



# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2004

## Birding America VI

**Saturday, March 13, 2004 — 9:00 - 4:00 — North Park University, 3225 West Foster, Chicago IL**

Discover great places, great people and great birds at Chicago Audubon Society's Birding America VI. This symposium is your opportunity to get the inside information on some of the most rewarding places to bird--locally, nationally and internationally.

Our keynote address, "Bringing Back the Whoopers," will cover the amazingly successful and ongoing effort to reestablish a migratory flock of whooping cranes in eastern North America. Our keynote speaker is writer and former *COMPASS* editor Karen Furnweger, who is currently writing a book on Operation Migration.

Local and national experts will help you plan birding trips and vacations around hotspots, highlight birds and migrations. Locations to be covered include the Blue Ridge Parkway, Belize, the Dry Tortugas, South Texas and Venezuela. Locally, find out more about the Chatauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Illinois Beach State Park and birding in DuPage County. Our closing

presentation will be about birding the Pribilof Islands in Alaska.

Birding America VI also includes four skill-building sessions on sparrow identification, natural landscaping, tools for birding, and making a birdsong CD.

Throughout the day vendors will have booths set up with birding books, field equipment, clothing and other birding-related items.

Book early, space will go fast!

Birding America takes place at North Park University, 3224 W. Foster, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration for Birding America VI is \$35 for Chicago Audubon Society or National members, and \$45 for non-members.

A late registration fee of \$45 applies after February 29th and at the door, subject to space availability.

The fee includes all sessions. Lunch is available for \$10. Lunch will not be available for late registrants.

### BIRDING AMERICA VI Symposium Schedule

8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – **Registration and refreshments**

9:00 a.m.– **Keynote Address**  
Bringing Back the Whoopers  
Karen Furnweger

#### Near Chicago Birding Areas:

10:00 a.m. DuPage County  
Jeff Chapman  
11:00 a.m. North Shore/Ill. Beach State Park  
TBA  
1:00 p.m. Chatauqua (IL) National Wildlife Refuge  
Keith McMullen  
2:00 p.m. Blue Ridge Parkway  
Marcus Simpson

#### Skill-Building Workshops:

10:00 a.m. Sparrow Identification  
Walter Marcisz  
11:00 a.m. Creating Your Own Natural Landscape  
Janice Aull  
1:00 p.m. Making a Birdsong CD  
John Feith  
2:00 p.m. Tools for Birding  
Jerry Garden/Ben Lizdas(Eagle Optics)

#### Vacation trips:

10:00 a.m. Dry Tortugas  
Lee Snyder  
11:00 a.m. Belize  
Sheri Williamson  
1:00 p.m. South Texas  
Sean Smith  
2:00 p.m. Venezuela  
Joel Greenberg  
3:00 p.m. Closing presentation and Door Prizes  
Pribilof Islands (Alaska)  
Sean Smith

For more information contact the CAS office (773) 539-6793

### Registration for BIRDING AMERICA VI

Please complete the form and mail to the address below

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ attendees at  
• \$35 ea. Chicago Audubon Society or National members  
• \$45 ea. Non-members

Please specify Audubon Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Also \_\_\_\_\_ lunches at \$10 each

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Send form with check, made payable to:  
**Chicago Audubon Society**  
5801-C N. Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60646-6057  
Phone (773) 539-6793

Choose one session from each time slot

10:00 a.m.  DuPage County  Chatauqua Refuge  
 Sparrow Identification  Birdsong CD  
 Dry Tortugas  South Texas

11:00 a.m.  North Shore  Blue Ridge Parkway  
 Natural Landscaping  Tools for Birding  
 Belize  Venezuela

### Conference Location and Directions

The Conference will be held at North Park University, 3225 W. Foster, (Foster and Kedzie).

#### From the north

Take I-94 eastbound (Edens Expressway) to the Cicero (to 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 westbound (Dan Ryan Expressway) 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.

You will find the campus on the southwest corner of Kedzie and Foster. The entrance to Birding America is the door nearest the corner. Free parking is available in the lot on the Southeast corner of Foster and Kedzie.

# Dealing with Junk

Junk comes in lots of forms and bedevils our lives in many ways. We are bombarded with an ever-increasing amount of junk mail and at times feel powerless to do anything about it. American manufacturers are ingenious in their ability to use packaging materials to help sell their products, but the wrappings increasingly comprise a higher portion of the cost, and it all ends up as more junk, which we recycle, burn, or pile up in even more landfills.

