



COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

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24
YEARS

CHICAGO AUDUBON LEADS THE WAY IN
RECOGNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

by Gail Goldberger

Without calling much attention to itself, the Chicago Audubon Society has been staging an annual recognition event to acknowledge the contributions of outstanding stewards who do the hard work of saving and restoring nature. It has been quietly doing so for twenty-four long years.

Chicago Audubon wants stewards to get the kudos, for it is they who count birds, in Chicago's wildly unpredictable weather; it is they who advocate for protection and restoration and lobby for funding to save species and habitats; it is they who do whatever is required to save

and savor the 300 bird species that fly through and use our metropolis to live and breed.

But this year, I, as editor would like to call attention to the fact that the Chicago Audubon Society itself is a leader of note. Years ahead of other organizations in staging recognition events, Chicago Audubon was out in front, doing the good work of acknowledging those who often labor invisibly.

Movers and shakers themselves, the Board of Chicago Audubon proudly present the 2003 awards.

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

Paul R. Clyne

Protector of the Environment, Avocation

Paul R. Clyne has been the Jackson Park compiler of birds since 1980, keeping a meticulous record of all birds seen and recorded in the park throughout each year. He has also served on the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee since 1996, and been a seasonal editor

for the Illinois Ornithological Society publication *Meadowlark: A Journal of Illinois Birds*, since 1997.

Clyne's precise records of fluctuations in bird populations of over 280 species observed have provided invaluable research to local, state and national ornithologists on the state of our environmental health. Living in Hyde Park, he observed two Illinois firsts: the Townsend's warbler and the lesser black-backed gull.



Mary Van Haaften

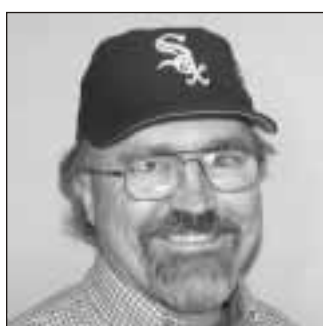
Protector of the Environment, Vocation

With a background in Landscape Architecture, Mary Van Haaften joined the Chicago Park District in 2000 as a project manager. Prior to this, she

worked in design firms, where she focused on sustainable landscaping using native Illinois plants.

In 2001, when the Park District created the Department of Natural Resources, Mary became the department's Natural Areas Manager. She is responsible for managing the district's 50 nature areas and has helped to develop its urban volunteer stewardship program, which offers individuals, groups and schools the chance to become actively involved in the ongoing monitoring and management of these habitats.

As a conservationist and birder, Mary takes great pleasure in creating and maintaining urban ecosystems that provide sanctuary for people, plants, birds and other wildlife.



Dale Bowman

Excellence in Environmental Reporting

Dale Bowman is the Outdoor Editor for the Chicago Sun Times, with a column that appears on Wednesday and Sunday. Although he concentrates on hunting and fishing, he always finds room for

conservation and birding news. He has helped publicize bird walks and bird counts, and has reviewed birding books and publications. He has accompanied birders on counts and censuses, and writes about them in his column.

Dale is the one journalist who is currently writing in depth about the proposed Peotone Airport, exposing the environmental harm that will ensue if it is built. He covers the practices of the Forest Preserve Boards and Illinois Department of Natural Resources as well, and is not afraid to criticize them when warranted. His work proves him to be honest, open-minded, thorough and thoughtful. Dale has worked with the Sun Times for 20 years, the first twelve with Sun Times Sports and the last eight years as the outdoors columnist.



Richard Biss

Service to Chicago Area Birders

For 17 years, Rich Biss has managed the Rare Bird Alert, a two-part hotline sponsored by Chicago Audubon. Few understand the amount of work it takes, but this is what Rich has been doing all these years. He listens to numerous

messages from birders reporting area bird sightings and their questions about birds; calls people back to get further information; decides which reports to put on the Rare Bird Alert-line; types up reports from these phone calls, adding information gleaned from IBET reports; and updates the Rare Bird Alert message a few times a week. He also keeps the phones and answering machines in good working order.

Rich was one of the original four area birders who contributed to the Chicago Audubon Society bird checklist, and his excellent notes on all the sightings received helped in the preparation of seasonal codes for the list, especially the rare and out-of-season observations. Rich also helped with the latest revision of this checklist.

