



# COMPASS

*Navigating the world of birds and nature*

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 2

MARCH/APRIL 2004

## CHICAGO BIRD COLLISION MONITORS

Helping Migratory Birds Safely Navigate the Loop

By Sharon Parmet

According to Buddhist philosophy, all living things share two common desires: to end suffering and to find happiness. Robbie Hunsinger, founder of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM), manages to do both by saving birds' lives. During spring and fall migration, she can be found in the early morning hours searching Loop streets, sidewalks and plazas for birds that have been injured by accidentally flying into buildings. "There is nothing quite as rewarding as releasing one of the birds after getting it out of danger," says Hunsinger.

Our Chicago Loop skyscrapers form a wall that interrupts a major bird migration route from North America to Central and South America and back again. Birds that migrate at night use Lake Michigan as a kind of "highway," and unfortunately, fly smack into metropolitan Chicago where rooftop lights draw them like moths to a flame.

At a Chicago Audubon presentation Hunsinger gave at the North Park Village Nature Center on February 13, she showed a video made by fellow bird rescuer Ken Wysocki. Wysocki aimed his camera at the top of the John Hancock tower at 2:00 a.m. during migration. As he zoomed in, you could see what appear to be moths circling the building. As he continued to zoom in, it's obvious that these "moths" were actually hundreds and hundreds of birds drawn to the light, endlessly circling the building, and many died of sheer exhaustion.

It is believed that birds use the lights of the stars and moon to help them navigate during their long journeys, and artificial lights can confuse them. Once birds get sucked into the city by rooftop lights, they face another set of deadly challenges on the ground. Lit lobbies showcasing ornamental trees and plants are the most dangerous. Because birds can't see glass, they fly straight into windows on their way to the trees inside. Trees planted more than a few feet back from the building are also a problem because they are reflected in lobby windows, and also attract birds. It is estimated that anywhere from 100,000,000 to one billion birds are killed by accidentally flying into buildings each year in the United States.

During spring and fall migration (March 17—June 7 and August 25—October 25) Robbie spends every day answering Hotline calls



Linda Cames (left) volunteer and Robbie Hunsinger, founder of the Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

for injured birds, coordinating rescues and pick-ups, and collecting birds that have been rescued so that they can be treated and taken to rehab or release spots. She also spends a few days a week getting up around 4:15 a.m. to get downtown before the morning rush hour to patrol for injured birds that have collided with Loop skyscrapers during the night and early morning. Often, Hunsinger is accompanied by one of her volunteers. Joan Bruchman, who has been a bird rescue volunteer since 2002, is a regular. She recently retired and was looking for a way to become involved with helping migrating birds when she came across a call for volunteers from Hunsinger on IBET. "It keeps me busy and I enjoy it a lot," says Bruchman.

When an injured bird is found, it is "triaged" on the spot. Hunsinger looks for swelling or eyes that are closed or just "don't look right," an indication of concussion. Hunsinger received special training and has a federal sub-permit from Fellow Mortals, an animal rehabilitation center in Wisconsin that allows her to administer anti-concussion shots to birds. The shots need to be given within six to eight hours to be most effective. "The shots are literally a life saver," says Hunsinger. "Its amazing how well they work."

On a good day, Hunsinger and her team won't find any birds, but on bad days they can find 40 dead and 20 stunned or injured birds to treat, evaluate and hopefully release. Birds that have suffered graver injuries like fractures are driven to Willowbrook Rehabilitation Center in DuPage

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### LOOP AREAS THAT NEED ADDITIONAL MONITORS:

Wacker Drive  
East Randolph area  
Michigan Avenue north of the river  
The west Loop (west of Wacker)  
The Loop south of Monroe

### IF YOU FIND AN INJURED BIRD

If you find an injured bird, carefully pick it up and place it in an unwaxed paper sack or box along with paper towels or tissues in the bottom. Place the bag or box in a quiet dark place, and call Hunsinger's bird rescue hotline at 773/988-1867.

