



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

Periodicals

COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 4
JULY/AUGUST 2004

RECORD NUMBER OF SPECIES SIGHTED DURING BIRDATHON! 2004 A Beecher Cup Threepat for the Lake Forest College Team

By Joe Lill

The 5th Annual Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon Cup Challenge was a record-setting event in every way. For the first time since 1999 there was good weather all week, and a record number of bird species and birders showed up in response. One-hundred and eighty-one (181) species were identified by all teams combined, surpassing last years record of 161. With a record number of total species came team records from almost every team.

In order to keep the Beecher Cup for a third consecutive year, the Lake Forest College team had to set a record. They were up to the task, identifying 149 species! The BudBirders beat their previous best by thirteen, but their total of 146 was just short of winning. The Steel Belted Kingfishers took third place with 135, followed by the Presidential Posse (79), the Fledglings (63) and the Village People (53).

Although the Beecher Cup is certainly a treasured reward, the real goal of the competition is to

raise funds for programs of Chicago Audubon. The total amount raised from last year's Birdathon was \$4,000, and we're already over \$6,000 this year. We're hoping to do even better, and look forward to receiving contributions from those of you who haven't had a chance to pop yours in the mail.

Please use the pledge form below to top last years record. You can pledge in a number of ways: by total species seen (181), by the species total of your favorite team, or in a flat amount.

Many birders this year were Big Day veterans, but quite a few were doing their first Big Day, and they experienced the fun that comes with the territory. Life birds were found, and there were plenty of surprises along the way, with the most improbable species being the Swainson's hawk spotted by the Presidential Posse at Swallow Cliff in Palos.

If you've never participated in Birdathon, we invite you to join us next year. Maybe your team will end up with the Beecher Cup!

2004 Birdathon Teams

Lake Forest College (149)

Saturday, May 15th
Caleb Gordon, Ben Goluboff, Jeff Sundberg, Kris Sundberg

BudBirders (146)

Sunday, May 16th
Jill Anderson, Carolyn Fields, Cary Hillegonds, Maggie Kurcz, Walter Marcisz, Wes Serafin

Steel Belted Kingfishers (135)

Sunday, May 16th
Mark Agnor, Don Darnell, Caitlin Lill, Joe Lill, Ira Sanders, Jeff Sanders

Presidential Posse (79)

Saturday, May 15th
Stephen Lee, Christine Lee, Barbara Kratochvil, Al Rothenbach, Toni Wujek

Fledglings (63)

Thursday, May 13th
Kristin Dvorak, Claude Lacasse, Maurice Lacasse, Christine Prah,



Clockwise from the top: Ben Goluboff, Caleb Gordon, Kris Sundberg, Jeff Sundberg

Louise Simard

Village People (53)

Sunday, May 16th
Karen Anderson, Linda Comes, Gail Goldberger, Ken Sutchar, Tony Temske

SPECIES (181 total) You can view the entire list on our website: www.chicagoaudubon.org.

A heartfelt thank you to all those who contributed to Birdathon! 2004. We could not continue to run our programs, bird walks, and field trips without you!

BIRDATHON '04 PLEDGE FORM

My tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I am happy to pledge \$ _____ per species.

Team I'm sponsoring (optional) _____

Make check payable to: Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C N. Pulaski Rd.
Chicago, IL 60646

Credit card: Master Card VISA

Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature on card: _____

Name of contributor

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

CAS Member? yes no

My donation will be matched by my employer's Matching Contribution Program

Name and Phone of Matching Contributor

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGE

WHY DOES THIS ISSUE OF THE COMPASS LOOK DIFFERENT?

This is the first issue produced just for Chicago Audubon Society members. The second issue will come out in November/December. Only Chicago Audubon members receive six issues per year, including these two.

There is no time like the present to join Chicago Audubon. Rich in educational programs, field trips and bird walks, belonging to Chicago Audubon and subscribing to the *COMPASS* is one excellent way to connect with nature and birds, and other people excited about nature and birds.

We encourage you to join today by filling out the form below, or download the form from our website and send it in.

We look forward to meeting you!