Here are actions all of us can take to stem this onslaught, ease the prodigious waste of energy and resources, and simplify our lives.

## Junk Mail

- First class mail: Cross out the address and bar code, circle the first class postage and write "refused: return to sender". Drop in any mailbox, it will be returned to the sender.
- Bulk mail: The post office throws away bulk mail it can't deliver, so returning it does no good. Bulk mail is the hardest to deal with because the USPS actively provides addresses, support and encouragement to mailers. However, if "address correction requested" is written on the label: circle "address correction requested" and treat it like first class mail.

## Packaging materials

The University of California at Santa Cruz tells us that about nine percent of the cost of a box of cereal is for the

cereal — the other 91 percent of the cost is for the package and advertising. Packaging makes up one-third of New York City's waste stream. The next time you go shopping, consider some of the following:

- Buy items loose and avoid unnecessary packaging. Pay for the product, not the package! Buy the largest possible size. Avoid single-serve products like individually wrapped cereal boxes or fruit cups. Choose reusable or recyclable packaging. Say "no bag, thanks," if you're buying only a few small items. Buy the exact number of items you need from a hardware store bin. Select fruit and vegetables that are not packaged in trays and plastic wrap.
- A recent study for Stonyfield Farm shows that their 32-oz. yogurt containers consume 27 percent less energy and produce 29 percent less waste than four 8-oz. individual servings. Larger packaging is more efficient. Try buying concentrates for items like juice or laundry detergent and add your own water. Bring your own reusable bag for your groceries.

Let's overcome the junk all around us by avoiding it, reusing it, or recycling it, and help the environment by doing so.

Excerpted from **CONSERVATION ALERT** by Donald R. Dann – Volume 8, Number 1, January 2004

# Update on Plum Island

By Don Goerne

This is the time of year to reflect on what we have accomplished and to be grateful to everyone who has supported our Plum Island preservation efforts. I would particularly like to thank the following for their efforts this past year.

First, thanks to our State Senator Pat Welch and his staff for their unwavering support on this issue. Second, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Lt. Governor Pat Quinn and his staff for exploding onto the Plum Island scene this summer and making the preservation of Plum Island and other Illinois bald eagle habitat a high priority. Visit Quinn's website at [www.saveoureagles.org](http://www.saveoureagles.org).

Thanks to my fellow Starved Rock Audubon members who attended Quinn's Illinois River Coordinating Council meeting in June and helped with our 3,275 letters to Utica campaign. Many of you also helped by forwarding this letter to others and by participating in this important preservation message to Utica.

Thanks to each of you who showed your support in one way or another. I have heard from many of you and believe me when I say it would be difficult to keep going, day in and day out, without your words of encouragement!!

A special "THANK YOU" to my fellow committee members; Ed, Katie, Tracy, Rick, Holly, Rita, and Dawn who are a Blessing! More than once this past year they have placed the Plum Island cause ahead of work and family. That's not an easy thing to do and I appreciate them dearly!

I am grateful to the Midwest SOARRING Foundation and Joseph and Janet for all they have done including the wonderful Plum Island Candlelight Prayer Vigil held at Starved Rock this summer. Bless you!

Last but certainly not least, Thank You to Illinois Audubon, its members, officers, board of directors, and executive director, Marilyn Campbell for their unending support. Yes, we may be a relatively small organization but, we do not let that stand in our way of performing some of the most important conservation work accomplished here in Illinois. If not a member, please consider joining us in our efforts. For more information, visit our website at [www.illinoisaudubon.org](http://www.illinoisaudubon.org).

Now, for that update. As I mentioned earlier, we sent thousands of letters to the Village of Utica, expressing our opinion that Plum Island should remain undeveloped for the enjoyment of all Illinois citizens. Utica is now well aware of our strong desire to see the

preservation of Plum Island through to the end, no matter how long that might take.

The developer, Starved Rock Island, LLC, received three important letters this past year. The first was from Lt. Governor Quinn asking the developer to halt the "premature" sale of island lots. The second letter was from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reminding the developer that the Corps still owns three easements on the island which must be addressed before any development on the island can proceed.

The third letter originated with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which cited the developer for violating federal law on six counts. Each count carries the possibility of a monetary penalty. This HUD matter remains under review as the developer has just recently replied to HUD's "pre-penalty" letter.