The most common birds found during migration season are:

- White throated sparrows
- Brown Creepers
- Ovenbirds
- Juncos
- Hermit Thrushes
- Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers
- Redstarts

### WE NEED MORE MONITORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

CBCM rescued 173 birds last fall, but could really use help finding birds and coordinating their treatment. If you can devote even one morning it would really help. If you live and/or work in the Loop and can walk around your building once a day, please contact us at 773/988-1867.

#### We need:

- Predawn monitors
- Drivers from the Loop to Northwest Chicago (especially in the late morning/afternoon)
- Drivers to rehab
- Volunteers to help with outreach
- Volunteers that can check for birds on their way to work from their trains
- A quiet, temporary holding location for injured birds awaiting treatment and/or pickup

— Robbie Hunsinger

## AUDUBON NEWSWIRE

### Audubon at Home Launches Website: Make Your Backyard Bird Friendly

You know where you live, but do you know your "ecological address?" Audubon At Home, a new program made possible in part by the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is bringing conservation home through an exciting, interactive website designed to give visitors useful information on making their backyards more bird-friendly, and their homes healthier and safer for their families. It accomplishes this by helping users identify the natural characteristics of their property and its role in local ecology.

Audubon is stressing the value of backyard habitat and asks participants to make their yards not only bird-friendly, but also bird-safe. The new Audubon At Home website, [http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html), contains a treasure trove of information that gives users the tools they need to create backyards that will attract birds and safeguard them as well. "Each yard, no matter the size, has the potential to help birds," said Sally Conyne, Director of the GBBC. "By providing just a few necessities, your home landscape will attract birds, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. You'll be rewarded with a low-maintenance yard bustling with the variety of colors and textures you would find in far wilder places." To find out more, visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org).

### Audubon Reacts To Bush Administration '05 Budget

Washington, DC, Wednesday, February 4, 2004 - The Fiscal Year 2005 budget released earlier this week by the Bush Administration weakens environmental protections and cuts programs critical to protecting America's great natural heritage. Though there is some good news, it is outweighed by provisions that weaken environmental protections and reduce the security that our drinking water, air, and natural habitats remain safe.

"This Administration and some in Congress are out of touch with the American people on environmental issues, and this budget is part and parcel of that fundamental disconnect," said Bob Perciasepe, Chief Operating Officer for National Audubon Society. "Drilling for oil in our natural treasures like the Arctic Refuge and slashing funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is

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# AUDUBON NEWSWIRE

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no way to provide the environmental leadership this country needs." Visit [http://www.audubon.org/news/press\\_releases/Bush\\_Budget.html](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/Bush_Budget.html) for the full story.

## Audubon Center of the North Woods Announces Programs for 2004

The Audubon Center of the North Woods and Hamline University are offering a number of exciting courses this winter, spring, and summer. While these courses are of great interest to teachers, they are also open to everyone who is curious about nature, loves to be outside, and who likes to learn. This year, there is something for everyone, including online courses on Minnesota Natural History or Integrating Environmental Education, weekends on birds, winter, wolves, Native American Crafts, and much, much more. Summer offerings include the opportunity to study animal behavior in the badlands of South Dakota - learning about prairie dogs, bison, bighorns, coyotes, swift fox, birds, as well as the topography of this marvelous landscape. Or, you can canoe the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, discover the biomes of Minnesota, delve into the mysteries of Minnesota's aquatic systems, or explore the Lake Superior's shore from Duluth to Thunder Bay. Full program details can be found at [www.audubon-center.org/College\\_programs.htm#graduate](http://www.audubon-center.org/College_programs.htm#graduate).

Current semester registration should be done through Hamline University, Registration and Records, 1536 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104-1284. For advanced registration, scholarship recipients, non-credit pricing or further information, contact the Audubon Center of the North Woods at 1-888-404-7743 or [Audubon1@audubon-center.org](mailto:Audubon1@audubon-center.org), or visit their web site at [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org).

*Excerpted from National Audubon Society's NEWSWIRE service.*



Steven D'Amato

## BIRD COLLISION MONITORS

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County or Fellow Mortals. Some go home with Hunsinger who has a special sub-permit to rehabilitate injured birds. This usually involves feeding them and letting them rest and their injuries heal.

