

MARCH - APRIL 2019

Volume 33 Issue 2

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

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Chicago Audubon Society
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Craig Stettner Remembered

by Alan Anderson, CAS Board Member

The Chicago Audubon Society lost a friend, a warm and helpful person, an educator and an excellent birder during a tragic accident while swimming in the ocean in Costa Rica with his family on Christmas Day.

But when Craig Stettner unexpectedly passed away that day, so many more were affected:

- Students at Harper College, where Craig taught Environmental Science and Biology since 1994
- The Forest Preserves of Cook County, where he spent many hours working to clear invasive species and to restore habitat at Spring Creek Forest Preserve
- Citizens for Conservation
- Friends of Busse Woods, where he was a board member
- The Dragonfly Monitoring Network, which he coordinated from 2005-2011

And, of course, especially his family. Craig really loved his family, frequently making the trip to the Madison, Wisconsin area to spend time with his niece and nephews there. He spent many hours caring for his father who suffered from dementia. After his father passed, Craig visited his elderly mother every evening, to ensure she was well cared for, according to his brother David.

One thing is certain. Craig loved birds. David says, "Craig had handwritten bird lists just about everywhere, his car, mom's house, his house, his attic, I keep finding them. I think we are all amazed he was not in more accidents. His eyes were in the skies more than the roads when he was driving."



Craig began his involvement with Chicago Audubon Society in 2008 on the Illinois Spring Bird Count, when he helped cover a number of forest preserves along the Des Plaines River, as well as a few areas near Harper College. He faithfully helped with the Spring Bird Count every year thereafter, and, because he was an excellent birder with keen eyesight and a 'great birding ear', he almost always found some uncommon species on those days. He even found a Sora in his mother's yard that first year! Craig participated in Christmas Bird Counts and surveyed a number of Northwest Cook areas for nesting birds.

Craig joined the Chicago Audubon board in 2012 and actively served on the board until the present. He gave several programs for CAS, including one on dragonfly identification (one of his other specialties) and one on Costa Rica. He led many bird walks,

March 23 Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet and Annual Members' Meeting

White Eagle Events & Convention Center 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles | Register at Chicagoaudubon.org

All CAS members are encouraged to join us as Chicago Audubon honors people and organizations who have made valuable contributions to conservation, education, and the protection of birds. ([See JAN/FEB Compass for names of 2019 awardees](#))

A brief CAS annual members' meeting will be convened after dinner to elect new and returning Board members.

The program for the evening will be "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Birds." by Jerome McDonnell host of WBEZ Worldview. Jerome will talk about his own development as a nature lover and changing philosophy about covering environmental topics. He will also share his perspective on advocacy work from his years of radio conversations.

including CAS Birdathon fundraisers. Craig was known for helping 'wherever needed' at all our Birding America Symposia (even standing outside to direct participants to the lunch hall — a very important little detail!).

He was a regular volunteer at CAS birdseed pickup days helping many folks get their seed bags to their cars. Julie Sacco, former CAS board member and Naturalist at North Park Village Nature Center, said "I always had a great time working with Craig at the CAS birdseed sale because he always smiled, he was always there to sling 40- pound bags and he always checked on fellow volunteers to see if anyone needed anything, from a hot coffee to a pair of gloves." Another CAS board member said of Craig, "He seemed to have a knack for lending support to others, no matter the relationship or situation. Clearly, he had a humanitarian gift."

Always humble, always helping, always volunteering, always trying to make others happy.

The large church where his Memorial Celebration was held was packed with people whose lives Craig had touched. The most striking theme was how much Craig cared about people — really cared. He had so much love.

Craig was a great example of just how much influence a good teacher can have in his community and world. He was not just 'a teacher' at Harper College. Former student Jennifer Chung said, "He cared about his students. He wasn't just a professor — he was also a mentor." He often brought his students into the natural world with excursions outside the classroom. He regularly led trips to Costa Rica to introduce students to the rich flora and fauna of the rainforest.

