



CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Periodicals

COMPASS

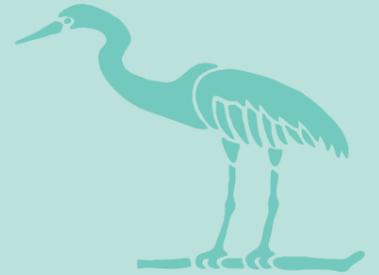
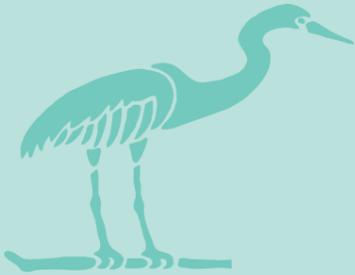
Navigating the world of birds and nature

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE

CHICAGO AUDUBON'S
BIENNIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS PROGRAM
AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WILL BOTH TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017



On March 25, 2017, Chicago Audubon will hold its Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet to honor 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. This year, the Awards Dinner will be followed by the Annual Members Meeting and the presentation of the evening's program, "The Ghosts of Conservation."

- **Cocktails (cash bar) will be available from 5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00 p.m.**
- **The Awards will be presented around dessert time.**
- **The Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. following the Awards dinner. If you will be attending the Annual Meeting only, please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m.**
- **If you wish, you may attend both the Awards Banquet and the Annual Meeting.**

The charge for the Banquet dinner will be \$33 per person. To make dinner reservations online, please go to our website, chicagoaudubon.org and follow the links. If you prefer to send a check, please be sure to include your phone number, address, and dinner preference (chicken, salmon, or vegetarian). Mail your check along with that information



Snowy Owl. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

***This year both the Awards Banquet and the Annual Membership Meeting will be held on the same evening and at the same location:
The Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee / Manheim Avenues
(between Algonquin and Oakton) in Des Plaines.***



Snowy Owl. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

to Chicago Audubon, 5801-C North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois 60646. If you have questions, please contact Board Member Alan Anderson at casresearch@comcast.net, or call our office at 773-539-6793.

Again, if you wish to only attend the Membership meeting (which includes the program), please plan to arrive a little before 7:30 p.m., and please give us a call so we have an approximate count of the number of people to expect.

At the Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee (Dave Willard, Annette Prince, and Bobbi Asher) will present the slate of names to be voted on by the Membership for election to the Chicago Audubon Board of Directors. Chicago Audubon is proud to have nominated the following individuals for election: Alan Anderson, Bonnie Duman, Jeffrey Sanders, Patricia Miller, and Chris Van Wassenhove.

After the dinner, the Awards Presentation, and the Members Meeting, John Elliott, Chicago Audubon Board Member who worked for the Cook County Forest Preserve District for many years, will present the evening's program, "The Ghosts of Conservation." Take a *virtual trip* to the iconic places that some of our heroes and heroines of conservation have lived and worked over the decades. A few surprises might be on the itinerary.

Recipients of the 2017 Environmental Awards are presented on Page 3.

We look forward to seeing you on March 25!

A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE

from the Chicago Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society

“The nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency is deeply concerning. Please email your U.S. Senators [using the link below] and urge them to ensure the next head of the EPA will protect birds and people. ...”

<https://action.audubon.org/onlineactions/w57K1XLL7USzWKV2GEWiw2>

Robins in Winter

Many people are surprised when they see American Robins in winter. But although some American Robins do migrate, many remain in the same place year-round. Over the past 10 years, robins have been reported in January in every U.S. state, except Hawaii, and in all of the southern provinces of Canada.

As with many birds, the wintering range of American Robins is affected by weather and natural food supply, but as long as food is available, these birds are able to withstand quite severe cold,

and do well for themselves by staying up north.

One reason why they seem to disappear every winter is that their behavior changes. In winter robins form nomadic flocks, which can consist of hundreds to thousands of birds. When spring rolls around, these flocks split up. Suddenly we start seeing American Robins yanking worms out of our yards again, and it's easy to assume that they have “returned” from migration. But what we're seeing is the switch from being nonterritorial in the winter time to a more aggressive

behavior for defending a territory in advance of courting and raising chicks. This behavioral switch is quite common in birds.

Usually these flocks appear where there are plentiful fruits on trees and shrubs, such as crabapples, hawthorns, holly, juniper, and others. To attract robins to your yard, provide a source of water and try serving dried or fresh fruit. For example, cut an orange in half and place the inner side up on a flat surface. If there is a flock anywhere in your area, it won't be difficult to attract their attention!



“American Robin Convention” by Carolyn Lehrke is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Vegetarian Recipe for Suet

With this vegetarian version of suet (traditionally it's made from rendered animal fat), you can provide the perfect winter substitute for birds that normally feast on insects. This lipid-rich treat can help prepare year-round residents for the long winter and is quite the draw for birds such as woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees, nuthatches, and titmice. Check out this recipe, inspired by “The Misfit Baker” blog.

Note: Not recommended for outdoor temperatures above 50 degrees.

Recipe courtesy of National Audubon.

Materials:

- 1 1/2 cups shortening (look for palm oil free options)
- 3/4 cups nut butter (any kind)
- 3 1/2 cups wild bird seed
- 1 cup quick oats
- 1/2 cup corn meal
- Ice cube tray

Steps:

1. Mix the dry ingredients of bird seed, oats, and corn meal together and set aside.
2. Combine the shortening and nut butter in a separate bowl and melt. Stir until completely combined.
3. Pour the melted mixture into the dry ingredients and stir until combined.
4. Spoon mixture into the ice cube tray.
5. Freeze for one to two hours and place in your suet feeder!



White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Jerry Goldner.