Hunsinger officially founded the Chicago Bird Collision Monitor & Rescue Project, which now numbers about 20 volunteers, in spring 2003. Before CBCM existed, Ken Wysocki had been monitoring the Loop largely on his own. "When I asked Ken who was helping him with monitoring downtown, and he said nobody, I knew I had to help out," said Hunsinger. Now, she counts on more than just her official volunteers to comb the area for downed birds. Doormen, commuters, security officers, building managers and custodians also alert her to particularly bad areas and even make rescues on occasion.

In addition to this downtown network, CBCM has a Hotline, a website, a database, business cards, flyers, and educational outreach programs. CBCM recently gained two important advisors: University of Illinois at Chicago assistant professor of architecture Ellen Grimes, and one of the country's foremost experts on bird collisions, Muhlenberg College professor of biology Daniel Klem, Jr. CBCM is also the newest member of the Bird Conservation Network.

As Hunsinger describes her pre-dawn routine of checking particularly bad spots like Wacker Drive and East Randolph, you can clearly feel her sense of urgency. She only has a short period of time in which to monitor numerous sites. Once a bird is on the ground, it becomes instant food for predators like gulls and crows. "There have been times when I would have missed a bird if I got there twenty or thirty seconds later," says Hunsinger.

Once she finds a bird, she places it in an unwaxed paper sack lined with paper towels on the bottom. On the outside of the bag, she writes the location, time and name of the building the bird crashed into, and then continues monitoring. "At some point, I have to make a choice. Do I give shots to the birds I've got, or keep looking for other birds?" Hunsinger asks. "There's always a chance that there will be a whole lot of birds at a site we haven't gotten to yet."

Many birds simply need to be removed from danger, treated and allowed to recover in the refuge of Hunsinger's back seat, and are able to be released a few hours later. Hunsinger releases the majority of birds she deems healthy in Grant Park, Jarvis Sanctuary or Paul Douglas Forest Preserve.

Linda Cames is one of Hunsinger's volunteers. She says that now that her friends and co-workers know what she does, she sometimes arrives at her Loop

office to find a box or bag with an injured bird inside on her desk. "I call up Robbie and she will arrange for a volunteer driver to pick the bird up at my building," says Cames.

A major part of Hunsinger's work involves educating building managers about the dangers their lights pose to migrating birds. The most time consuming and frustrating part of her job may be figuring out who the building manager is and getting through to them. "It can take a lot of phone calls," she says. Hunsinger has had great success getting building managers to dim or turn off their lights, including lobby lights, during migration season. "They are really interested in helping out birds—nobody likes to come to work and see dead birds on the sidewalk," Hunsinger says. "Usually, they don't know that there are actually solutions to the problem, but when I start to educate them, they want to help."

This past fall, Jim Baroni, the manager at the Blue Cross building agreed to dim his lobby lights thanks to Hunsinger's efforts. "It really does make a huge difference in bird deaths," she explains. One morning in fall 2002, several buildings that agreed to turn their lights off left them on by mistake, and dead birds were everywhere. The next morning, after a night of lights out, there were hardly any birds near the buildings. "There was about an 80 percent reduction in bird deaths at those buildings just because they turned their lights off that night," says Hunsinger.

Hunsinger firmly believes that the number of bird deaths can be reduced: "I fully believe that this is a solvable problem. The more building managers we get to dim their lights, especially lobby lights, the more birds can be saved. Even encouraging people not to have plants just inside the windows can help prevent birds from crashing."

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Many birds die from striking the windows of homes and apartments. If you have plants on your windowsills, move them back from the glass or use blinds or other visual barriers. If you have a bird feeder, move it to within 5 feet of your window, or back further than 15 feet away from the glass. Dangerously placed feeders are a significant cause of bird collisions.

For more information on collision risk reduction, please visit the Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) homepage at <http://www.flap.org>. This site has links to many solutions and products.

For more information on the CBCM please check <http://www.birdmonitors.net>. If you are interested in joining the monitors, please e-mail to [info@birdmonitors.net](mailto:info@birdmonitors.net) or call 773/988-1867

## COMPASS

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**Rare bird alert:** (847) 265-2118

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### SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Chicago Audubon is looking for Board Members with an interest in birding and conservation. If you have time, ability, experience, or want to nominate someone who does, please call Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197. There will be a new slate up for nomination in April, so please act quickly.