Terry Schilling

Protector of the Environment, Avocation

Terry Schilling has been a restoration volunteer since the early 1990's, starting as apprentice steward at Harms Flatwoods and Oxbow Prairie, and webmaster of the North Branch Restoration Project. In 1997, at the request of the Lakeview Citizens Council, Terry conducted a study of habitat issues at the Lincoln Park Bird Sanctuary. The study evolved into an important report and planning document used to raise money needed for extensive capital improvements at the site, which made the sanctuary more

user-friendly for both birds and birders. Today, Terry still does habitat planning and leads workdays at the greatly revamped and renamed Jarvis Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Recently appointed to the Nature and Wildlife Committee of the Mayor's Landscape Advisory Task Force, Terry was also a founding member of the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), and wrote the guidelines adopted by the Chicago Park District for promoting and protecting bird habitats in Chicago's lakefront parks. Today he is working to organize the Bi-State Council of Wolf Lake Stewards as part of the Department of Environment's Calumet Stewardship Initiative.



Linda Day

Protector of the Environment, Single Act

Linda Day established the *Lights Out* program four years ago as chair of the Wildlife and Nature Subcommittee of the Mayor's Landscape Task Force. Ever since the John Hancock Center was built, nature lovers have been aware that night-time migrants were flying into Chicago's skyscrapers and dying. For years, Chicago Audubon worked with some of Chicago's tallest buildings to get the lights turned out during critical migration times. When Linda heard about the plight of these birds, she knew

she could do more to help.

Linda, a real estate executive, used her contacts at the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) to create the *Lights Out* program and spread the word to the city's tall buildings. Building managers were happy to help. The program, a collaboration between BOMA, Audubon and the City of Chicago, has saved the lives of tens of thousands of birds. Linda continues to work with the *Lights Out* group to support the program. Recent developments include revising the guidelines to cover the entire migration period and planning for a fall recognition ceremony for participants.

Building lights in the Loop that wink out one-by-one after 11 p.m. on a spring or fall evening is a very powerful new feature of our city's skyline. It says to the world that we care about conservation. We have Linda's hard work, creative thinking and can-do attitude to thank for it.

THE PROGRAM

Suzanne Malec, Deputy Commissioner, City of Chicago, Department of Environment, Natural Resources will join us to present an overview of the plans for

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OUTDOOR FROLIC, INDOOR GAMBOL



by Don Darnell

"... the gulls and terns, ever cheerful, gamboled over the water, exulting over the prospect of abundance ... those hovering overhead, so astonished us that we could for a while scarcely believe our eyes ..."

— John James LaForest Audubon

Imagine a day-long winter festival with 160+ guests gamboling about inside a spacious lakefront yacht club. Imagine further that the attendees all had strong interests in avian pursuits, either as hobbyists or professionals. Now picture these mostly cheerful patrons kibitzing away at dining tables in front of windows facing an icy, gull-filled Lake Michigan while consuming hot coffee and victuals, all the while their binoculars at the ready for the next *larus thayeri* or *larus glaucooides* to cruise in close.

By all accounts, the 2nd Annual "Gull Frolic" held at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club on North Point Marina on February 15, 2003 was a huge success. And, get this (give us some wiggle-room here), at least "nine" species of gulls were seen at the event! Of course, if you saw anywhere near that many species it would mean that you were looking "in" instead of out the windows. It was in the dining room that a table full of gull specimens were on display, 23 of them, consisting of nine or ten species in varying plumages (compliments of the Field Museum's Doug Stotz, per IOS request).

The specimens worked like magnets to attract seasoned birders with no qualms about identifying, say, a 100-year-old adult California gull. And, who was that—Al Stokie?—waving around a circa 1908 glaucous-winged gull, explaining that "clearly" it was the same species currently being seen at the O'Brien Lock & Dam. Yes, I do believe that was Al.

As it turned out, moving the "warming room" of this year's Frolic to the yacht club's dining room at harbor edge was well worth the money. It meant that you didn't have to go out into 25-below wind chill to get good looks at the gulls "chummed" into the harbor by rock-climbing birders in thermal underwear and heavy hoods. For those who didn't know, "chumming" is the act of tossing bread to lure gulls. For the half-dozen or so spotting scopes outside at any one time, there were thirty or forty more inside, many of them trained out the windows. So you didn't have to go out in the elements to get good looks at a young iceland gull floating in the icy waters close to a north-facing window. Thayer's gulls and a lesser black-backed gull were also seen from "inside" according to Gull Frolic organizer Jim Landing, as were an assortment of diving ducks and mergansers.