We know not what the new year will bring for Plum Island but, with your continued support, I am confident we will prevail! If you haven't already done so, please visit our website at [www.friendsofplumisland.org](http://www.friendsofplumisland.org). My number, Don Goerne, is (815) 673-5544.



Be Sure to visit our new website:

[www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)

## COMPASS

Chicago Audubon Society  
North Park Village  
5801-C N. Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60646-6057  
[www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)



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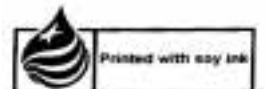
**Audubon info hotline:** (847) 299-3505  
**Report sightings to:** (847) 265-2117  
**Rare bird alert:** (847) 265-2118  
**Activity line:** (773) 539-6793, press 1  
**Web page:** [www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)  
**Audubon office:** (773) 539-6793, fax (773) 539-6830, [chicago\\_audubon@juno.com](mailto:chicago_audubon@juno.com).  
Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Christine Lee, (708) 485-8197, [stephenc@interaccess.com](mailto:stephenc@interaccess.com)  
**Treasurer:** Jerry Garden, (773) 545-4632, [jerrygarden@sprynet.com](mailto:jerrygarden@sprynet.com)  
**Secretary:** Barbara Kratochvil, (708) 485-3678, [bktratochvil@ahss.org](mailto:bktratochvil@ahss.org)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Hotline:** Doris Johanson, (847) 827-5930.  
**Awards:** Alan Anderson (see Nominating below)  
**Birdathon:** Joe Lill, (773) 631-3154, [trptjoe@aol.com](mailto:trptjoe@aol.com)  
**Bird Seed Savings Day:** Kathleen Radcliffe, (773) 777-3863, [krad215@aol.com](mailto:krad215@aol.com)  
**Conservation:** Carol Nelson, (773) 583-8616, [blue2wings@aol.com](mailto:blue2wings@aol.com)  
**Field Trips:** Doris Johanson, (847) 827-5930  
**Stewardship:** Jerry Garden, (773) 545-4632, [jerrygarden@sprynet.com](mailto:jerrygarden@sprynet.com)  
**Nominating:** Alan Anderson, (847) 390-7437, [casresearch@comcast.net](mailto:casresearch@comcast.net)  
**Editorial/Advertising:** Gail Goldberger, (773) 743-2457, [gailgoldberger@earthlink.net](mailto:gailgoldberger@earthlink.net)  
Noël Maguigad, (847) 836-6346  
[noel@chicagoaudubon.org](mailto:noel@chicagoaudubon.org)  
**Publicity:** Bill Schwaber, (847) 475-4986, [formulae@mcs.net](mailto:formulae@mcs.net)



# DOUG ANDERSON AND WOODDED ISLAND

By Sharon Parmet

Many of us watch birds to relieve stress by engaging ourselves in the natural world around us. The same can be said for Doug Anderson who is heading into his 31st year of leading his popular Jackson Park/Wooded Island bird walks.

Anderson began seriously bird watching about 35 years ago in order to decompress from the stresses of working as a juvenile probation officer, a job he held for 37 years. Anderson credits his interest in birding (and architecture, and great apes) for enabling him to continue his breakneck pace at work handling enormous caseloads and monitoring hundreds of young boys during their probations.

"I was getting worn out by my job," says Anderson who began as a juvenile probation officer in 1958 after working as a summer laborer for the Park District to put himself through college and graduate school at the University of Chicago. After the first five years or so, he felt he "had to get away from working on my cases seven days a week. I would often be at work late at night typing up reports, and I felt I was getting burned out. I decided that if I didn't get some kind of hobby on

weekends, I wouldn't last much longer, so back to bird watching," Anderson says.

Anderson began to revisit his beloved Jackson Park and Wooded Island where a Hyde Park high school biology teacher had first brought him and his class in 1950, and who he credits with sparking his initial interest in bird watching. In the 1960s, Wooded Island became a dangerous place as street gangs began mugging and robbing birdwatchers. Fewer birders went to the Island as a result. Anderson decided to start bird walks in 1974 to give people a feeling of "safety in numbers" since they feared birding alone on the Island. There has never been one serious incident in the 30 years that Anderson has led the walks, and the street gangs are long gone now.