Kirsten Munson

Be sure to visit our new website:

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



Printed with soy ink

# History of Whooping Crane Reintroduction

Never large in number, the whooping crane population in North America dropped from about 1,400 in the 1860s to around 20 in the early 1940s. The



The Whooping Crane

remaining birds were in two flocks, one migratory, one non-migratory—the migratory flock flying from the Northwest Territories in Canada to Texas and back again, the non-migratory flock residing in Louisiana.

In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt designated the migratory flock's winter habitat in Texas the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, thereby giving it some protection. (Since then their numbers have slowly climbed to over 180.)

In 1946, Robert Allen was appointed by the National Audubon Society to study the migratory flock and find their nesting area. For eight years he searched thousands of miles in the Canadian wilderness before accidentally discovering their breeding grounds. A crew returning from a forest fire spotted three cranes from a helicopter, told Allen about it, and the following year, Allen and Robert Stewart found a whooper

nest in Wood Buffalo National Park in Alberta, Canada.

Ten crane experts, five Canadians and five Americans, formed the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team, and wrote a plan to recover the species that was presented to the Regional Directors of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Service. The plan recommended protecting the wild migratory flock and establishing two new flocks, migratory and non-migratory. Since 1993, young birds from captive-breeding facilities in Wisconsin, Maryland and Calgary, Canada have been released in a protected area in central Florida. This non-migratory flock now numbers about 75 birds and has produced three surviving fledglings.

In 1999, the Recovery Team chose Wisconsin as the site to reintroduce a migratory flock. They selected Necedah Wildlife Refuge for a test release using

sandhill cranes in 2000. Deemed a success in the early spring of 2001, the project paved the way for whooping crane releases beginning in the summer of 2001.

To assist in carrying out this effort, a group of federal, state and private agencies joined together to form the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. The project partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Crane Foundation, Operation Migration, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

The ultimate goal of this recovery project is a population of 125 birds in Wisconsin by 2020, including 25 nesting pairs.

— Gail Goldberger

## OPERATION MIGRATION —THE MIGRATORY WHOOPING CRANE REINTRODUCTION PROJECT CAS Birding America VI Keynote Address

By Gail Goldberger

This is the third year of the ultralight guided migration project—Operation Migration—that in the first two years resulted in 20 whooping cranes migrating over the eastern portion of North America—a part of their former range before the species was almost wiped out.

In this fall's flight, 16 juveniles arrived in Florida on December 8, 2003. The longest of the three trips since 2001, it took 54 days and covered 1,191 air miles over seven states. For the ground support crew, the trek was almost 1,700 driving miles.

Not part of the support crew, but driving part of the route was keynote

speaker Karen Furnweger, under contract with *Firefly Books* out of Toronto to write on Operation Migration. Furnweger has followed Operation Migration since its inception, and reported on it for the *COMPASS* as well as *Chicago Wilderness Magazine*.

She learned about Operation Migration almost by accident when she attended the annual members meeting of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, WI. She went on a tour, saw the ultralight planes and listened to Joe Duff, cofounder of Operation Migration, speak. A few years later, she began reporting on the effort.

This fall, under contract, she went to Necedah in early October when the birds were supposed to take off and

stayed for the first two weeks of their very slow start, impeded by bad weather. Returning to Chicago on October 21, she departed for Florida two days before Thanksgiving and followed the birds until they arrived in Crystal River, FL on December 8th.

The highlight of this trip for Furnweger was Hamilton County FL, their first stop in the state. She saw these huge, blindingly-white birds take off between stands of pine and was moved by how much depended on the flights of these young birds.

Her keynote address will review the near extinction experience of whooping cranes, earlier recovery efforts, the work of the International Crane Foundation and how the founders of

Operation Migration came to realize that you can teach captive-bred migratory birds by leading them with an aircraft.