Said Landing, "Renting a small room at the yacht club last year was done merely to provide a warming room, so people would be able to get the chill out of their bones after a round of outdoor gull-watching." But this year, renting the larger dining area immediately adjacent to the water provided direct viewing of airborne and floating gulls from inside the club. On this freezing February day, one could scan the harbor for gulls, dine on hot

pizza and socialize with other bird-lovers in 72-degree comfort. And that's exactly what most birders at this year's Frolic did!

Even without the predicted northeaster (a "Euroclydon" as Dave Johnson called it, borrowing from Melville) that blew ice and water birds into and around the harbor, it still would have been a great event. It was simply a great milieu for Chicago-area birders to get together and recharge their collective batteries for the coming year, a way to see new and old faces, young and not as young (Eric Seeker & Ruth Milgrom, in that order), novice and veteran birders, people meeting for the first time or just getting reacquainted in a venue outside the internet.

A CAS board member, Joe Lill, won first place prize in the Gull Photo Contest, taking home a gift card from Borders Books compliments of IOS. Taking second and third places were Jeff Sundberg and Tom Hermsen. Rumor had it that Lill was planning on buying friend, Sundberg, a gull ID book (again, only a rumor).

As Frolic co-coordinator Dave Johnson said, there were many to thank for making the day so enjoyable, including David and Suzanne Johnson of the Wild Bird Center in River Grove for providing the hot & tasty "white Chili" ("Seagull Stew"), and the mother & son team of Janice and Paul Sweet who helped with food preparation and serving. Renowned bird illustrator Tom Schultz gave insightful slide presentations on gull identification during the afternoon. Jeff Sundberg, Gordon Caleb, Alan Stokie and others who spent frost-bite time at harbor's edge identifying gulls as other birders braved the biting-winds to chum hundreds of loaves of bread — slice by slice — to lure in the Iceland and other gulls of various aged plumage.

And then there were the Chicago area bird organizations who answered Landing and Johnson's call to cover the costs of this year's larger venue. Besides Chicago Audubon, the following organizations co-sponsored the Frolic: Evanston-North Shore Bird Club; Illinois Ornithological Society; Lake-Cook Chapter of IL Audubon Society; DuPage Birding Club; Wild Bird Center of River Grove.

All of us at CAS would like to publicly thank ENSB Club's Dave Johnson for planning and executing this year's activities. Maybe next year we'll find a replacement for food counter duty so Dave can spend more time outdoors identifying gulls for those of us who are incapable of discerning lesser coverts from median coverts on an airborne gull, no matter Bushnell or Swarovski.

And, of course, all area birders should be thankful to Jim Landing, Chicago's terra firma-rooted birdman, for initiating this truly "social" event, this "gambol" of avian and land-based species. How could it possibly be anything but good for harried urban and suburban domiciled birders, often of diverse birding philosophies, to get to know one another just a little bit better by sharing space for a day in such a friendly and invigorating environment.

Who knows, maybe next year we'll get some decent, warmer weather. Then again, maybe we don't need that

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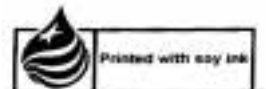
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Rare bird alert: (847) 265-2118
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Last Gasp of State Funding Goes to Hegewisch Marsh

by David Cohen

The Hegewisch Marsh, a prized birding site on Chicago's far South Side, should soon fall into the hands of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The state agency has extended a \$1.9 million grant to the City of Chicago, which is expected to acquire the property from Waste Management, Inc. in April. The 100-acre parcel is the site of a colony of yellow-headed blackbirds, a state-endangered species that has been driven away from other nesting grounds on the far South Side. Several other state-endangered or state-threatened birds, including the least bittern, the common moorhen, the black-crowned night heron and the pied-billed grebe, have also been spotted in the Marsh.

"It's a great place and needs to be preserved," declared Walter Marcisz, an experienced South Side birder who has catalogued 138 species in the Marsh over the years. "The yellow-headed blackbird population in Lake Calumet has declined severely in the last ten years. Native vegetation like the cattail has been replaced by exotic species, including purple loosestrife and phragmites. These are weedy plants the blackbirds just won't nest in. The Marsh is also a good area for migratory shorebirds."

