



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2002

Chicago Audubon Co-Sponsors Eagle Viewing Trips



Photo by: Keith Wedoe, Copyright 2002

If you've never seen a bald eagle before, there's no time like now. The winter weather is mild, and Chicago Audubon is co-sponsoring two trips to the Mississippi River, this month and next, for eagle viewing.

Just two-and-a half years ago, the bald eagle was de-listed from the endangered species list, federally and in Illinois. It is still considered a threatened species, even though it is more common today than it was at the turn of the century. One of the first birds listed when the Endangered Species Act was passed in 1973, bald eagle populations had been drastically reduced from a combination of habitat

loss, illegal hunting, and the effects of pesticides, namely DDT and PCB's. The banning of DDT in 1972 and efforts to protect nesting sites and habitat, have led to the eagle's comeback.

In Illinois, numbers of bald eagles have steadily increased at an average annual rate of 8% since 1987. The 2001 midwinter count of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources came to 1,555 individuals, including 1,175 along the Mississippi River. This compares to less than 250 individuals in 1987 when the midwinter count began.

In neighboring Wisconsin, the nesting population increased to 770 pairs in year 2000, a substantial increase from 82 pairs in 1970.

The only eagle species living strictly in North America, our national symbol may live up to 40 years, weigh up to 15 pounds, and have a wing span of 80 inches, with females slightly larger than males. Unlike the golden eagle, the diet of the bald eagle is primarily fish. Eagles hunt by snatching prey with their powerful talons. That is how they catch fish swimming near the surface of water.

Bald eagles can be seen along both the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, having flown south from their summer range in Canada and Alaska. Although the white head and tail of an adult are unmistakable, a juvenile eagle undergoes a series of plumage changes, is brownish in color, and does not acquire a white head and tail until it reaches four or five years of age.

On our winter eagle trips, you are likely to see eagles gliding over the river, perching on tree limbs (especially tall cottonwoods) along river bluffs, sitting on their nests, or diving for fish.

So come on out and celebrate the resurgence of this wonderful raptor. To sign up for these trips, see the Calendar of Events on Page 4.

— Gail Goldberger



Photo by: Keith Wedoe, Copyright 2002

FOR THE BIRDS!

Reaching Out to Elementary School Students

Are you a teacher with an interest in birds? Do you have weekday time to spend in classrooms and parks helping grade school students learn about birds and their habitats? For the Birds! seeks teachers who want to help kids get connected to bird stewardship.

An outgrowth of the original For the Birds! project, born of the Migratory Bird Treaty between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City of Chicago, the new For the Birds project is a collaboration between Chicago Audubon and National Audubon-Chicago Region. Together they will offer hands-on bird-science education to 2nd through 6th graders in classrooms and outdoors.

For the Birds! will focus on birds native to this area. Students will learn their migratory needs, which parks they use, and will build and install birdhouses. Bird identification will be taught, in tandem with other ecological concepts such as habitat protection and restoration.

For the Birds! will begin scheduling school visits in February 2002. To learn how you can assist in classrooms and parks, call Jerry Garden (773) 545-4632 or Shelly Britton (847) 965-1150. We hope to hear from you soon!

Catch CHIHULY IN THE PARK

A world-class exhibit is now on display at one of our city park's jewels—Garfield Park Conservatory. World-renowned glass artist, Dale Chihuly, was commissioned by the Chicago Park District and The Boeing Company to create an installation especially for the conservatory. His stunning glass creations are imaginatively laced throughout the conservatory's plants and pools, creating a magical world of art and nature. The indoor garden, one of the largest in the world, is a wonder in itself. This absolutely not-to-be-missed exhibit will be on display through May 19, 2002. The conservatory asks a modest \$2 donation. There is a free parking lot, and street parking is plentiful. There are extended evening hours on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Call the Conservatory, however, to confirm the times (312) 746-5100. The conservatory is located at 300 N. Central Park Avenue in Chicago.