CAS MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS:

- Educational programs (six times per year)
- Field trips year round
- Bird walks led by trained guides
- Biennial Birding America Conference
- Bird Habitat Surveys
- Birdathon!
- Christmas Bird Counts
- Student Scholarship Awards
- CAS Early Birds program
- Newsletter, The COMPASS, (6 per year if you are a CAS member, 4 per year if you are an NAS member.)

Mail Form to:
Chicago Audubon Society
5801-C North Pulaski Road
Chicago, IL 60646-6057

Or by Phone: (773) 539-6793 with a VISA or MASTERCARD

CHICAGO AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the Chicago Audubon Society. Enclosed is my check for \$20.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

CORRECTION

The lead article in the May/June COMPASS, "World Class Birding Trails, Soon a Reality," named the larger, regional birding trail the "Greater Chicago Birding Trail." The correct name for this trail is the "Chicago Region Birding Trail."



Nature Buffs — Enjoy a Unique Vacation

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COMPASS

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 North Park Village
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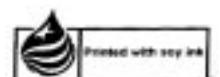
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BE A BIRD MONITOR

By Alan Anderson

Chicago Audubon is a member of the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), and one of BCN's major projects is bird monitoring in area parks, forest preserves and other open spaces. BCN saves and shares this data with interested parties that manage those areas.

A major thrust of bird monitoring is devoted to the nesting season, which is now upon us. Nesting surveys in July and August are quite helpful and significant, as confirmed nesting is fairly easy to determine via recently fledged young or feeding of young.

We ask Chicago Audubon Society members to help survey nesting birds, as well as volunteer to monitor birds year-round, in your favorite park, preserve or open space. To get more information on the 'whys' and 'hows', first visit the BCN website (www.bcnbirds.org). Then click on "BCN Census." There is much introductory information there.

If you'd like to be a bird monitor at a particular site, contact Judy Pollock, jpollock@audubon.org, Lee Ramsey, leerams@comcast.net, or Alan Anderson, casresearch@comcast.net. We can help answer all of your questions and help you get started.

Once you start surveying birds, you can enter your sightings into the BCN-ebird website (click on "BCN-Ebird" at upper left of BCN website), or go to www.ebird.org/bcn/. This site is run by BCN and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and contains much recent historical bird data and surveys (including the Cook County Nesting Season Bird Census data that

ran from 1985-1997 and was coordinated by CAS and other local birds groups).

It is important to gather as much bird data as possible about our local parks, preserves and other natural areas, to use for comparison with bird information collected in the future. It is exciting to know that 'your own data' can be saved and used many years in the future!

Besides entering your sightings in the BCN-ebird website, you can also send species reports (enter location, date, hours in field, species seen and number of each) to the Chicago Park District for sightings in any Chicago park, or to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for Cook County forest preserve bird sightings.

Our contact at the CCFPD is Jim Phillips, Biologist (708-403-6951). Although we do send all the data to all land managers once a year, Jim would appreciate copies of your monitoring checklists if it's convenient for you to send them.

When you have finished entering your eBird data, it is fairly simple to make a copy of the list of birds and send it by e-mail to jphillips61@comcast.net—or you can fax a form to 708-403-7556, or mail it to him at FPD of Cook County, 13700 110th Avenue, Orland Park, IL 60467.

For bird censuses in Chicago parks, you can e-mail your reports to Nathan Schroeder at Schroeder-Nathan@aramark.com.

For those of you who have never been a monitor, an example of what can be sent follows:

From: Alan Anderson casresearch@comcast.net

To: Jim Phillips (CCFPD) jphillips61@comcast.net

Sent: Friday, June 04, 2004 10:19 PM

Subject: Robinson Woods West (west side Des Plaines River, north of Lawrence Ave.), Friday June 4, 2004

Location name: Robinson Woods West

Observation date: 6/4/04

Duration: 0 hour(s) 30 minute(s)

of people in birding party: 1

Are you reporting all the species you identified? Yes

Total # of species: 11

Observation type: Timed Observation

Start time: 4:45 PM

Distance covered: 0.4 mile(s)