Here are some of the words that Harper students used to describe Craig:

Humble, patient, kind, caretaker, educator, altruistic, friend, saint, contagious, brilliant, loyal, dedicated, brave, philanthropist, encourager, optimistic, empathetic, compassionate, funny, quirky, gentle, inspirational, unforgettable, a mentor, friend, selfless, Godly, loving unconditionally, eco-warrior.

Many students have said that Craig influenced their choice of profession. Bill Waltrich said he "was the reason I pursued a career in natural resources."

The Chicago Audubon Society plans to honor and remember Craig's contributions in a number of ways. The CAS Board has renamed our Education Award "The Craig Stettner Award for Environmental Education." We will have a field trip in his honor in April at Penny Road Pond and adjacent Spring Creek Forest Preserve, where he did so much ecological restoration.

Donations to CAS in memory of Craig will be divided between a bench or plaque in the Spring Creek Forest Preserve remembering Craig's restoration work there and a continuing scholarship in his name in environmental education at Harper College.

Craig received the William H. Miller Conservation Award from the Barrington-based Citizen's for Conservation in 2013. In response Craig stated, "I'm honored to be the recipient of an award that's linked directly to conservation. My goal every year is to expose my Harper students to real ecological work in the hope that it inspires them to learn even more about biology, the environment and ecology, and our role in all of it. They're able to help a good cause, while learning, and that to me is the real reward."

Mission accomplished, Craig, but we will all definitely miss you!

Vice-President's Letter

by Judy Pollock

This is the last Compass of Dave Willard's presidency, and we want to take a minute to appreciate him and everything he's done for Chicago Audubon Society in the five years he has served as our leader.



In addition to being supremely likable — always a big asset for a board president — Dave brought the level-headed approach of a scientist to accomplishing our organization's mission. He identified a number of roadblocks and set about removing them efficiently and effectively.

Dave brought on key new board members and focused on improving the productivity of our organization. Our most successful Birding America Symposium ever, in 2018, benefited greatly from his leadership. He called on his colleagues at the Field Museum to diversify and deepen our field trips and programs. He sparked the creation of Bird Friendly Chicago (see update in this issue). As his presidency closes, we are launching a new design for our Compass newsletter and sharing with our membership a strategic plan for CAS (our first!).

In short, Chicago Audubon Society is healthy. We are in our best financial shape ever. We have a talented and engaged

board, and in 2019 we are looking forward to working in some new Chicago neighborhoods to find new audiences for birding, as well as unveiling a new website.

At our March Environmental Awards Banquet, we'll be electing some new board members, and at the April board meeting a new slate of officers will be elected. After two demanding and successful terms, Dave has chosen not to run. The new board and officers will preside over a newly energized and focused

organization, thanks to Dave and his leadership. We will all look back on his presidency as a happy and productive time for the organization. And we will look forward to a bright future.



Should we feed birds?

by John Elliott, CAS Board member

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 65 million Americans of all ages watch, feed and landscape for birds. Birding is one of the most popular and fastest growing forms of outdoor recreation in America. Having a feeder keeps us in touch with our colorful neighbors in our own backyards. National Audubon, Cornell Labs, the Fish and Wildlife Service and others offer helpful online guides to safe and enjoyable feeding.

<https://www.fws.gov/southeast/pdf/fact-sheet/bird-feeding.pdf>

www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/birdfeeding_basics.pdf

Though it may seem odd for CAS, there are questions worth asking.

Adding tons of seed annually to our environment is an uncontrolled experiment with impacts on birds that we do not fully understand.

Ranges of cardinals and other species have been expanding north for years. With so many other changes in our

environment, we don't know what role bird feeders play. Studies have shown that some House Finches in Arizona and Great Tits in England have evolved changes in beak shapes better adapted for getting at feeders. We don't know if that will mean significant long term changes in survival or in relationships to other species.