Audubon Birdathon! 2002 Dr. William Beecher Cup Challenge

Get out your checklists! Birdathon! Week will be Wednesday, May 15-Tuesday, May 21.

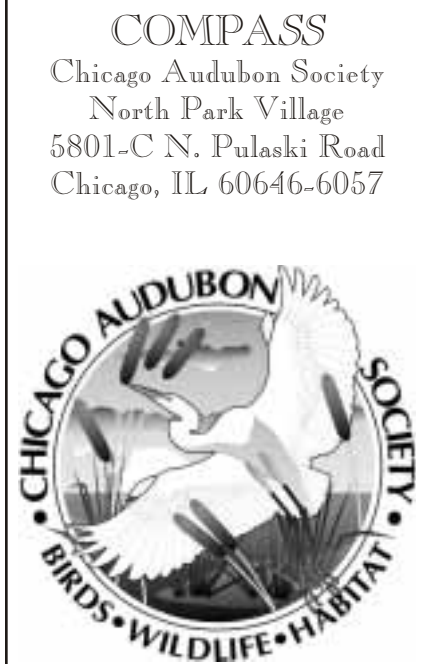
Teams of 3-6 people can go out any day during this period. The team that counts the most species will win the coveted Beecher Cup (and bragging rights). The defending champs (BudBirders-2001) will be back, along with the winners from year 2000 (the Lake Forest College team).

Birders who want to form teams (or join an existing one) should contact Joe Lill at trptjoe@aol.com.

Funds raised will benefit the programs of Chicago Audubon.

BIRDATHON! MAILING PARTY

There can't be a Birdathon! without a mailing party. Last year, Birdathon! raised over \$1 million across our nation towards Audubon's mission to protect birds, other wildlife and their habitats. So join the fun (refreshments all day) on Saturday, April 13 at 9:00 a.m. Place: The Administration Building, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd, Chicago.



Editor: Gail Goldberger
Layout Artist: Noël Maguigad

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Audubon info hotline: (847) 299-3505
Report sightings to: (847) 265-2117
Rare bird alert: (847) 265-2118
Activity line: (773) 539-6793, press 1
Web page: www.homepage.interaccess.com/~stephenc/index.html
Audubon office: Manager, Karen Andersen, (773) 539-6793, fax (773) 539-6830, chicago_audubon@juno.com. Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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5th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Birders Needed from February 15-18

Cornell Lab and National Audubon need birders to count birds. Families, individuals, classrooms, Scout troops-everyone interested in birds-are asked to take as little as 15 minutes on any or all four of the Great Backyard Bird Count days to count numbers and kinds of birds seen.

You can count in your backyard, schoolyard, park, nature center, or out your office window. Reports are submitted over the Internet at www.birdsource.org/gbbc and compiled almost immediately, for all to view in the form of animated maps, graphs and charts. Participants can quickly see how their observations help complete the continent-wide picture of late-winter bird distributions.

Instructions are available at the GBBC website, as are results from previous counts. Visitors can listen to bird songs, see bird images, and learn about species of conservation concern. Material for classrooms, tips for bird feeding, and a how-to for creating bird-friendly yards are also at the site.



For more information, visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc or contact Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473.

"Given the challenges now facing our nation, it's more urgent than ever that we cast our vote, in a sense, to help ensure (that) the birds and the habitats upon which they depend will be around for generations to come," says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab. "The Great Backyard Bird Count is an easy and enjoyable way to do that."

We wholeheartedly believe that America's invincible spirit is even stronger in the birding community. Therefore, we are continuing to offer tours in 2002 to our favorite tropical destinations. A portion of the proceeds of each trip will be donated to the Sept. 11th Fund in the name of all trip participants.

JAMAICA
February 12 - 21
March 12 - 21

10 day tour will visit every major birding area for all local and Caribbean endemics and wintering migrants. At Marshall's Pen in central Jamaica, we will meet the co-author of Jamaica's field guide at his great birding lodge in Mandeville. A copy of the beautiful "coffee-table" book on *The Birds of Jamaica* by Frank Bernal, O.D., will be given away by drawing on each tour.



