



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

Periodicals

# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

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JULY/AUGUST 2018

## Profile of Emil Baumbach, First Place Winner Chicago Audubon's Third Annual Photo Contest

*Many thanks to all who participated in the 2018 spring photo contest. Extra special thanks to Jerry Goldner who proposed the photo contest a few years ago, and has done so much to make it a success.*



First Place Winner: Cedar Waxwing. Photo by Emil Baumbach.

Of all the great submissions, the first place winner was Emil Baumbach of Oak Park who graciously responded to the news, "Sharing and enjoying everyone's beautiful photos is what it's all about."

Emil is the photographer who horrified the birding world last fall with his dramatic picture of a dog killing a Stilt Sandpiper at Montrose Beach. Since then security has improved at Montrose, and Emil's photo with the accompanying article helped bring attention to the harm dogs can do when they are in the wrong place.

Emil is an outdoorsman who has been "hooked on birds" since he first visited Point Pelee National Park during warbler migration fifteen years ago. He explains "I've met some of the most interesting and supportive birders and photographers that have made this more than just a hobby. It is really a community of nature lovers who bend over backwards to help, teach, and encourage each other. Having

a Facebook site (Chicago Audubon Society) that encourages nature conservation, participation, and sharing photographs is a valuable resource."

Chicago Audubon would like to encourage others to share their photos of birds, other wildlife, and nature on the Facebook page so we can continue to build our "community of nature lovers."

*Laurel Ross, Chicago Audubon*



American White Pelican. Photo by Emil Baumbach.

You do not need to become a member of the CAS page to see and respond to posts. [www.facebook.com/Chicago-Audubon-Society-42764072370](http://www.facebook.com/Chicago-Audubon-Society-42764072370)

### Chicago Audubon Program

Mark your calendars now for September 11

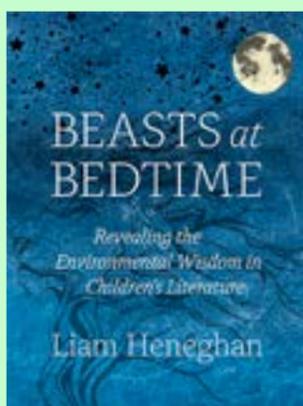
Liam Heneghan, author of  
***Beasts at Bedtime: Revealing the Environmental Wisdom in Children's Literature***

North Park Village Nature Center  
5801 N Pulaski Road, Building D

*"Children's stories are important because in them we get a simple and powerful ratification of the idea that wild nature nourishes us, even though it may be occasionally terrifying."*

*Liam Heneghan*

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. Liam is also a professor of environmental science and studies at DePaul University. He is a Dubliner, an



occasional poet, and a father of two grown children to whom he read every night of their early years.

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!

### Bird Seed Sale

Details of Chicago Audubon's  
Annual Fall Seed Sale



White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Jerry Goldner.

**will be published in the next newsletter and on our website ([chicagoaudubon.org](http://chicagoaudubon.org)).**

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).

**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 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 west of Wolf Road. Leader: Doug Stotz ([dfstotz@gmail.com](mailto:dfstotz@gmail.com)).

**Sunday, September 2 (9:00 a.m.). Chicago Audubon Bird Walk, Bluff Spring Fen, Elgin.** Volunteers and bio-blitz participants have counted 450 plant species, 57 butterfly species, more than 20 dragonfly species and almost 100 migratory and nesting bird species in this unique Illinois Nature Preserve. Late summer will be a delight for flowers, early migrant birds and late season butterflies. This is the first of a series of four walks to the far corners of the Cook County Forest Preserves. Entrance to the preserve is through Bluff City Cemetery, 945 Bluff City Blvd, Elgin. Meet at the cemetery entrance to make our way to the trail head. For directions: [fpdcc.com/bluff-spring-fen](http://fpdcc.com/bluff-spring-fen). Co-leaders are John Elliott at [johnelliott4@gmail.com](mailto:johnelliott4@gmail.com) and Laurel Ross at [lross@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:lross@fieldmuseum.org).

**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!



Common Yellowthroat Warbler. Photo by Emil Baumbach.

**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 [josh@redhillbirding.com](mailto:josh@redhillbirding.com).

**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!

**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.

## The Indigo Bunting

Always Wonderful to See and Hear

We receive calls each spring from people who have sighted groups of Indigo Buntings in their backyards and in the parks. This is not unusual. At their wintering grounds and during spring and fall migration, they feed in flocks on lawns and open grasslands. Indigo Buntings, like many other songbirds, migrate at night using stars for guidance. They possess an internal clock that enables them to continually adjust their angle of orientation to a star—even as that star moves through the night sky. How cool is that!