Tufted Titmouse. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

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Editor: Skipper Joy Wolters

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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

Office Administrator: Skipper Wolters, 773-539-6793, cas@chicagoaudubon.org

Office hours: Monday – Thursday
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Closed Fridays and holidays

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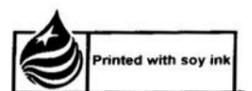
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Editorial: Skipper Joy Wolters, 773-539-6793, cas@chicagoaudubon.org



Congratulations to the Recipients of the Chicago Audubon Society 2017 Environmental Awards

The Chicago Audubon Society Biennial Environmental Awards honor people from many walks of life for their contributions to conservation and birding in the Chicagoland area. The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following Awardees for 2017.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Excellence in Environmental Reporting (Print)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kathy Andrews Wright Current editor Illinois Audubon Magazine, past editor Outdoor Illinois, IDNR.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Educator</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Liam Heneghan Professor of Environmental Studies DePaul University</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Political Service</i></p> <p>Paul D’Agostino Evanston Park District (Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Steve Wilson Wilmette Park District (Gillson Park Bird Sanctuary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Single Act (Individual)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Libby Hill Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment— Single Act (Group)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">LaBagh Woods Restoration Project (Chicago Ornithological Society)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Avocation</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bob Fisher Bird Conservation Network and bird monitor</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Vocation</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">John Rogner U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kankakee Refuge</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Protector of the Environment—Group</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poplar Creek Prairie Stewards (Steve and Jill Flexman, and John Navin)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Service to Chicago Area Birders</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matt Cvetas and Josh Engel Leading/Advising Illinois Young Birders</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Young Environmentalist</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Henry Griffin Oak Park Bird Walks, Illinois Young Birder</p>

The Hour of the Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks

By Terry Tempest Williams

Reviewed by Laurel M. Ross
Chicago Audubon Society

“National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”
Wallace Stegner, 1983

“Wilderness is not my leisure or my recreation. It is my sanity.”
Terry Tempest Williams, 2016

In her latest offering, *The Hour of the Land*, Terry Tempest Williams has written a beautiful and very personal book celebrating America’s national parks. Combining her talents as a skilled naturalist, an outspoken advocate and a celebrated author, Williams gives us evocative portraits of twelve very different parks, showing the vast range of experiences possible in our national treasures.

In part, this book is a memoir uncovering deep connections between her family and the landscape. In part, it is strongly worded social commentary. Throughout, it is a natural history of our continent filled with gorgeous and scrupulously accurate observations of birds, plants, wildlife and the spectacular landscapes preserved in our parks.

Williams does not avoid serious social issues. The essay about the Gulf Islands National Seashore is a



Grand Tetons. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

clear-eyed description of the failures and crimes that resulted in the devastating Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010. Her reporting on “the magnitude of this political, ecological and spiritual crisis” is both informative and heartbreaking. One hopes this kind of penetrating criticism can lead to positive change. “To bear witness is not a passive act.”

Fittingly in the centennial year of the National Park Service, Williams describes the evolution of the interpretation of history that park visitors receive. I was shocked to learn that it was not until the 1990s that at Gettysburg National Military Park the abolition of slavery (not states’ rights) was acknowledged as the reason for the Civil War. Similarly, Little Bighorn

Battlefield National Monument was called the Custer Battlefield National Monument until 1991 when the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho were at last no longer demonized in park interpretation.

The Hour of the Land is an inspiring and challenging meditation on the most important issues of our time: Human rights, conservation of biodiversity, peace and war, climate change.

I find hope in this book and I recommend it. “In a time when it feels like we are a nation divided, I am interested in how a sense of place can evolve toward an ethic of place ...”

The Hour of the Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks

Author: Terry Tempest Williams
Illustrated. 395 pp. Sarah Crichton
Books/Farrar, Straus & Giroux. \$27.

Wednesday, February 15 (8:00 a.m.): Bemis Woods South Bird Walk, 1100 Ogden Ave, Western Springs. Look for wintering woodland birds. Park at Bemis Woods South, Grove 8, far north end of parking area (past Go Ape Treetop Adventure). Walk Leader: Douglas Stotz (dfstotz@gmail.com). Go to chicagoaudubon.org to check for updates on homepage "Upcoming" calendar.

Saturday, February 18. The seventh biennial Wild Things Conference, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). This all-day Conference brings together volunteers, advocates, citizen scientists, researchers, and nature enthusiasts from across the Chicago region and will take place February 18 at a new conference space in the University of Illinois Chicago — the UIC Forum. You will be welcomed for an inspiring day of presentations, workshop, and networking opportunities designed for

the conservation community. Go to wildthingscommunity.org/wild-things-conference-2017 for details.



Silver-spotted Skipper. Photo by Roger Shamley.

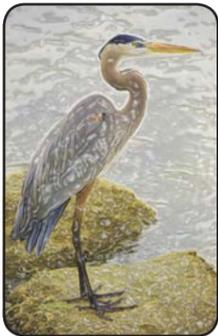
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Tuesday, March 21 (7:00 a.m.): Skokie Lagoons Bird Walk. Skokie Lagoons, Winnetka. Look for lingering winter birds and the front-runners of spring migration. Walk leader is Dave Willard, dwillard@fieldmuseum.org. Go to chicagoaudubon.org for updates.

Saturday, March 25. The 2017 Biennial Environmental Awards Banquet, Program, and Members Meeting. After the Banquet, Award presentation and Members Meeting, the program for the evening will be "The Ghosts of Conservation." Do you believe in ghosts? Visiting the places people lived and worked keeps them alive in our minds. Take a *virtual trip* to the iconic places that some of our heroes and heroines of conservation lived and worked. A few surprises might be on the itinerary. See pages 1 and 3 for details of the entire evening.

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. Everyone is welcome!

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. Everyone is welcome!



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

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