More immediately, we want to believe that our feeders help birds, but there is surprisingly little evidence of that. In a study of Black-capped Chickadees in rural Wisconsin, removal of feeders for two weeks in winter had little impact. Those birds had alternative food sources and outcomes for more urban birds may be different. <https://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter>

Feeders may lead to more deaths from window strikes. Proper cleaning and maintenance of feed stations will alleviate the potential spread of disease but not eliminate it. A feeder may be a smorgasbord for outdoor cats. And there is always the problem of squirrels, rats and other "nuisances" like starlings and pigeons, which can lead to conflicts with neighbors.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology used Project FeederWatch and Christmas Bird Count data to assess impact on 98 species that visit feeders. They found that most birds that use feeders are doing pretty well, and those that aren't had experienced significant loss of habitat or other problems. "This means that although feeding birds may not be harmful to the species that use feeders the most, it also isn't helpful to the species that most need our help." (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/analysis-do-bird-feeders-help-or-hurt-birds/>)

After all, though, feeding birds is a great way to enjoy and interact with the natural world, and that may be its greatest benefit. Yes, enjoy your clean, well-maintained feeders. And while you watch, consider also what you can do for the many birds that your feeders can't help.

Birds in my Neighborhood[®]

is a volunteer-driven program for grades 2 through 5 that helps students see nature in their community through the observation of birds.

Volunteers help run the program by working with teachers in two classroom visits and a field trip to a local natural area. New volunteers must attend trainings to prepare for each part of the program. To become a Volunteer Instructor the commitment is 15-20 hours per season. To provide field trip support the commitment is 5-10 hours per season.

Last year 1700 Students in 56 Classrooms at 30 Schools were supported by 110 Volunteers.

SPRING 2019 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 6, 8:45-11:15a.m.
Schoolyard Bird Walk Tutorial

Tuesday, April 16, 9-11:30 a.m. Field Trip Tutorial

Interested? Contact: schools@openlands.org
or OR CALL 312.863.6276

Compass Chicago Audubon Society

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Office hours Monday — Thursday, 10:00 a.m. — 4:15 p.m. | Closed Fridays and holidays

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The Compass is the official publication of the Chicago Audubon Society, a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The Chicago Audubon Society, an Illinois non-profit corporation, has been granted tax-exempt status by the federal government. The Compass and the Chicago Audubon Society are not responsible for the accuracy of all information published or for opinions expressed in this publication.

Looking to the Future

Every organization needs step back and to examine its reason for being from time to time, and recently the CAS board did just that. We're proud to share a summary of our strategic plan with you. For the entire document, including short-term objectives, please see the CAS website <https://www.chicagoaudubon.org/>. We are engaging more and more of our members in the implementation of this plan. Do you see a role for yourself? Let us know! Email us at cas@chicagoaudubon.org with your ideas or questions. There's room for many more people in the Chicago area to do the rewarding work of engaging people with nature and advocating for bird conservation.

Chicago Audubon Society Strategic Plan 2019-2020

Vision

All communities in our region understand, value and protect birds, other wildlife and habitat.

Mission

Chicago Audubon Society connects people with birds and nature through educational programming, field trips, advocacy, stewardship and research.

Ethic

Problem-solving, collaborative, science-based, welcoming, inclusive, enthusiastic about learning and teaching about birds and nature.

Long Term Outcomes

- All our diverse communities have access to habitats that support birds.
- All our diverse communities have access to educational experiences that foster an understanding of bird biology, identification and conservation.
- All our diverse communities engage in activities that promote bird welfare and healthy habitat.
- Diverse habitats in the CAS region support stable or increasing populations of nesting and migrating birds.
- Public policies exist that reduce threats and protect habitat.

Birding and Conservation: Compelling Voices

New program series

In partnership with Chicago Ornithological Society and the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago Audubon presents this exciting series to energize and illuminate us with their insights and perspectives on birding and conservation.

All presentations are free and will be held at the Notebaert at 6:30 pm, preceded by a cash bar and light refreshments at 6:00 pm.



March 28 — Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, Distinguished Research Professor and Canada Research Chair in Ecology and Conservation Biology at York University, Toronto. Dr. Stutchbury, author of *Silence of Songbirds*, *The Bird Detective* and *Behavioral Ecology of Tropical Birds*, is hard at work on her fourth book, which delves into the thorny issues of which species we should choose to try to save from extinction. Her program will focus on birds such as the California Condor, Whooping Crane and Kakapo. This program will delve into the difficult and soul-searching questions we confront in the Anthropocene era about what we can and should do for birds on the brink of extinction.