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
January 28 - February 7
March 4 - 14

11 day tour for the rare Piping Guan (no one else searches for this species) and many more exciting neotropical species. Highlights include boat trips into Trinidad's Caroni Bird Sanctuary for the grand spectacle of the Scarlet Ibis and to beautiful Little Tobago Island for Red-billed Tropicbirds and other seabirds. Other dates are available for independent travelers at very competitive rates.

- ☛ Tours to both areas will be led by expert birding guides from each country.
- ☛ Tours of small groups, limited to 10, will not be cancelled if tour limit is not met.

TROPICAL BIRDING TOURS

Telephone/Fax: 773-777-2923; 800-462-2473

e-mail: scarletibis2000@earthlink.net



Printed with soy ink

BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK (BCN)

PARTNERS WITH CORNELL LAB

Migrating birds connect continents to each other. Now, a new internet link—combining local, national and international data—will allow birders to connect too. Wherever they are, anyone interested in birds can click on a date, a habitat or a species, and get instant feedback.

That's the promise of this unprecedented initiative joining BCN's database with the technology of BirdSource, a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. This first venture in our region will allow BCN volunteer bird monitors to submit their information and receive immediate feedback on species nesting in or migrating through the Chicago area.

BCN, a coalition of 13 area birding clubs and conservation groups, has over 100 monitors in six counties. These volunteers keep track of migrating as well as nesting birds. They do it because they love birds, but also, according to monitor Walter Marcisz, because "...birds are indicators of habitat conditions—for better or worse."

They also indicate the effects of the decisions made by land managers and citizen conservationists. For example, monitors are seeing an increase in the number of endangered Henslow sparrows, as well as a return of breeding sandhill cranes to our area, and will be watching to see if these gratifying trends continue.

The new database will instantly analyze the data that bird monitors gather so that anyone, anywhere can access the results. Check out the site at: www.fmnh.org/birdcensus. Another feature of the database is that it will allow the comparison of data from year to year, thus enabling the tracking of species' health, especially those that are threatened or endangered.

According to Tom Schulenberg, ornithologist at The Field Museum, "BCN's input, combined with data on other flora and fauna, can be used to make informed decisions about managing both public and private lands."

If you are interested in becoming a bird monitor, BCN will be holding a series of workshops this spring. For more information, call (847) 965-1150.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 6, 2002

Annual Awards Dinner

Chicago Audubon will proudly present 5 awards for outstanding contributions to the environment. Award winners this year are:

Service to Chicago Area Birders: **Bill Wengelewski**
Excellence in Environmental Reporting: **Alison Brown**
Protector of the Environment, Vocation: **George Rabb**
Protector of the Environment, Avocation: **Rick McAndless**
Protector of the Environment, Single Act: **Jim Vroman and Steve Siros**, Environmental, Energy and Natural Resources Practice Group, Jenner & Block

Our featured speaker will be Mary Hennen, Collections Assisant, Ornithology Department, Field Museum and CAS Board Member. She will give a presentation on area bluebirds, touching on their biology, with special emphasis on nesting and a 1988-1991 research study in DuPage County.

The dinner will be held at the Homestead Restaurant, 8305 W. North Avenue, Melrose Park. Reception and cash bar: 5:30 p.m., Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Make your reservations by March 30th by sending \$25 to Alan Anderson, 1633 Howard Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018-3023. Please make your check payable to Chicago Audubon Society, and include your choice of entrée: chicken in white wine sauce, tilapia fish, or vegetarian plate. We look forward to seeing you there.