CHECKLIST DIARY NOTES

first fawn (very young) of year

Wood Duck	1	M
Mallard	1	
Northern Flicker	1	X
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	X
Red-eyed Vireo	1	X
American Robin	2	
Gray Catbird	1	
Northern Cardinal	1	X
Indigo Bunting	1	X,A
Common Grackle	1	
American Goldfinch	1	

X = singing male , A - agitated

The Early Birds Project Enters Second Year, Gains in Popularity

More people than ever fall in love with birding

By Gail Goldberger

One year ago, Chicago Audubon launched the *Early Birds* project designed to meet the needs of new birders. Now in its second year, the *Early Birds* is proving to be a popular way to introduce novice birders to the joys of birding.

Through years of leading bird walks, Audubon guides discovered that many beginners were unprepared for the rigors of birdwatching. While birding may not seem complicated, it is technical, and its technical aspects can be daunting. New birders need to learn how to use binoculars and field guides, and how to spot and identify birds. None of this comes easily or naturally.

Chicago Audubon developed the *Early Birds* with extended classroom time so that people new to birding could feel free to ask questions, and have time to familiarize themselves with guides and binoculars. Armed with a new cache of binoculars that were light-

weight enough to be used by all ages, and powerful enough to bring the joy of birding home, Chicago Audubon continued the project this spring with three walks in May.

As before, much time was spent in the classroom learning to operate binoculars—a technical feat in itself—which raised the confidence level of the participants. Since these walks are conducted during spring and fall migrations, leaders spent time explaining what occurs during migration, as well as how to distinguish between spring and fall migrants.

The best field guides were displayed, discussed and used. This spring, we were lucky to have volunteer Kathleen Vogt donate 23 field guides to the *Early Birds*, including 13 copies of *Peterson's Guide to Eastern Birds*. People shared the 13 copies of *Peterson's*, which made for easier birding as people could refer to the same book. Handouts distributed included checklists, tips on using binoculars, and a list

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THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

The Birdathon! 2004 mailing this year could not have happened without the help of the following volunteers: Karen Andersen, Jill Anderson, Tracy Heuschel, Michael Hillbruner, Christine Lee, Stephen Lee, Joe Lill, Sue Sherman-Martinez, Lester Szewczyk, and Patricia Szewczyk.

CALENDAR

STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS

At the Skokie Lagoons: July 10, August 14 and September 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Chicago Audubon conducts regular monthly workdays at the Skokie Lagoons on the second Saturday of each month. Activities include buckthorn cutting, planting and other management activities. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the bridge.

For further information, contact Jerry Garden at 773.545.4632 or email him at jerrygarden@sprynet.com.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Save the date!

Friday, September 10, North Park Village Nature Center

Refreshments at 7:00 p.m.

Program at 7:30 p.m.

September program to be announced. Check the website for details, or call the office: 773.539.6793.

WEEKLY BIRD WALKS

Wednesdays in July, August and September at 7:00 a.m. & Saturdays in July, August and September at 8:00 a.m.

At the Paul H. Douglas Nature Sanctuary (Wooded Island)

Meet at the Darrow Bridge, just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Audubon guide: Doug Anderson 773.493.7058.

Saturdays in September at 8:00 a.m.

At North Park Village Nature Center 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago

Meet in front of the Nature Center. Bring binoculars and field guide. Audubon guide: Don Klimovich 773.878.4421.

OTHER BIRD WALKS

Saturday, July 24, 8:00 a.m.

Walking the Prairie at Wolf Road

See birds, butterflies and plants at this wetland and prairie habitat on the corner of Wolf Road and 31st Street in Westchester, IL across the road from Bemis Woods Forest Preserve. Please contact Barb Kratochvil for more information at 708.485.3678.

Sunday, August 29, 8:00 a.m.

Lake Calumet Wetland Birds

Leader: Walter Marcisz at 773.646.3034 or wjmarcisz@aol.com.

This annual trip has been a favorite of Audubon members for many years. Likely birds to be seen include little blue heron, snowy egret, yellow-crowned night heron, yellowlegs, dowitchers and sandpipers. Since conditions change from year to year, the locations for this years trip will be determined in August.