September 19 — Lynn E. Barber is a patent attorney with a passion for birding. She has done several big years: a record-breaking Texas big year in 2005, an ABA big year in 2008 which she finished with 723 species, the third-best at the time, and an Alaska big year. She chronicled her ABA big year in her book *Extreme Birder: One Woman's Big Year*. She is also the author of *Birds in Trouble*, which focuses on 42 bird species and what can be done to improve their situations. For her talk in this series, she will speak to us about her "Big Year Birding Adventures," which will focus on quests and adventures from her Texas and Alaska big years, which will be covered in a forthcoming book. Now a resident of Alaska, we are fortunate to have her regale us here in Chicago!



An Unexpected Long-Distance Traveler

by Annette Prince, Director, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM) receives more than 10,000 calls each year from people reporting birds in need of help. One of the more remarkable calls this past spring came from North Chicago (Lake County). A young person called the CBCM hotline (773-988-1867) to say that her mother had found a bird lying in the street near their home. The family had safely contained the bird in a closed cardboard box and was looking for help to get it to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

North Chicago is quite a distance from most of our network, but the young lady and her mother were determined to find help for the bird they had rescued, so I made the drive to pick up the bird. When I arrived, they showed me the spot where the bird had been lying in the street at the end of an alley. The mother said the bird couldn't walk or fly and was dragging itself in the street — sure to be hit by a car if she didn't move it.

This being a residential suburban neighborhood, I was expecting nothing more remarkable than a pigeon, robin or sparrow — but during migration you never know! I was surprised when they brought out a large computer box. Even though the residents assured me the bird could not fly, we NEVER open a container and risk the bird escaping. So I carefully peeked into the box, expecting to find a little backyard bird, but a huge and very impressive loon!

It must have crash-landed on the street, as aquatic birds sometimes do when they mistake dark wet pavement for water. Once grounded, loons are unable to take off. Their anatomy is specialized for the aquatic life they live, but is not suited for walking on land. To take flight, loons need at least 100 feet of open water to paddle/run along to propel and lift themselves into the air. This bird would surely never have left the street on its own.

Volunteers are Needed

Each year Chicago Bird Collision Monitors recover more than 6000 birds that have collided with buildings. With your help, more birds can be saved.

Training

To participate in bird rescues, volunteers must attend a training session to learn proper bird capture, containment and transport techniques. This spring, the following training sessions for new volunteers are offered.

To register, or for further information, call 773-988-1867 or email us at info@birdmonitors.net

Place: Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago

Dates: March 12, 21, 27 and April 9

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Place: Willowbrook Wildlife Center, Glen Ellyn

Date: March 24

Time: 1 to 4 p.m.



I transported the loon to Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn. Upon examination it was found to have multiple grave injuries from which it could not recover, including a broken beak, necrotic foot sores, and primary feather and bone damage to its wings. Sadly, this beautiful bird could not be saved, but it was donated to the Field Museum, where an amazing discovery was made!

Initially thought to be an immature or winter-plumaged Common Loon, experts at the museum recognized the delicate necklace below its throat that identified it as a Pacific Loon — a bird normally only seen thousands of miles from North Chicago! Key details leading to the identification were the small body and bill size, dark back with limited spotting, extensive and sharply demarcated dark area on the neck in addition to the diagnostic necklace. This species is a coastal or offshore migrant. It is rarely seen inland, and only very rarely in the Midwest.

According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Pacific Loon is “perhaps the most abundant loon in North America. It spends most of the year on the Pacific Ocean, returning to inland Arctic tundra lakes only for three months in summer to breed.” To read more about the Pacific Loon and other loons, visit https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pacific_Loon/

This was the first Pacific Loon specimen from Illinois to be added to the Field Museum collection, where it will be available for research for generations to come.

The Chicago region is on the path of many birds making remarkable long-distance journeys. It is important to always be alert for any birds that need our help. You never know what surprising travelers you may find! CBCM welcomes your calls and also welcomes volunteers and donations which allow us to continue rescuing and protecting our feathered friends.

Bird-Friendly Design Ordinance Introduced in Chicago City Council!