BIRDING AMERICA V

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Please register

_____ attendees at \$35 each (National Audubon members)

_____ attendees at \$40 each (non-members)

Please specify Audubon chapter _____

Please order _____ lunches at \$9 apiece

Total registrations and lunches \$ _____

Send form with check, made payable to:

Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C N. Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60646-6057

Or charge my credit card:

Type: _____ Master Card _____ Visa

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Choose one session from each time slot:

10:00 a.m. Chicago River Hawk Identification New Hampshire/ Mass.	1:00 p.m. Midewin Prairie Gardening for Birds/ Butterflies Magee Marsh
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11:00 a.m. Jackson Park Bird Photography Southeast Arizona	2:00 p.m. Indiana Dunes Bird Calls Mississippi Flyway
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Please list names of all attendees here:

BIRDING AMERICA V

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

8:15 a.m.—9:00 a.m. - Check In

9:00 a.m.— Keynote Address

- Top Four Birding States
Greg Butcher, Past Editor of Birder's World

Near Chicago Birding Areas:

- 10:00 a.m. Chicago River
Jerry Garden
- 11:00 a.m. Jackson Park/Wooded Island
Paul Clyne
- 1:00 p.m. Midewin Prairie
Bill Glass
- 2:00 p.m. Indiana Dunes Lakefront
Ken Brock

Skill Building Workshops:

- 10:00 a.m. Hawk Identification
Vic Berardi
- 11:00 a.m. Bird Photography
Jerry Kumery
- 1:00 p.m. Gardening for Birds and Butterflies
Marian Thill
- 2:00 p.m. Bird Calls
Paul Baker

Vacation Trips:

- 10:00 a.m. New Hampshire and Eastern Mass.
Bill Drummond, Brookline Audubon Society
- 11:00 a.m. Southeast Arizona
Sheri Williamson, Cofounder of the Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory
- 1:00 p.m. Magee Marsh, Northeastern Ohio
Julie and Mark Schieldcastle, Black Swamp Bird Observatory
- 2:00 p.m. Mississippi Flyway
Dan McGuinness, National Audubon Society,
Director,,Upper River Mississippi Campaign

3:00 p.m. Closing Presentation and Door Prizes

- Interpretive Birding: An integrative approach to bird-watching
Dr. Jim Davis, Editor Interpretive Birding Bulletin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Workdays

At the Skokie Lagoons: February 9 and March 9.

Meet at the Tower Road parking lot (east of the bridge). If you arrive late, look for a CAS sign near the parking lot directing you to the work site. For more information, call Jerry Garden at (773) 545-4632.

Field Trips

Wings Over Savanna: Eagle Sighting Field Days

During the winter, more bald eagles can be seen along the Mississippi River in Illinois than anywhere south of Alaska. Hundreds of bald eagles spend the winter feeding around the locks and dams and other open water areas of the Mississippi River, and roosting in the bluff areas around the river. The Savanna Army Depot, now co-owned and managed by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is one spot where you can spot anywhere from 20-200+ eagles during the winter. In addition to eagles, we expect to see resident birds, including possibly wild turkeys and horned larks, as well as ducks and other species.

After spending most of the day at the Depot, we will also check for eagles along the Fulton Dam, a bit farther south. Dress for the weather (layered clothes are best for the warmer bus or colder outdoor temperatures) and bring a lunch, beverage, snacks, binoculars, field guide and spotting scope if you have one. The trip to Savanna is just over 3 hours; we will be traveling by coach bus.

Saturday, February 9, 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Chicago Botanic Garden (trip leaves from CBG in Glencoe)

call: 847-835-8352 and register for SPC0011.

Cost: \$59 for CBG and CAS members; Non-members, \$79.

Saturday, March 9, 6:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Field Museum of Natural History/CAS trip (bus leaves from Field Museum in Chicago) call: (312) 665-7400.

Cost: \$50 for Field Museum and CAS members; Non-members, \$60.

Bird Walks

Wooded Island: Tuesday, March 26 at 8:00 a.m. and Saturday, March 30 at 8:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday in April at 7:00 a.m.

Every Saturday in April at 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the Darrow Bridge just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Your Audubon guide is Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

North Park Village Nature Center: Every Saturday in April at 8:00 a.m.

Meet in front of the Nature Center at 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. Bring binoculars and field guides. Walks are led by Audubon guides.