Nominally gated, birders have easy access to the property, which is just off Torrence Ave. at 112th St. The project has been shepherded by the City's Department of Planning and Development, which has spent years debating the purchase with Waste Management. Observers estimate the property's value at about \$2 million. The City also intends to acquire from the Norfolk Southern Railroad a 17-acre parcel south of the Marsh.

Kathy Dickhut, assistant commissioner with the Department of Planning and Development, said the City plans to hand Hegewisch Marsh over to DNR after the sale is completed. The state is expected to restore the Marsh and surrounding acreage, which have been degraded by a century of industrial use. The smaller parcel to the south will stay in the City's control, and should ultimately become an environmental center.

Other than the Marsh, the only other local source for yellow-headed blackbirds, according to Marcisz, is Eggers Woods, a woodland immediately north of Wolf Lake. Clay excavated from the bed of the Lake Calumet River was dumped in the Marsh decades ago, and restoration of the property will require cleaning up and seeding the area with oak savannas and prairie plants and grasses. The area was a dumping ground for other industrial refuse, and cottonwoods took root where native species could not.

The Marsh and adjacent neighborhood were named after August Hegewisch, a Polish immigrant who built a steel mill there in the 1880s. Still heavily Polish, Hispanic and Asian immigrants have added to the diversity of the area in recent years.

Funds from the Illinois DNR came from another endangered species, namely, the Open Land Trust Grant Program. The program was initiated by former Governor Ryan, but exhausted its allotment with the recent grant to the City. The severe restraints on the Illinois state budget make future allocations problematic.

STUDENTS WANTED FOR AUDUBON SUMMER CAMP

by Joe Lukascyk

To absorb a thing is better than to learn it, and we absorb what we enjoy. We learn things at school; we absorb them in the fields and woods and on the farm. When we look upon Nature with fondness and appreciation she meets us halfway and takes a deeper hold upon us than when studiously conned. Hence I say the way of knowledge of Nature is the way of love and enjoyment, and is more surely found in the open air than in the school-room or the laboratory.

The naturalist John Burroughs wrote these words. The Chicago Audubon Society (CAS) has helped teach some of our area students about their natural world, and what they can do to help preserve it. Through its Summer Scholarship Program, Chicago Audubon has provided scholarships for two area students to attend the Northwoods Audubon Camp in Sandstone, Minnesota, 90 miles north of Minneapolis.

During the weeklong camp, students learn about bird banding, Native American crafts, camping skills, plants, animals and habitats. They visit a Wildlife Science Center 50 miles south of Sandstone, and the Zoo and Great Lakes Aquarium in Duluth.

These scholarships, including tuition and airfare, are open to students aged 10-12 years old. The 2003 Camp will be held from July 13 - 18. If you are a science, biology or environmental science teacher, and would like your students to compete for one of our scholarships, please write to me at the Chicago Audubon office, or call (773) 539-6793 and leave a message.

If you would like to help Chicago Audubon continue to send area students to these summer learning camps, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Please send them to our office, earmarked for Summer Camp scholarships.

Give a Little Bit Back to the Birds — And Have Fun Doing It!

by Karen Glennemeier

The Bird Conservation Network invites you to join us in 2003 for the Grassland Bird Blitz, the BCN Nesting Bird Census, or West Nile Virus Bird Monitoring.

Grassland Bird Blitz

Chicago Wilderness is embarking on a detailed, regional conservation plan to improve and increase habitat for grassland birds. To succeed, we need to count the birds in as many grasslands as possible. Many grasslands already have monitors; our blitz teams will cover the rest. We'll document the abundance and distribution of rare and important species and the location of sites with good habitat potential. In the future, we'll track changes and learn how our restoration efforts are affecting grassland birds.

The Grassland Bird Blitz will take place from June 13 to June 22, 2003, with local gatherings on the 22nd to compare findings and share exciting

sightings. County teams and individual monitors will count birds in all of the grasslands in the region. We'll connect you with your local coordinator, who will give you all the details for your area.

Note: If you already cover a grassland for the BCN Census, your June 2003 data will be included in the Great Grassland Bird Count. This 'blitz' is for sites that are not already covered. If you would enjoy being a part of the energy and celebration that surrounds that week, please consider monitoring during the Blitz period.