Anderson's love affair with Jackson Park and Wooded Island in particular goes back to his childhood years when his family moved back to Chicago from Los Angeles in 1943. Wooded Island was only a few blocks away from his boyhood home. He quickly discovered the trees there, including a huge bur oak that would become his favorite climbing tree. "I went to all the Tarzan movies that played constantly in the 1940s in the many theatres along 63rd

street in Woodlawn, and it was not difficult transferring Tarzan's life in the trees to my fertile imagination on Wooded Island," Anderson says.

Last July 5th, a fierce concentrated thunderstorm with a "microburst" of 88 mile per hour winds tore through Jackson Park, destroying dozens of trees, many of them well over 100 years old, including Anderson's beloved oak. Anderson aged the tree at 273 years based on a formula supplied by Morton Arboretum. The tree had sprouted from an acorn in 1730. Anderson learned that it was probably the oldest oak in the city and was devastated by its loss. "It was the first time I shed tears over a tree," Anderson says. He persuaded the Park District to leave the tree where it fell as a "nurse tree", in hopes that over the next several decades, its decomposing wood will provide a suitable environment for plants, including acorns to take root in. (Also, "suckers" might grow from the surviving root system so that future generations of people can enjoy the "offspring" of Anderson's beloved parent tree).

When it comes to bird watching in Chicago, Anderson claims that Wooded Island is the best place to see the most species. He has identified 253 species

on Wooded Island, a number that encompasses almost 80 percent of all birds seen in the entire state of Illinois. The 16 acre island, located just south of The Museum of Science and Industry, is heavily wooded, making it noticeable to birds migrating along the adjacent lake shore. Anderson has also identified 55 species nesting on and around Wooded Island.

Anderson retired as an administrator with the Cook County juvenile court in 1995, and finds himself busier than ever with a full schedule of leading bird walks, architecture tours for the Chicago Architecture Foundation, and being a docent at the Lincoln Park Zoo where he has educated the public about animals for 32 years, making him the longest-serving docent in Lincoln Park Zoo history.

His special interest in great apes, and gorillas in particular, can be traced back to his childhood visits to the movies in the early 1940s where he first discovered the film "King Kong." He credits the film for igniting his fascination with gorillas. He remembers being horrified as Army planes shot Kong off the Empire State Building. While he wept, his friends in the theatre applauded the giant primate's death.

## Celebrating 30 Years of Bird Walks!

On Saturday, April 3, Doug Anderson will lead a special walk to celebrate 30 years of leading walks. He hopes to be joined by some esteemed members of the original group of 15 that began doing walks with him in 1974. These include Leon Despres, 5th ward alderman for 20 years, now 95 years old, his wife Marian, 93, and Mildred Williams, 92.

Nineteen seventy-four was an auspicious year, for as Anderson began leading walks, he was also elected to the Board of Chicago Audubon. Lucky for CAS, and for all the people who have learned to enjoy Wooded Island since then.

Anderson credits City Hall for helping get the walks started. They provided maps of the area for him to share with other nature enthusiasts. Today Anderson looks forward to starting a docent program for Jackson Park and Wooded Island so more people can be trained to lead bird and nature walks. It's hard to imagine a better teacher than him, for no one knows the Island like he does.

Chicago Audubon hopes to see you on April 3rd at 8:00 a.m. Anderson will give a special talk on Paul Douglas, namesake of the nature sanctuary at Wooded Island.

- Gail Goldberger

## Possible Change in Status of Peregrine Falcons in Illinois

By Mary Hennen

Sometime ago, Jim Herkert of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection (ESP) Board and I worked on setting up goals for the eventual reclassification and/or delisting of the peregrines. These goals were adopted by the ESP Board in 2000.

The goals for reclassifying the peregrines to a Threatened Status have now been met. Since 2004 is a year for the Endangered Species Protection Board to review the status of each species on the Endangered and Threatened lists, I requested that Jim propose to the Board to reclassify the peregrine to Threatened.

On Nov 21st the Board met and accepted the proposal for review. What this means is that over the next few months the issue will be open for public comment and ESP will make their final decision when they meet later this winter. The next meeting will be in February 2004.

This is great news for everyone involved with the peregrines, and has only been made possible through the work so many people have done for the falcons. If the change in status is adopted, it will in no way alter any of the work we are currently doing monitoring our nesting pairs.

If you have any questions or concerns, just contact Mary Hennen at mhennen@fieldmuseum.org or phone (312) 665-7718. I urge you all to send your comments, whether you agree with the change or not to the IDNR. Also, feel free to let anyone whom you think would like to comment on the proposal for reclassification know about it.