Today, the whooping cranes in the recovery project winter at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, a secluded marsh on the Florida Gulf Coast. The only means of transport to their release pen is by airboat to an observation blind. Live bobcat traps are set around the pen site and are monitored daily. No new bobcat signs have been seen recently. Improvements to the release pen include a 300% increase in size and the addition of a large oyster shell roosting area.

## More on that Paper Trail

By Don Darnell

Do you remember the mantra of the IT zealots a decade ago? A Paperless Office! A Paperless Office! Yea, sure, and the world will be a unified and safe place in the 21st century; so much so that we will no longer need police or a standing army.

It's really hard to comprehend just how much paper we continue to waste in the opening years of the new century. How much "more" waste paper we create than 15-20 years ago, when the recycling movement was crying out from still infant lungs. Just think of the reams of printed material that come out of every office in every city and burg every business day, week after week, year after year.

Just hit the print button and, almost instantaneously, you'll make a copy of every document, short or long, that finds its way into your computer. How about hard copies of that 60-page proposal? Or that 150-page prospect list for the sales department? And, oh yes, lets send a copy of that -- finally written -- 80-page draft to the legal department to check for incorrect wording ("liable" wording). And while you're at it, better make a hard copy for yourself, and maybe for your manager so she can see what you're up to. It will only take seconds and you don't even have to leave your desk! And maybe you should print a hard copy for

the marketing department for their approval. And you can file it -- for safe keeping, because computers crash and files get erased -- in old fashioned file drawers and cabinets that still take up a great deal of space in most offices; at least, a lot more space than one would have imagined a decade ago.

The astounding quantities of thinly-sliced sliced wood that pours out of plastic printers and copy machines in our offices defies 21st century logic. What the heck happened to the tissue-thin concept of a paperless office! And how about our Dell and Gateway and HP printers at home? You say you're going on vacation to Florida and you've found a couple of good web sites listing all the things there are to do in the Everglades or the Keys? Well, lets just make printouts of any and all pertinent information and take the info with us! No need to send in for pamphlets or maps. It's free! Or catalogs. There, I've said it, catalogs!

According to the Direct Mail Association, 17 billion catalogs were sent out to American homes in 2002. That equates to roughly 68 catalogs -- you know them, L.L. Bean, Pottery Barn, Lands End, etc, etc -- for every man, woman and child in the United States. Think of it! Sixty-eight catalogs for each and every resident of the country, even if they're still wearing Pampers! And the catalogs -- almost all

of the glossy ones -- are printed on virgin paper! Apparently the average response rate to these sales tools -- reported to be about 2.5 percent -- is reason enough to keep the presses rolling and the trees falling. Ah, yes, the trees.

### How are these for stunner statistics:

- More than 90-percent of the printing and writing paper made in the U.S. is from virgin tree fiber!
- Nearly 80-percent of the world's original old growth forests have been logged or severely degraded already and in the U.S. we have lost 95-percent of our old growth forests.
- Forty percent of the world's industrial logging goes into making paper -- expected to reach 50-percent soon.

If you'd like to hear more of what's happening to the boreal and hardwood forests -- in addition to the havoc wreaked by our great 21st century petroleum-hunt -- check out ForestEthics at [paper@foresethics.org](mailto:paper@foresethics.org). This organization leads the national grassroots movement "Paper Campaign" which was created to come up with a single set of demands as to the way paper is made. Their targets are the largest retail paper sellers in the United States, including Staples, Office Depot and Office Max. Some of their demands for the paper supply industry include:

- Immediate phase out of all wood and paper products made from endangered forests.
- Commit to achieving 50-percent post consumer content for all paper products within two years.
- Make 100-percent post consumer paper available by allocating permanent shelf space and stocking it in all stores.
- Educate all employees, customers and suppliers about the benefits of recycled paper and the availability of alternative fibers, and the benefits of healthy forest resources.

Yes, healthy forest resources! That might have something to do with the well-being of our beloved birds: the pipit to the north, the red-cockaded woodpecker in our American South, and so many other species, many of them endangered.

One little thing each of us can do, beginning right now, is to demand recycled paper next time we make a trip to Office Depot or one of the other office supply stores. It would make a dandy of a New Year's resolution. You can do it in the name of John James LaForest Audubon.