Chicago Audubon Society, Chicago Bird Collision Monitors and the Bird Friendly Chicago working group are delighted to announce that on January 23, 2019, Alderman Hopkins (2nd Ward) sponsored the introduction of Amendment of

Municipal Code Title 13 new Chapter 13-150 entitled “Bird Friendly Design Ordinance.” The ordinance establishes bird-safe standards for new building construction to reduce bird mortality from the hazards of building design and materials. This legislation is an important action to make our beautiful city a safer place for millions of resident and migratory birds.

Chicago’s Committee on Health and Environmental Protection will now review the ordinance. Our hope is that it will be voted on this spring and implemented by January 2020.

Contact your city representatives to support this ordinance and to let them know how important it is that we protect the birds that enrich our lives and that are crucial for our healthy environment.

And on the national front...

Bird-Safe Buildings Act Reintroduced in Congress!

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) and U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith (R-VA) have reintroduced the Bird-Safe Buildings Act H.R. 919. The bipartisan bill is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials, design features and lighting. As many as a billion birds a year die in collisions with buildings in North America alone. You can take action and ask your members of Congress to support this bill. <https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-bird-safe-buildings>

Camp Pine Habitat Stewardship

It has been a most productive and interesting year for the CAS restoration project at Camp Pine Woods Forest Preserve in Glenview. Since our first bird walk in April 2017 (treated to the sight and sound of juvenile Barred Owls), a discovery exploration with Craig Billington and other Forest Preserve ecologists (treated to a close encounter with a smooth green snake), and our first seed collection workday in fall of that year, progress is evident.

Our first and primary target area is a remnant prairie/shrubland. Our stated goal is to remove invasive shrubs like buckthorn, while enhancing the native shrub community for nesting habitat for shrub-loving birds such as Blue-winged Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats. After the first brush-cutting spring workday in 2018 the remnant was mostly left alone for the rest of the spring/summer season to not disturb any nesting birds. In spring of 2019 we hope to do a more complete census of the birds nesting there and we are seeking volunteer birders to monitor the site regularly.

A meadow of mixed Eurasian grasses and some other native plants (great late summer show of blazing star) within the footprint of the CCC camp itself benefited from a fall 2017 fire started by vandals. Taking advantage of that surprise bonus, some poison ivy and woody invasives have been removed from shrub edges there, and some native prairie and shrub seeds have been planted. With luck, there will be a show of black-eyed Susan and other native flowers this year.

Forest preserve ecologists have identified an ecologically suitable seed collection area along the Des Plaines River nearby, from which many species will be reintroduced both to the prairie and along the woodland trail that leads there from the parking lot. We will need volunteers to help collect this precious seed throughout the growing season.

Degraded and heavily shaded woodland edges are being opened up and seeded. A project for this spring is the protection and the transplanting of some red oak seedlings.

In the highly degraded floodplain woods near the parking lot, rescue of the native vines from the invasive multi-flora rose and buckthorn is planned. Natives holding on here include hackberry, bitternut hickory, black raspberries and blackberries. Native yellow honeysuckle, wild yam, moonseed and hog peanut have already been planted as a vine hedge. This has been a good place to see spring migrant warblers and should be even better as new seeds take root. We look forward to finding out.

Most of the credit for the on-the-ground work goes to volunteer Ken Schaefer for stepping up as site steward, working with the Forest Preserves and conducting workdays. There's a lot more to be done; volunteers are needed and welcome for this site.

Please check the calendar in this newsletter for information about workdays and bird walks.



Online Plant Sale Coming in April!



Chicago Audubon Society will be working with Natural Communities again to provide native plants from local ecotypes for sale, many of which are difficult to find in the retail sector. Indigenous species have adapted to our local conditions over many centuries, growing naturally without fertilizers, supplemental irrigation or herbicides. Whether your landscape is sunny, shady or in between, there will be plants to choose from. Native plants provide food for pollinators, birds and other wildlife, shelter for wildlife — and they are beautiful! CAS member and native plant geek Nancy Bradt is organizing the sale — thanks Nancy!

Complete information will be available in the April issue of the Compass and on our website in March. Plant orders can be placed online in April; orders can be picked up in May in Batavia (lots of great birding nearby) or shipped to your home. A share of the profits will benefit Chicago Audubon Society.



