



COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 11

DECEMBER 2000

Join in 101 Years of Citizen Science

By Alan Anderson
CAS Research Co-Chair

The 101st annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place throughout the continent this December 14 through January 5th. As NAS President John Flicker mentioned in a recent AUDUBON, the CBC's are the longest-running survey in ornithology, and anyone who can identify bird species can help.

A number of counts are available locally for your participation. Chicago Audubon co-sponsors the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore CBC on Saturday, December 16 and the Chicago Urban CBC on Sunday, December 17. However, members are urged to help on any count in this region.

If you are unable to help "in the field", but live in a "count circle" (each count is in a designated circle, 16 miles in diameter), you can help by reporting birds observed at your bird feeders. Contact the compiler in your area to find out what the boundaries are for your particular CBC and what you can do.

There is a small fee for field observers who participate, that covers the costs of compiling and post-

ing results, nationally. There is no fee, however, for bird-feeder observers.

Past CBC results are now available online: visit the National Audubon Society's website at www.audubon.org and click on "Birds & Science."

Hope you can help! Besides collecting useful data, being in a Christmas Bird Count is FUN and provides camaraderie too.

WHY COUNT BIRDS (OR ANY CREATURE FOR THAT MATTER?)

Bird counts (and other surveys) are used to build a body of knowledge that scientists and others can use to protect birds and their habitats. When you look at a species over a period of time, you can detect changes that may point to changes in the environment. Surveys are thus used to monitor the numbers and health of a species, determine trends, and propose solutions to habitats that are changing or imperiled.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS 2000-2001

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2000

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore CBC, Compiler: Joy Bower, c/o Gibson Woods Nature Preserve, (219) 989-9679 e-mail: teetrnsnipe@aol.com (CAS is a Co-sponsor)

Fermilab-Batavia CBC, Compiler: Denis Kania (630) 961-5364; e-mail: MelissaLKania@avenew.com

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2000

Chicago Urban CBC, Compiler: Jeffrey Sanders, (847) 657-6431 (CAS is a co-sponsor) Feeder watchers needed too!

Lisle Arboretum CBC, Compiler: Geoff Williamson, (773) 935-8439; e-mail: gaw@ece.iit.edu

Thorn Creek/Park Forest CBC, Compiler: Jim Kelly, (708) 798-3115; e-mail: jkelly959@aol.com

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2000

Barrington CBC, Compiler: Duane Heaton, (847) 358-5856; e-mail: dheaton@xnet.com

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2000

South Lake County, Indiana CBC, Compiler: Barb Dodge, (219) 374-4385

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2000

Chicago Lakefront CBC, Compiler: Joel Greenberg, (773) 286-4636

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2000

Sand Ridge Audubon Society Bi-state CBC (Calumet/Sand Ridge), Compiler: Carolyn Marsh, (219) 659-7904; e-mail: cmarshbird@prodigy.net

Evanston-North Shore CBC, Compiler: Ralph Herbst (708) 867-6346; email: geomalia@inter-access.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2001

Waukegan CBC, Compiler: Joel Greenberg, (773) 286-4636

Watch for Snowy Owls



photo by Ralph Herbst

CAS member Ralph Herbst took this photo of the Snowy Owl that was seen at Montrose Harbor and vicinity in late October through early November. A few Snowy Owls sometimes visit the Chicago area during late fall and winter, especially when their main northern food supply of lemmings is not as abundant.

When present, you may be able to see Snowy Owls at Montrose Harbor, in the Meig's Field area, other lakefront locations, and even inland (the Lake Calumet area). There was a Snowy Owl reported on the Chicago Lakefront Christmas Bird Count last winter and during "count week" on 2 other CBC's.

Call the **CAS Rare Bird Alert (847-265-2118)** to hear if Snowy Owls (or other rare birds) have been sited. You can also check out *Birding Illinois* by CAS Board Member Sheryl DeVore and *A Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region* by Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg for additional locations where you may find Snowy Owls and other uncommon winter visitors. (Both books are available from CAS — call 773-539-6793 to order.)



Become a Friend of Chicago Audubon Society Today!



Membership Application

Audubon is a conservation organization with a focus on birds, wildlife and habitat

Membership helps support Audubon's conservation mission. So join today, extend your membership or give a gift membership to someone else. As a member, you receive a one-year subscription to Audubon magazine and the Compass newsletter, as well as other discounts and opportunities. When you enroll, indicate the address where you would like your subscription mailed.

Enclose this form and a check for \$20, payable to the National Audubon Society. Send to National Audubon Society, Attn: K. Totaro, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

This is a gift membership for:

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Address _____	Address _____
_____	_____
City _____ State _____	City _____ State _____
Home Phone _____	Home Phone _____
Work Phone _____	Work Phone _____
Email _____	Email _____


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SHOP AT JEWEL-OSCO ¹³ December 11, 12 and

Support your local chapter! Shop at Jewel-Osco on December 11, 12 and 13 and present the signed Shop & Share Identification Slip (below) to your checkout clerk. A portion of your purchase will go to Chicago Audubon Society.