Leaders should be able to identify grassland birds by sight and sound, but less experienced birders are welcome on Blitz teams. If you would like to participate, please contact Karen Glennemeier at 847-965-1150 or kglennemeier@audubon.org

BCN Nesting Bird Census

This Census, now in its fourth year, is providing detailed, long-term data on the breeding birds of Chicago

Wilderness. Local land managers use this data in myriad ways.

Monitors have motivated some of the biggest habitat improvement projects in the region:

- Removing nine miles of hedgerows at Bartel Grassland
- Saving heron rookeries
- Stopping a harmful marina, and helping to set priorities of the Lake Calumet wetlands
- Transforming Orland Grassland into a haven for grassland and shrubland birds
- Restoring wetland and grassland habitat at Springbrook Prairie

The Census is simple and fun: monitors visit their sites any two mornings in June and return to the same sites every year. Monitoring methods are either a timed checklist (like a Christmas Count), a transect (walk the same path each time), or a point count (five minutes at each point).

Monitors should be able to recognize the breeding birds of the region by sight and sound. Apprenticeships are available for less experienced birders.

AWARDS

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the Lake Calumet Open Space Reserve. Many groups, including Chicago Audubon, have been monitoring the Lake Calumet region for decades and advocating for protection of its natural resources. Ms. Malec has been instrumental in moving plans for the Open Space Reserve forward.

CELEBRATE WITH US

On Saturday, April 26, the unofficial birthday of John James Audubon, at the Homestead Restaurant, 8305 W. North Avenue in Melrose Park. **Please make your reservation by Friday, April 18** with a check for \$25 made payable to Chicago Audubon Society. Send to the office at 5801-C N. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60646. You can also call the office and charge the dinner amount to MC/VISA. Please include your dinner selection of chicken, vegetarian, or fish (tilapia). Reception and cash bar-5:30, Dinner-6:30. Program should conclude by 9:00.

Directions to the Restaurant: The Homestead is at 8305 W. North Avenue.

From the South and West: Take I-290 to 1st Avenue north. Go north about 3 miles to North Avenue (1600 N.) and turn right. The Homestead is on your right, less than a 1/4 mile.

From the North and Northwest: Take I-294 to Irving Park Road and go east, 1 mile, to River Road. Turn right on River Road and continue until it meets with Cumberland/First Avenue. Continue south and turn left on North Avenue, go 1/4 mile to restaurant (on south side of street).

From Chicago: Take either Cumberland Avenue south, which turns into First Avenue, follow the above directions, or take North Avenue west to the restaurant (a short distance past Thatcher Ave.). You can also take I-290 (Eisenhower) or Irving Park Road west to 1st Avenue north.

To participate, contact Lee Ramsey at LeeRamsey@aol.com or 847-501-4683.

West Nile Virus Bird Monitoring

Our area was one of the hardest hit by West Nile Virus, and our monitoring network is one of the strongest and most thorough in the nation. Last fall, we made national news in describing the impact of the virus on area crows and discovered a similar pattern of disappearances in chickadee populations. Many questions about the impact of the virus on birds remain unanswered, so our work to document these impacts will continue in 2003.

Backyard birders are welcome to join this project, as well as more experienced birders. If you are already a BCN Census monitor, your data will also be used for this study. To participate, contact Judy Pollock at jpollock@audubon.org or 847-965-1150.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stewardship Workdays

At the Skokie Lagoons: April 12 and May 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Chicago Audubon conducts regular monthly workdays at the Skokie Lagoons on the second Saturday of every month. Activities include buckthorn cutting, animal and plant monitoring, cleanup and debris removal, and other management activities. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge. If you arrive late, look for a CAS sign near the parking lot directing you to the work site.

For further information call Jerry Garden at (773)545-4632, or e-mail him at jerrygarden@sprynet.com

Member Programs

April Program is Eagle Optics Day, Saturday, April 12 at North Park Village Nature Center, 9-4 (See Events for further description)

Bird Walks

Wooded Island

Every Wednesday in April & May - 7:00 a.m.

Every Saturday in April & May - 8:00 a.m. Bring binoculars and field guides. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Darrow Bridge, just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Note: All the usual routes into the parking lot are closed. If you come from the North, you must swing around the Museum at 57th St, continuing south on Cornell Ave. until you reach Hayes Drive (6300 South). At Hayes, turn left and get back on the Outer Drive going north. At 5800 South, turn left, and follow the road into the parking lot, proceed to where

you are just north of the Darrow Bridge. If this isn't clear, please call Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

North Park Village Nature Center Every Saturday in April & May - 8:00 a.m.