Directions: Meet at O'Brien Lock & Dam. Take I-94 to 130th St. Exit east on 130th and turn right just before the steel bridge into the drive for O'Brien Lock and Dam. Turn left after the railroad underpass and proceed along the river to the parking lot.

Saturday, September 11, 8-11:00 a.m.

Thatcher Woods

See the arriving fall migrants along the Des Plaines River Valley. Meet at the Trailside Museum parking lot west of the intersection of Thatcher Rd. and Chicago Ave. (south side) in River Forest, IL. Audubon guides: Christine and Stephen Lee 708.485.8197.

FIELD TRIPS

Lost Mound National Wildlife Area

Saturday, July 17, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Cosponsored by the Field Museum and Chicago Audubon, travel to the Mississippi River to see Illinois' largest contiguous sand prairie and sand savanna. Because of the large expanse, the prairie provides significant habitat for a variety

of threatened and endangered species. In addition to examining plants, we'll look for late nesting birds and/or juveniles.

Leaders: Alan Anderson (CAS) and Ed Anderson (Lost Mound NWR).

Fee is \$60 (\$50 for members). Registration is required, call 312.665.7400.

Saturday, October 16, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

The Great Hawk Migration

Investigate the migration of diurnal hawks at Illinois Beach State Park, one of Illinois' top hawk-watching sites and an important area for biological preservation. Learn what's involved in observing and keeping records at a hawk-watch site. Conditions permitting, you'll see buteos, falcons, accipiters, vultures and more. You'll also visit Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve, which features a mix of oak savanna and woodlands, wet and mesic prairies, and sedge meadows—excellent places to view ducks, shorebirds and grassland birds.

Cosponsored with the Field Museum. Fee is \$60 (\$50 for members). Registration is required. Call 312.665.7400.

Saturday, November 6, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Indiana Dunes and Jasper-Pulaski

In the morning, visit the Dunes: Long Lake for ducks, geese, coots and passerines; Bailly/Chelsburg for sparrow, blackbirds, bluebirds, hawks, and woodpeckers; and the Dunes State Park Nature Center for feeder birds. In the afternoon, we'll travel to Jasper-Pulaski State Fish and Wildlife Area, famous for thousands of sandhill cranes that stop here during fall migration.

Cosponsored by CAS and Chicago Botanic Garden. Bring lunch, binoculars, scopes, field guides and layer for the weather.

Transportation by coach bus. Fee is \$99 (\$79 for members). Meet at the Gateway Visitor Center, Botanic Garden. Registration is required, call 847.835.8362.

Early Birds continued from Page 3

of other birdwalks available in Chicago.

A total of 110 people participated in three walks, one designed specifically for University of Chicago alumni, and organized by Joan Spoerl. Our good weather in May brought people of all ages out to bird: older people, young couples with babies, children aged 7-9, and teenagers. One teenage girl came two weeks in a row on her own; then, on the third, brought along her grandfather and little sister to share in the fun.

And the birds cooperated. Many warblers were seen, a green heron in the pond, indigo

buntings, rose-breasted grosbeaks, and even soras were sighted.

Kudos to all the "Early Birders" who came out on these walks. A survey of participants showed that half had never birded before, and half had birded only once or twice. So if you're new to birding, be assured that you will feel comfortable coming to these exciting classroom sessions and walks.

Watch our website - www.chicagoaudubon.org - for September 2004 Early Bird dates. Or call the Audubon office in August at 773.539.6793. Pre-registration is preferred. If you are a new birder, or know new birders, please come, and encourage others to come. *We want to see you*

in September!

A special thanks to the volunteer guides who led these walks and taught the classroom sessions—Marci Buettgen, Don Klimovich, Christine Lee, Wally Mah, Roger Shamley and Ken Sutchar.

We would love more volunteer guides for Early Bird walks, and field guides for participants.

If you would like to volunteer, or have field guides to donate, please contact Marci Buettgen at 773.878.4421 or the CAS office at 773.539.6793.