You can photocopy this coupon and use for multiple purchases. Make as many copies as you want, clip them out, and take to the store. Pass them out to your friends! Individual slips will also be available at the Audubon office after 11/20/00. Call (773) 539-6793 if you'd like us to mail them to you.

Thank you in advance for your support!



SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

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DOLLARS

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CENTS

GROUP: **Chicago Audubon Society**

YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: **12/11/2000, 12/12/2000, 12/13/2000**

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP.
 PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL-OSCO ON THE DATE ABOVE.
 IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL-OSCO.



COMPASS

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



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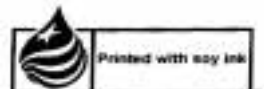
Audubon info hotline: (847) 299-3505
Report sightings to: (847) 265-2117
Rare bird alert: (847) 265-2118
Activity line: (773) 539-6793, press 1
Web page:
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Holiday Gifts from Audubon



On Sale now at the Audubon office are several books and shade grown coffee that will make great gifts for the upcoming holiday season. Call the office at (773) 539-6793 and place your order, or stop by Monday-Friday

between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. We do accept payment by Master Card and Visa. Your gift purchases will support the work of the Chicago Audubon Society.

Song Bird Coffee is selected and roasted for the American Birding

Association by the Thanksgiving Coffee Company, number one U.S. roaster of certified organic and shade grown coffees. We carry the following varieties: Costa Rican (Light roast sweet & fruity), French Roast (Dark Roast - Strong), Nicaraguan (Medium Roast - rich & smooth) and Decaffeinated (Light & dark blend). The cost is \$10 for a 12-ounce bag, plus \$2 shipping and handling.

Enjoying Chicago Wilderness with Your Family: An Activity Guide — Edited by Judy Pollock

A bargain at \$4.95 (plus \$2 shipping and handling), this four-color, sixty page softcover guide is filled with two dozen fun activities you can do with your children in your own back yards or parks, as well as at forest preserves and other natural areas throughout Chicago. With this guide you will learn how to search for seeds, cast animal tracks, raise monarch butterflies, identify frog calls, and build a rain water garden. Good for children ages 4-14.

A Birder's Guide to the Chicago Region by Lynne Carpenter and Joel Greenberg

Within a 65-mile radius of downtown Chicago, this useful guide provides maps, directions and other essential info for finding birds of this area in their natural habitats. The most thorough guide of its kind, it covers nineteen counties in the Chicago region. With accounts of the natural history and ecology of certain areas, readers learn the role of geology and rivers in creating environments that attract species of wildlife and birds. \$24 (plus \$2 shipping and handling).

Birding Illinois by Sheryl De Vore

With Birding Illinois you can explore over 110 great birding locations throughout the state. Some of the Midwest's best birding occurs in the Prairie State, thanks to the rich variety of habitat that includes woodlands, wetlands, hills, sandstone canyons, savannas, prairies, cypress swamps, and sand dunes. You will also find good birding on the Lake Michigan shoreline and along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Complete with detailed site maps and bar graphs showing species status and distribution. \$24.95 (plus \$2 shipping and handling).

Another Fall at Jasper-Pulaski



photo by Roy Slovenko

By Alan Anderson
CAS Research Co-Chair

Roy Slovenko, one of 40 participants in the October 21st CAS/Field Museum trip to the Indiana Dunes and Jasper-Pulaski (J-P) Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana, took this photo of some of the more than 11,000 sandhill cranes that were present at J-P this fall.

The cranes come in each evening to the field in front of an observation area and deck, after feeding in

area cornfields, marshes and elsewhere during the day. To hear the cranes trumpeting, watch them majestically land in droves around dusk, and do bits of their "dance," is truly a visual and aural treat! ("They look like parachutes when they land," exclaimed Karen Furnweger.)

Some other bird highlights of the trip were: ring-necked and wood ducks, hermit thrush, 6 species of sparrow, numerous kinglets, eastern bluebird, red-headed woodpecker,

eastern meadowlark, kingfisher, tufted titmouse, brown creeper, house and purple finch, turkey vulture, and a northern harrier that flew right in front of the crane observation area at J-P. The weather was warm and pleasant, the leaves were still in brilliant color, the birds (especially the cranes) were cooperative, and everyone on the trip enjoyed it (and each other ñ a great group!). Come join us next year!

(You can view more of Roy's photos of the J-P cranes at <http://royenko3.homestead.com/Cranes.html>)



photo by Roy Slovenko

Some early arrivals, of the more than 11,000 sandhill cranes that gathered in the field adjacent to the Crane Observation Platform at dusk at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area in Indiana, on the CAS October 21st field trip.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BIRD WALKS AT WOODED ISLAND

Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m.
December 6, 13, 20, 27
Saturdays at 8:00 a.m.
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Join Doug Anderson for a bird walk through Wooded Island's Paul Douglas Nature Sanctuary. Meet at the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park behind the Museum of Science and Industry. Call (773) 493-7058.

MONTHLY WORKDAYS at the Skokie Lagoons

Saturday, December 9 and January 13 at 10:00 a.m.