Send your comments to:  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Endangered Species Protection Board  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 60207



Illustrations by Kirsten Munson

## THE WETLANDS PROTECTION BILL

By David Cohen

Developers got a reprieve in Springfield, but it may be short-lived. An intense summer of lobbying in the capital culminated in a delay of the vote on the Illinois Wetland Protection Act, the most important environmental legislation to reach the General Assembly in years. The bill would extend to the state Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency new powers to protect wetlands across Illinois, now imperiled by a two-year-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that appears to open the door to development.

The Wetland Protection Act passed the Illinois House last May. It was scheduled for a vote in the Senate during the November veto session. But conservationists tripped on an unexpected technicality that required a three-fifths majority of the 59-person Senate to pass the bill instead of a simple one. State Sen. Terry Link of Lake Bluff, the bill's sponsor and Speaker of the Senate, elected to delay the vote until the Senate reconvenes in the middle of January, when the legislation can be enacted by a simple majority.

"The numbers change from time to time, but we think we have the 30 votes needed for a majority," claims Richard Acker, a land-use planner for

Open Lands who went to Springfield to lobby for the bill. "We think we have a good shot at getting the bill passed." A three-fifths requirement would have called for 36 votes, and "by the second week in November," said Acker, "it was clear we didn't have them. Speaker Link had the best read of what is politically feasible at what time, and after weighing all the issues, he decided the best thing to do was to wait until early 2004."

The Wetlands Protection Act is currently before the Energy and Environment Committee. Hearings will be held when the chamber reconvenes, and then the bill will be voted on by the committee. Shortly afterward, the Senate will pass judgment on the legislation. Even though months of pressure from the conservation lobby seems to have shifted enough votes to the bill, conservationists say political support should not be taken for granted. They ask Auduboners to stay in contact with state senators to insure a favorable outcome for the legislation.

Go to [www.openlands.org](http://www.openlands.org) and scroll down to the bottom of their web site for a sample letter and link to your senator. Or, type your address at the web site of the State Board of Elections at [www.elections.state.il.us/DLS/pages/DLSAddressCrit.asp](http://www.elections.state.il.us/DLS/pages/DLSAddressCrit.asp).

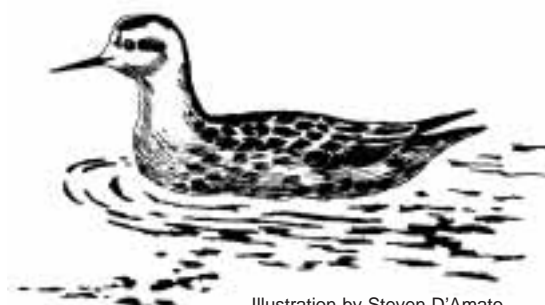


Illustration by Steven D'Amato

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Stewardship Workdays

*At the Skokie Lagoons: February 14 and March 13 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, controlled brushpile burns, 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](mailto:jerrygarden@sprynet.com)

## Member Programs

At North Park Village Nature Center  
5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago IL  
Refreshments at 7:00 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m.

*Friday, February 13  
Helping Migratory Birds Safely  
Navigate the Loop*

Helping migratory birds is the primary goal and mission for Robbie Hunsinger's all volunteer conservation effort, The Chicago Bird Collision Monitors. Robbie will speak about rescue work and efforts underway to reduce migratory bird strikes in Chicago.

*Friday, April 9  
Chicago's Lakefront Habitat: Past, Present, Future*

Mary Van Haaften, Natural Areas Manager for the Chicago Park District will talk about the new nature sanctuaries along the lakefront, and about the new Chicago Lakefront

Birding Trail.

## Weekly Bird Walks

*Wooded Island*

*Paul Douglas' Birthday Walk  
Friday, March 26, 8:00 a.m.*

Bring binoculars and field guides. Dress for the weather. Note: Road repairs are finished! From the north, take the Outer Drive, turn left on the east side at 5800 south, and follow the road into the parking lot. We will meet at the Darrow Bridge just south of Museum of Science and Industry. For more info call Doug Anderson 773-493-7058

*Also on  
Saturday, March 27, 8:00 a.m.*

Meet at Darrow Bridge, same as above. For more info call Doug Anderson 773-493-7058

*Saturday, April 3, 2004 at 8:00 a.m.  
Celebrating 30 Years of Wooded  
Island Bird Walks, at Wooded Island.*  
A walk to celebrate Doug Anderson's 30 years of sharing birding.