Calendar of Events

Bird Walks, Workdays, Programs

You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon Society to attend our programs or join any of our walks.

For updates on dates and times, visit chicagoaudubon.org.

Saturdays, March 2 and April 6 — 9 a.m. to noon. CAS Camp Pine Woods Brush Cutting Stewardship. Get your daily exercise and contribute to bird habitat improvement at this CAS restoration project. We are cutting invasive brush to create more open space in the woodland area. We will provide tools, gloves and snacks. Dress for some moderate work; wear sturdy shoes or boots and old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty or torn. Meet at the farthest parking lot at Camp Pine Woods FP on Euclid/Lake Avenue between Des Plaines and Glenview, just east of the Des Plaines River. Enter on the south side of Lake Avenue, eastbound ONLY from Des Plaines River Rd. (there's no left turn westbound on Lake). Contact: Laurel Ross lross@fieldmuseum.org

Saturday, March 23 — CAS Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet and Annual Members Meeting, White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles. CAS honors those who have made contributions to conservation, the protection of migratory birds and other wildlife, and have helped to conserve, preserve and enhance the varied habitats and open spaces of the greater Chicago region. A brief annual members meeting will be convened after dinner and before an inspiring program. Cash bar 5 to 6 p.m.; Family-style Dinner 6 p.m. Speaker: Jerome McDonnell, host of WBEZ *Worldview*, *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Birds*. To register, go to CAS website chicagoaudubon.org.

Wednesday, March 27 — 8 a.m. CAS Bird Walk, Brezina Woods, Westchester. Visit an under-birded forest preserve that can be very productive during migration. We'll look for remnant wintering species and early spring migrants,

possibly Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Eastern Phoebes, kinglets, Fox Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Be prepared for muddy conditions. Park at the easternmost end of the parking area, east side of Mannheim Rd. between Cermak and 31st. Entrance is just south of the bridge over Salt Creek. Leader: Doug Stotz dfstotz@gmail.com. (*Brezina Woods Bird Walks will continue on the 4th Wednesday of the month through November, except June.*)

Thursday, March 28 — 6 p.m. *Triage for Endangered Birds: Which species do we save?* Bridget Stutchbury of York University, Toronto, will delve into the difficult, soul-searching questions we must confront in the Anthropocene era about what we can and should do for birds on the brink of extinction. Part of the Compelling Voices in Birding and Conservation series at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, in partnership with the Chicago Ornithological Society and the Notebaert. Cash bar and light refreshments at 6 p.m. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. The program is free but fills quickly; *registration is required*. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/triage-for-endangered-birds-which-species-do-we-save-tickets-54099668565>

Friday, March 29 — 7 p.m. CAS Woodcock Walk, Wolf Road Prairie, Westchester. Courtship dances and calls of woodcock are a highlight of early spring. Meet by the large kiosk on 31st St. just west of Wolf Road. Please register for this walk by calling Trailside Museum, 708-366-6530. Leader: John Elliott.

Sunday, March 31 — 1 p.m. *Are Birds Dinosaurs? Yes!* See how descent from dinosaurs shaped the birds of today, with CAS's John Elliott. Trailside Museum, 536 Thatcher, River Forest.

Tuesday, April 9 — 7 p.m. CAS Program. *What Have We Done to Deserve All These Cranes?* North Park Village Nature Center, 5801, N. Pulaski Road, Building D. Stanley A. Temple, Senior Fellow & Science Advisor of The Aldo Leopold

Foundation, will review the remarkable recovery of our midwestern Sandhill Cranes, describe his research on their migratory behavior and discuss some recent controversies, such as crane hunting, that have attended their new status as an abundant bird.

