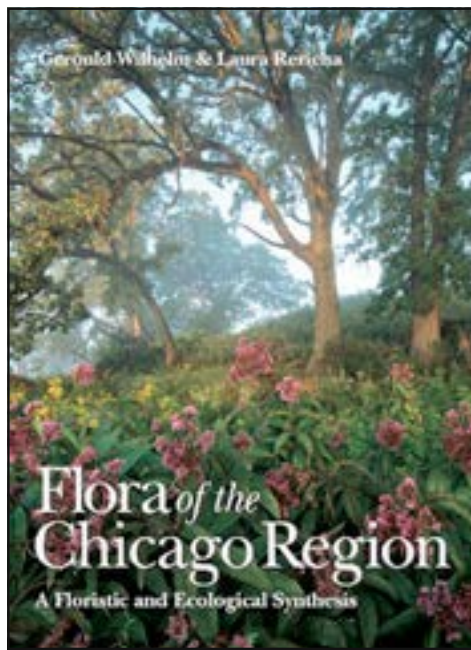
Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis

By Gerould Wilhelm, Conservation Research Institute
Laura Rericha, Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Weighing a full nine pounds and 1,300 pages, a truly noteworthy local nature book was released April 8 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. A half day symposium on the book attracted several hundred people, most of them not academic botanists, but conservation practitioners such as land managers, volunteer stewards and rare plant monitors who, after the symposium, enjoyed each other's company at a celebratory reception. I mention this event because the

Compass is read mostly by birders and it should be noted this book is NOT a typical flora, but a rich resource of interest to a wider audience. In fact, one of the most amazing things about this *Flora* is that it includes FAUNA! Insects, birds, and other taxa are illustrated and discussed as they relate to plants, and we are reminded that the natural world is closely interconnected in ways that science is beginning to probe more deeply.

For those not familiar with the history behind this book it should be noted that the Chicago region has been blessed for decades with splendid plant books by Floyd Swink (botanical hero, now deceased) and Jerry Wilhelm (living hero) that have sometimes baffled academic taxonomists. **Q:** *Why are the plants listed in alphabetical, not taxonomic order?* **A:** *To be more useful to non-botanists.* The idiosyncrasies of



Flora of the Chicago Region: A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis will be available for purchase in mid April at indianaacademyofscience.org. The book will also be available late April at the Morton Arboretum bookstore.

these books were designed in to add to their usefulness.

Ecologists in the Chicago region were very fortunate that we did not learn our local plants by using the Peterson's guides that cover huge swathes of the country, but instead had a resource infinitely more intimate that covers 22 counties in this region. Space does not permit a description of earlier versions of this book, but I recommend a lively account of that history found at conservationresearchinstitute.org/flora-of-the-chicago-region.html.

Suffice it to say, *Plants of the Chicago Region* (PoCR) in its four earlier editions were arguably among the most important tools of conservationists. The 3rd and 4th editions are commonly, and respectfully, referred to as "the Bible." To give you a hint of my own interest, when the 4th edition of

PoCR was released in 1994, I bought 3 copies: one for my office, one for my car, and one for home. From these books we learned which plants grew in which counties, and which other plants associated with them. We learned which plants were common and grew just about anywhere, and which were rare and precious and are only found in true natural remnants.

Seventeen years in the making, this new book is still to be discovered. Though not a field guide due to its size, this enormous tome is intended to continue to influence and aid those of us who are working on conservation of natural areas. An electronic version will follow that will be easier to take to the field. New in this version are:

- 1,544 original illustrations by Margot Mazur for each of the 944 plant genera, as well

as morphological descriptions.

- A whole new section of associated insects, birds, and mammals that have relationships with our plants: nectaring, collection of pollen, seed or fruit, myrmecochory (seed dispersal by ants), and much more.
- Twenty-four pages of gorgeous color photos, mostly botanical and insect close-ups.
- More fine-grained plant community descriptions than in previous editions

and more closely described in conjunction with natural divisions and geology.

- The etymology of scientific names, making them much easier to learn. As Wilhelm says, "Scientific names are basically common names in Greek or Latin."
- A key to identifying the 48 species of oak galls in our region.
- The inside front cover is a lovely map of the Chicago Loop area in 1833 showing prairie, wooded areas, and other features.

Many people will be spending time delving into the riches of *Flora of the Chicago Region* in the next months. I look forward to learning a lot.

Reviewed by
Laurel Ross
Chicago Audubon Society

Important Notice to Our Members

As we announced in the last issue, we will be going digital with this newsletter sometime this year. If you have never sent us your email address and wish to receive a link to each new issue every two months by email, please send your email address to our office at: cas@chicagoaudubon.org. The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter in the current form is one of our major expenses, and we want to apply those funds more directly to conservation projects. Please remember, all issues of the Compass can always be viewed on our website (chicagoaudubon.org). Click on the word "Newsletter" in the top row of tabs on the homepage. There you will see the archives of all our issues in "living color."



Golden-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Kirtland's Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Yellow Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Continued from Page 2 ...

Saturday, June 17 (7:00 a.m.). Birding Blitz at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs. Join birders of all levels as they scout the hilly woods and prairies for songbirds, raptors and waterfowl. Bird counting will start early and go all morning. Watch the Chicago Audubon website (chicagoaudubon.org) for registration info, or call (773-539-2393) to leave us your email address and we'll send you registration information. See page 2 of this issue for more details.

Tuesday, June 20 (7:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Skokie Lagoons Birding Trip, Skokie Lagoons, Willow Road at I-94 (Erickson Woods Parking Lot), Winnetka. Let's give breeding birds their due! Walk leader is Dave Willard (dwillard@fieldmuseum.org).

Wednesday, June 21 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods Field Trip, Bemis Wood North, Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for songbirds, especially warblers, vireos, flycatchers, thrushes and sparrows plus resident



Golden-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just west of Wolf Road. Leader is Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

Wednesday, July 19 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods

Field Trip, Bemis Wood North, Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for resident woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just west of Wolf Road. Leader is Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).



Golden-winged Warbler. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

Wednesday, August 16 (8:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bemis Woods Field Trip, Bemis Wood North, Wolf Road between 31st and Ogden, Westchester. Look for resident woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods North, easternmost part of parking area, just

west of Wolf Road. Leader is Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com).

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 Clarence Darrow Bridge, just south of Museum of Science and Industry. For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin at 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.



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.

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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 with a check or your credit card information 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 code

 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 with check or credit card information to:
 Chicago Audubon Society • 5801-C North Pulaski Rd • Chicago, IL 60646