*Every Wednesday in April, 7:00 a.m.  
Every Saturday in April, 8:00 a.m.*

Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary (Wooded Island) Bird Walks. 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 & May--8:00 a.m.*

Meet in front of the Nature Center a 5801 N. Pulaski. Bring binoculars and field guides. For more information

call Don Klimovich (773) 878-4421.

## WOODCOCK COURTING FLIGHTS

*AT SUNSET* --- Sunday, March 28 ---  
Sunday, April 4--- Wednesday, April  
14--- Saturday, April 17

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 the 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](mailto:stephenc@interaccess.com).

## Other Events

*Saturday, March 13, 2004  
Birding America VI  
North Park University  
3225 W. Foster Avenue, Chicago  
(See Page 1 for details)*

## Field Trips

*Saturday, February 28, 2004  
Lost Mound National Wildlife Refuge  
6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

Co-sponsored by Chicago Audubon and Chicago Botanic Garden via coach bus to Savanna, IL (approximately 3.5 hour trip).

Spend four hours at Lost Mound, where numerous bald eagles winter. We expect to see anywhere from 20 to 200 eagles along the Mississippi River and in the refuge. We should also see early migrants and ducks, horned larks,

and wild turkeys. We will also visit Fulton Dam.

Dress for the weather (layered clothes) and bring lunch, spotting scope if you have one.

CAS/CBG members, \$59; non-members, \$79.  
Call (847) 835-8261 to register. Leaving from the Botanic Garden in Glencoe. The leader is Alan Anderson. Contact him at [casresearch@comcast.net](mailto:casresearch@comcast.net)

*Friday, May 21—Sunday, May 23,  
2004. Ottawa National Wildlife  
Refuge, Crane Creek and Magee  
Marsh in NW Ohio.*

For shorebirds, migrant passerines and nesting bald eagles. Sunday we visit the Black Swamp Bird Observatory banding station for up-close views of warblers and other migrants. This is an exclusive Chicago Audubon trip this year. Drive on your own, or we'll try to arrange car/van pooling. We have special rates at a Port Clinton hotel with a great bird-viewing beach.

Estimated cost of \$130 per single, or \$150 for two, includes two nights lodging, complimentary breakfasts, special slide show on Saturday night, birding on Saturday and Sunday, bird-banding demonstration, and small contribution to CAS and BSBO. For more information, contact Alan Anderson at [casresearch@comcast.net](mailto:casresearch@comcast.net)

**2004! Birdathon  
Wednesday, May 12-  
Tuesday, May 18**

## The 16th Annual Cook County Owl Count

March 5,6,7, 2004

The 16th Annual Cook County Owl Count is coming March 5,6,7, 2004--sunset to dawn. 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 will match you with a potential area or with a group that is already covering an area.

Pending Cook County Forest Preserve District approval, we will provide Forest Preserve permits to each group. This will allow each group to be on Forest Preserve property during the late evening, night, and early morning hours.



Participants from previous years and new owlers can sign up by calling Stephen or Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197. Our e-mail address is [stephenc@interaccess.com](mailto:stephenc@interaccess.com).

Illustrations by Steven D'Amato



## . : : Mark Your Calendars : : .

**Saturday, February 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
The 2004 Gull Frolic**

This is the third year that Jim Landing and Dave Johnson will coordinate this FREE winter birding extravaganza, sponsored by area birding clubs. Join them at the Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club to see all your favorite and even rare gulls from the warmth of the yacht club. Last year, through spotting scopes placed strategically throughout the club, Iceland, Thayer and even Kumlein's gulls were seen.

This event is free, and lunch is provided. Voluntary contributions are welcome.

Driving directions: Take I-94 to the last exit before Wisconsin, go east to Sheridan Road and North to Winthrop Harbor. At 7th Avenue turn right, go to the marina, and follow the road to the north end. For more information, call Jim Landing at (773) 252-8417.

## Highlights of the 2003 38th Chicago Urban Christmas Count

78 Species Seen

New birds, never before seen on this count included bluebirds, and for the count week, Lincoln's sparrow, sandhill cranes, and spotted towhee.

Some of the high counts were 14 great blue herons, 14 Cooper's hawks, 141 bluejays, 68 red-bellied woodpeckers, 12 yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and almost 300 cardinals. We had an excellent turnout of 25 observers.

Jeff Sanders, Chicago Urban Count compiler