Saturday, April 13 — 7:30 a.m. CAS Bird Walk, Camp Pine Woods, Glenview. Enjoy this early spring walk to see what birds are taking advantage of our Camp Pine restoration work. Regular bird monitoring is part of the work plan; we will enter all observations in eBird for the record. Meet at the farthest parking lot at Camp Pine Woods FP on Euclid/Lake Avenue between Des Plaines and Glenview, just east of the Des Plaines River. Enter on the south side of Lake Avenue, eastbound ONLY from Des Plaines River Rd. (there's no left turn westbound on Lake). Leader: John Elliott johnelliott4@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 24 — 8 a.m. CAS Bird Walk, Brezina Woods, Westchester. Visit an under-birded forest preserve that can be very productive during migration. We'll search for migrants including Least Flycatchers, Blue-headed Vireos and early arriving warblers like waterthrushes, Black-and-white, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Northern Parula, Pine and Black-throated Green. Be prepared for muddy conditions. Park at the easternmost end of parking area, east side of Mannheim Rd. between Cermak and 31st. Entrance is just south of the bridge over Salt Creek. Leader, Doug Stotz dfstotz@gmail.com. (*Brezina Woods Bird Walks will continue on the 4th Wednesday of the month through November, except June.*)

Saturday, April 27 — 7:30 a.m. CAS Craig Stettner Memorial Field Trip. Join us as we explore "Craig's Woods" and sections of Spring Creek Forest Preserve, including Penny Road Pond, Galloping Hill grasslands, wetland and prairie areas north of Penny Road in Barrington Hills, where Board Member Craig Stettner led and helped in restoration and habitat enhancement efforts. We'll look for sparrows, kinglets, warblers and other early migrants, enjoy spring wildflowers and witness what's been accomplished by Craig and his volunteers. Meet at Penny Road Pond FP (about a mile west of Rt. 59, in Barrington Hills). **Registration required**; maximum 40 people. To register, email co-leader Alan Anderson, casresearch@comcast.net (preferred method) or call the CAS office, 773-539-6793. Due to limited parking (20 car limit), car-pooling is strongly recommended. (*See article in this issue for more on Craig's life and accomplishments.*)

Every Saturday, April and May — 8 a.m. CAS Bird Walks, North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Building D. Come join us for spring migration in the beautiful woods surrounding the Nature Center. All levels of birders are encouraged to attend. Leader: Marjorie Pries.

For information or directions, call the CAS office, 773-539-6793. Bring family and friends!

Every Saturday, All Year — 8 a.m. CAS Bird Walks, Wooded Island, Jackson Park. These wonderful walks continue throughout the year, weather permitting. Bring binoculars and field guides; dress for the weather. Many species are seen. Meet at the parking lot south of the Museum of Science & Industry, which is accessible via Science Drive, the intersection just south of 57th Drive/MSI. You do not need to be a member of Chicago Audubon to participate. For details and directions, contact Pat Durkin, pat.durkin@comcast.net. Everyone is welcome!

Every Second Saturday — All Year, 10 a.m. Skokie Lagoons Workdays. These workdays are sponsored by CAS. 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.

Cover photo: Indigo Bunting, Jerry Goldner; p.2: Anna Constanza; p. 3 Pat Miller; p. 4: Black-capped Chickadee, Duane Heaton; p. 7 Pacific Loon, Annette Prince; p. 8: Blackburnian Warbler, Miranda Brandon; p.9 Laurel Ross (top) Nancy Brandt (bottom); p.10: Sandhill Cranes, Duane Heaton; American Woodcock, Jerry Goldner; p. 11 Red-bellied Woodpecker, Duane Heaton.



Chicago Audubon Membership Form

If you wish to become a new member or renew an existing membership, you may:

1) Mail in this form with a check or credit card information, or 2) Charge your membership online (at chicagoaudubon.org), or 3) Call the office with your credit card information at 773-539-6793. Below is a summary of CAS membership levels and associated benefits:

Level	Price	Family Included*	CAS Hat	Recognition in Compass**	Free admission to CAS annual major event***	Exclusive Benefactor field trip
Student (25 and younger)	\$10					
Individual	\$25					
Family	\$40	•				
Supporter	\$75	•	•			
Steward	\$100	•	•	•		
Sponsor	\$500	•	•	•	•	
Benefactor	\$1,000+	•	•	•	•	•

Your name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Phone _____

Email (required to receive Compass newsletter) _____

Check (payable to Chicago Audubon Society) Visa MasterCard Discover

Exact name on card _____

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

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