A male Indigo Bunting learns his songs from nearby adult males, but not his own father. Because of that, adult males that are a few hundred yards apart from each other generally sing different songs, while those in the same "song neighborhood" share nearly identical songs. They sing as many as



Indigo Bunting. Photo by Julio Mulero. From Flickr, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

200 times per hour at dawn and keep up a pace of about one per minute for the rest of the day. And a local melody

may persist for up to 20 years and will gradually change as new singers add novel variations.

Indigo Buntings nest in fields and the edges of woods, roadsides, and railroad rights-of-way. The female chooses a concealed nest site in low vegetation, within a meter of the ground. She locates the nest in a crotch or fork where branches meet, amid a supporting network of vertical and diagonal twigs. The male is watchful but does not participate. Males defending territory approach each other with slow, fluttering "butterfly" display flight, holding their wings at right angles to their bodies. Early in the breeding season, you may see two males grappling in the air and falling to the ground. Even while claspings each other's feet in their territorial battle, they are loudly singing!

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**Report sightings to:** 773-539-6793

**Report injured birds to Chicago Bird Collision Monitors hotline:** 773-988-1867

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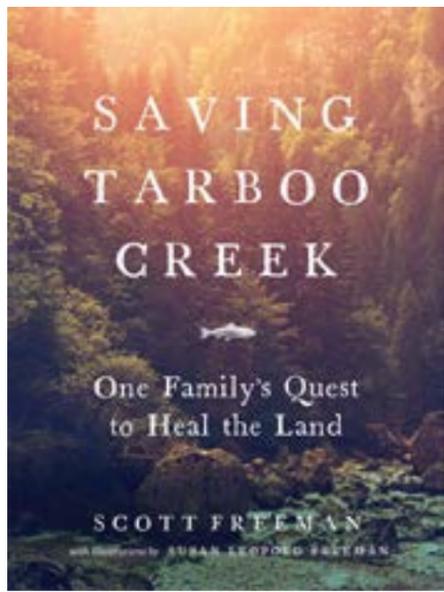
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Book Review

# Saving Tarboo Creek: One Family's Quest to Heal the Land

by Scott Freeman

Illustrations by Susan Leopold Freeman

are entreated to “notice things.” It is a simple but life-changing skill. Freeman explains: “This book is about small things, like watching birds brighten a February afternoon or hearing a tree frog on a cold, moonless night ... but it’s also about a big thing: what life will be like in 2100 when ...almost half of the species alive today are extinct ...”

As Freeman describes his family’s efforts to restore a small degraded stream in western Washington, we can easily connect to many of the

challenges they faced. They worked tirelessly to replant thousands of trees and then to protect those young trees from the hungry beavers and deer who also inhabit the landscape. Their struggle to outwit invasive species with only limited resources is an enormous and daunting task that we can also relate to.

This family and the community they have engaged are working to make the world a better place for all of us. On one level they are focused on restoring

salmon spawning habitat. On a deeper level they have set out “to discover a set of values based on self-restraint and on commitment to the long term health of human and natural communities ...” They show us how to live by those values as they pursue the goal of finding “a harmony with each other and the land.”

I can’t help but think that Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*, the seminal writing that has inspired generations of land restorers, would be delighted by this book. Freeman, a college biology professor, deeply respects science while appealing to our hearts and spirits. His fine writing teaches us ecology by drawing us into his stories and engaging our imagination. The last chapter, titled “A Natural Life,” is filled with good advice summarized in four beatitudes: Be engaged, be simple, be real, and be present.

It is easy to see problems all around us, but Freeman tells us not to be discouraged. His response is “We have work to do.”

Book review by Laurel Ross

There is nothing more welcome in our troubled time than a beautifully-told story about people living good lives and finding meaning in connecting with nature by restoring health to ailing ecosystems. This book is that.

Through the voice of Scott Freeman and the illustrations of his wife Susan Leopold Freeman, granddaughter of conservation giant Aldo Leopold, we

*“If any book were to woo humanity back to the forest through sheer, earnest charm, it would be this one.”*

From a review in *Foreword*

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Sandhill Cranes. Photo by Emil Baumbach.



**CHICAGO BIRD COLLISION MONITORS**

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**

## 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.**

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