Meet in front of the Nature Center at 5801 N. Pulaski Road. Bring binoculars and field guides. For more information, call Don Klimovich (773) 878-4421.

Sunday, April 6 and Saturday, April 12. WOODCOCK COURTING FLIGHTS at SUNSET.

You don't have to go far to see the high-flying courtship of this unusual looking bird. Join us at sunset (6:30 - 7:30 depending on the date) at Wolf Road Prairie (31st St. and Wolf Rd. in Westchester). We have had very good luck in the past eight 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 Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197 a day or two before the trips. E-mail: stephenc@interaccess.com.

Sunday, April 20, 7:30 a.m. Early Migrants and Late Waterfowl

Meet at the Hedge near Montrose Harbor. (Look for Nature Sanctuary signs). Your guide will be Jeff Sanders, email: yellowstart@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 26, 8 to 10:00 a.m. Early spring migrants at Lyman Woods in DuPage County.

Lyman Woods is located at the intersection of 31st Street and Highland Avenue in Downer's Grove. The new entrance to Lyman Woods is located on 31st Street just east of the intersec-

tion with Highland Ave. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. For further information call Stephen or Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197. Our e-mail is stephenc@interaccess.com.

Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m. Rosehill Cemetery-Ravenswood Entrance

Trip leaders are Joe Lill (773) 631-3154 and Carol Nelson (773) 583-8616.

Sunday, May 11, 8-10:00 a.m. Thatcher Woods Mother's Day Bird Walk in River Forest

See arriving spring migrants. Meet at the Trailside Museum parking lot west of the intersection of Thatcher Rd and Chicago Ave (south side). Call Stephen or Chris Lee for details (708) 485-8197.

Saturday, May 17, 8:00 a.m. Spring Migrants at the Skokie Lagoons

Usually an excellent area for spring migrants, as well as summer residents. Take I-94 to Willow Road. Exit east on Willow and meet in the parking lot on the north side of Willow just east of I-94. Call Doris Johanson for details (847) 299-3505.

Other Events

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 9-2 or so.

Join us for the Birdathon mailing. Go nuts stuffing and sealing envelopes. Food will be served ALL DAY!! Call the Audubon office and let us know you're coming. Look for the conference room in the Administration Building at 5801 N. Pulaski. The room with the steam coming out of it is where you'll find us. (773) 539-6793.

EAGLE OPTICS DEMO DAY North Park Village Nature Center Saturday, April 12—9 am - 4 pm

CAS will host a demonstration day with Eagle Optics. You will be able to try out the newest binoculars and scopes. Experts will be on hand to answer questions. Five percent of the proceeds go to CAS.

Annual Awards Dinner Saturday, April 26, 6:30-9:00 pm At the Homestead Restaurant in Melrose Park.

Saturday, May 3, 9-10:30 a.m. McCormick Place Bird Sanctuary and Prairie.

Visit the future site of this sanctuary and prairie. There will be a walk and talk about plans, and birding for spring migrants. Exit Lake Shore Drive at 31st St., and park for free on the south side of Lakeside Center/Arie Crown Theater.

Sponsored by Audubon-Chicago Region. Call Shelly Britton for details (847) 965-1150.

Saturday, May 10, Cook County Spring Count

Call Duane Heaton for details (847) 358-5856.

Birdathon! 2003

dates have been set! Teams may compete for the coveted Beecher Cup on any day between Wednesday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 20. Contact Joe Lill at (773) 631-3154 or trptjoe@aol.com for more information.



YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS WILL RUN OUT IF YOU DON'T JOIN CHICAGO AUDUBON TODAY!

To sustain the Chicago Audubon Society, you must join the local chapter. Our chapter is a leader in the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Established in 1971, CAS operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with over 4,000 members in the Chicago area.

CAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society with 600,000 members nationwide.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS:

- Member meetings (6 per year)
- Bird Walks led by trained guides
- Bird Habitat Survey
- Christmas Bird Count
- Center for New Birders (2003)
- Field trips year round
- Biennial Birding America Conference
- Birdathon
- Student Scholarship Awards
- The COMPASS (10 per year)

TO JOIN: Complete the application form below and mail it with your check (payable to "Chicago Audubon Society") to:

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John James Audubon — Happy Birthday! — April 26