For more info, call the Nature Center at (773) 744-5472.

Early spring migrants at Lyman Woods in DuPage County—Saturday, April 27, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Call Stephen or Chris Lee (708) 485-8197, or email at stephenc@interaccess.com.

Woodcock Courting Flights at sunset: Saturday, March 23 and Wednesday, March 27; and Sunday, April 7 and Saturday,

April 13.

You don't have to go far to see the high flying courtship of this unusual looking bird. Join us at 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wolf Road Prairie (31st St. and Wolf Rd. in Westchester). We've had good luck in the past 8 years seeing woodcock flights on the prairie.

This year, these trips will be co-sponsored by Save the Prairie Society. For exact times call Stephen or Chris Lee at (708) 485-8197 a day or two before the trip. Email stephenc@interaccess.com

Birding America V

Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

All-day Chicago Audubon Society sponsored symposium featuring speakers from around the country. Learn about the best areas to expand your life list, right here in Chicago and all over the U.S. Workshops, door prizes, book-signings.

Schedule and registration form on page 3.

A late registration fee of \$45 applies after February 15, and at the door. Lunch will not be available if you register after Feb. 15.

Directions to North Park University, Foster and Kedzie, Chicago:

From the north: Take I-94 (Edens Expressway) eastbound to the Cicero (or Foster) exit. Take Cicero south to Foster Ave., turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about two miles.

From the south: Take I-94 (Dan Ryan Expressway) westbound and proceed northwest on I-90/94 (Kennedy Expressway). Exit at Kimball Avenue. Travel north (right) on Kimball about two miles to Foster

Avenue and turn east (right). Proceed two blocks to Kedzie.

From the west: (Or from O'Hare Airport) take I-90/94 eastbound (Kennedy) to the Austin (to Foster) exit. At the end of the exit ramp, turn east (left) and follow the curve to reach Foster. Turn east (left) on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

From the east: Take Lake Shore Drive (from either direction) to the Foster Avenue exit. Travel west on Foster and continue to Kedzie, about three miles.

The campus is on the southwest corner of Kedzie and Foster. The entrance to Birding America is the door nearest the corner. Parking is available on the Southeast corner of Foster and Kedzie.

Annual Awards Dinner

Saturday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us again for our annual awards dinner to be held at the Homestead Restaurant in Melrose Park. **See page 3 for details.**

Other

Birdathon! 2002 Mailing Party Saturday, April 13, 9:00-2:30

At the Chicago Audubon Society office at 5801 N. Pulaski. Volunteers needed! For more information, or to sign up, call Joe Lill at (773) 631-3154 or email him at: trptjoe@aol.com.

Birdathon! 2002 Wednesday, May 15- Tuesday, May 21



Flower and Garden Show 2002

Chicago Audubon will again be sponsoring a booth at the Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier from March 9th through the 17th. The purpose of the booth is to spread the word about Chicago Audubon and the environment. At the booth, we'll be handing out information, offering specials on memberships and selling ecology-related items.

We need volunteers to help out at the booth; especially on the weekend and in the evenings. If you can help out, you will receive free admission to the show, but parking will not be covered. The show hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day except Sundays, when the show ends at 6:00 p.m.

The following time slots have been set up to schedule volunteers: 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you would like to help, please call the office at (773) 539-6793 with your first choice of day and time slot, and a second choice if possible.



The 14th Annual Cook County Owl Count March 8-10, 2002

Join us once again in surveying the owls of our metropolitan area. All that's needed is a tape recording of our local screech and great horned owls, and a sense of adventure. If you have an area you'd like to cover, let us know. If you want to participate but don't know how, we'll match you with a group that is already covering an area. Pending Cook County Forest Preserve District approval, we'll provide Forest Preserve permits to each group. This allows you to be on Forest

Preserve property in the late evening, nighttime, and early morning hours.

Participants from previous years will receive a mailing with details. New owlers can sign up by calling Stephen or Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197. Our email address is stephenc@interaccess.com