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.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Saturday, December 16

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Compiler: Joy Bower, c/o Gibson Woods Nature Preserve (219) 989-9679; teetrsnipe@aol.com (CAS is a Cosponsor)

Fermilab-Batavia, Compiler: Denis Kania (630) 961-5364; MelissaLKania@avenew.com

Sunday, December 17

Chicago Urban, Compiler: Jeffrey Sanders (847) 657-6431
Lisle-Morton Arboretum, Compiler: Geoff Williamson (773) 935-8439; gaw@ece.iit.edu
Thorn Creek/Park Forest, Compiler: Jim Kelly (708) 798-3115; jkelly959@aol.com

Monday, December 18

Barrington, Compiler: Duane Heaton (847) 358-5856; dheaton@xnet.com

Saturday, December 23

South Lake County, Indiana, Compiler: Barb Dodge (219) 374-4385

Monday, December 25

Chicago Lakefront, Compiler: Joel Greenberg (773) 286-4636

Saturday, December 30

Sand Ridge Audubon Society (Calumet/Sand Ridge), Compiler: Carolyn Marsh (219) 659-7904; cmarshbird@prodigy.net
Evanston-North Shore, Compiler: Ralph Herbst (708) 867-6346; geomalia@interaccess.com

Monday, January 1, 2001

Waukegan, Compiler: Joel Greenberg (773) 286-4636

2001

Friday, January 19, 2001

The Illinois Environmental Council's Education Fund presents

The Capitol Steps — Musical Political Satire
Performing Live at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, IL.

Order tickets early, be a sponsor.

Tickets begin at \$60.

Sponsors at \$100.

Grand Sponsors at \$1,000.

Benefit includes performance, reception, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction. Call (630) 323-6891.

Field Trip to Savanna Army Depot, Saturday, March 10, 2001 (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) to see bald eagles, winter birds, early spring migrants and ducks

After a one-year lapse, we are again able to offer this joint trip with the Field Museum to the Savanna Army Depot along the Mississippi River. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are now managing the Depot.

In early spring, more bald eagles can be seen in Illinois along the Mississippi River than anywhere south of Alaska. We should be able to view the feeding and roosting habits of our national symbol. The vast acreage and diverse habitats of this area provide good opportunities for seeing other species as well. We can expect to see winter visitors, resident birds (possibly wild turkey and horned lark) as well as early spring migrants, including a number of duck species.

Dress for the weather (layered clothes are best as the bus will be warm and the river bluffs cold) and bring a lunch, beverage, snacks, binoculars, field guide and spotting scope, if you have one. Driving time to Savanna is approximately 3 hours.

Cost: \$50 members (Field Museum and CAS), \$60 non-members.


Call the Field Museum to register at: 312-665-7518.

Flower Show at Navy Pier, March 10-18, 2001 - The Chicago Audubon Society will again have a booth at the Flower Show, and will need volunteers. Call the office (773) 539-6793 for more information and to sign up!

Chicago Audubon Society Holiday Wish List:

- A copier that collates
- Perforated computer paper

Please contact the office (773)539-6793 if you or someone you know can make this donation.



What would you give ...

to save habitats and birds in the greater Chicagoland area?

The Chicago Chapter of the National Audubon Society has been a nature education, stewardship, and conservation organization for more than 25 years. Our public programs focus on birds and their local habitats and include bird walks, field trips, presentations on nature-related subjects and many more activities.

In this season of giving, we hope you will take the opportunity to give to Chicago Audubon.

Your gift will help ensure the future of local birds and their habitats, and keep our city livable.

Send your contribution today to Chicago Audubon Society, North Park Village, 5801-C N. Pulaski Road, Chicago IL 60646-6057.

Give in the highest amount that you can. Your entire gift is tax deductible as permitted by law.

ENJOY TROPICAL COSTA RICA:

11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS DURING SPRING BREAK!

Depart: Thursday, March 22, 2001 • Return: Sunday, April 1

Experience the Costa Rica that Dennis & Kristi DuBois know from their years of living there. This adventure trip includes rooms in quaint lodges, most meals and is accompanied by a local naturalist guide. Trip includes national parks, cloud forests, hot springs and beaches on the Pacific and Caribbean. Many other optional activities also available.

Reservations are limited. Cost is \$1975 which includes roundtrip airfare on Continental Airlines from O'Hare.

This trip is popular so book early to ensure a spot!

Call Dennis DuBois: (503) 429-8029

www.CostaRicaAdventure.com



December 2000

WINTER BIRDS & JOURNALING
December 2, 8:00 a.m. at

LOYOLA PARK: 1230 W. Greenleaf Ave.
December 9, 9:00 a.m. at

GOMPERS PARK: 4224 W. Foster Ave.
December 16, 10:00 a.m. at

HUMBOLDT PARK: 61400 N. Sacramento Ave.

Walk with a birding guide to learn more about birds that live in and migrate through your park. Special birding topics will be discussed each month by your walk leader. Meet at park field house.

For more information, call Jerry Garden (773) 545-4632
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