The figures in this article are reprinted with the permission of Forest Ethics (2003), a San Francisco-based organization

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Stewardship Workdays

*At the Skokie Lagoons: Saturday, March 13 at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m.*

Chicago Audubon conducts regular monthly workdays at the Skokie Lagoons. Activities include buckthorn cutting, controlled brushpile burns, and other management activities. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the bridge.

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

## Educational 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, April 9 Chicago's Lakefront Bird Habitat: Past, Present, Future*

Chicago's lakefront plays a major role in providing critical stopover habitat for millions of migratory birds that use lakefront locations for rest, food and shelter during spring and fall migration periods. Join Mary Van Haften, Natural Areas Manager for the Chicago Park District, as she shows slides of existing lakefront bird sanctuaries and nature areas, discusses new and ongoing habitat projects, and shares plans for future habitat creation along Chicago's lakefront.

## 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 at 5801 N. Pulaski. Bring binoculars and field guide. For more information call Don Klimovich (773) 878-4421.

*Birdwalks for New Birders Saturday, April 24 and Saturday, May 15 9:00-11:00 a.m.*

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

The Chicago Audubon Early Birds project offers a no-stress, no-cost way to learn the fundamentals of birding with two bird walks designed for beginners.

Meet in the main classroom of the Nature Center Education Building for an overview of birding, including how to use binoculars, tips on identifying birds, and recommendations for field guides, websites, and top birding areas around Chicago. Experienced Chicago Audubon volunteer guides will help you spot and identify birds during a leisurely walk around the beautiful meadows, pond and wooded areas where over 200 species have been sighted.

Open to all age groups, youth under 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Field guides and binoculars will be available. Free parking located in front of the Nature Center.

No fee, but pre-registration is required. Call Chicago Audubon Society, (773) 539-6793 or email [chicago\\_audubon@juno.org](mailto:chicago_audubon@juno.org).

*Saturday, April 24, 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 Ave. in Downer's Grove. The new entrance to the Woods is located on 31st Street just east of the intersection with Highland Ave. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. For further information call Stephen or Christine Lee at (708)485-8197.

## 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 Important Events

*Saturday, April 10—Birdathon Mailing Party at the Administration Building, 5801 N. Pulaski.* Join the fun—folding, stuffing, sealing—for this fundraising event. Refreshments will be served. Starts at 9:00 a.m.

## Field Trips

*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 contributions to CAS and BSBO. For more information, contact Alan Anderson at [casresearch@comcast.net](mailto:casresearch@comcast.net)

## The American Bird Conservancy Guide to the 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is delighted to announce the publication of *The American Bird Conservancy Guide to the 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States*. This new book describes the top sites for birds and bird conservation in all 50 states, and provides key information to birdwatchers who want to visit them. The book is the culmination of six years of research by ABC scientists working in collaboration with hundreds of biologists across the country. Complete with color illustrations, maps, and a comprehensive index, it is the perfect companion to all bird field guides and a must have for any bird enthusiast's collection. The book is available from ABC's new online store at <http://shop.abcbirds.org/>, where a portion of all sales proceeds goes to support our conservation mission. It is also available in major bookstores and book outlets. To find out more about ABC's work, please see our web site at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org).

## BIRDATHON! 2004 Dates Have Been Set

Teams may compete for the coveted Beecher Cup On any day between Wednesday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 18 Contact Joe Lill at (773) 631-3154 or [trptjoe@aol.com](mailto:trptjoe@aol.com) for more information.

## NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN : : CHICAGO AUDUBON : : .

Established in 1971, the Chicago Audubon Society operates as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with 3,800 members in the metropolitan area. The National Audubon Society is a separate 501(c)(3) organization, and the 4 issues of Audubon Magazine accrue only to this membership.

### CAS MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS:

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

### TO JOIN:

Download and complete the application form from our website ([www.chicagoaudubon.org](http://www.chicagoaudubon.org)) and mail it with your check (payable to "Chicago Audubon Society") to:

**Chicago Audubon Society  
5801-C North Pulaski Road  
Chicago, IL 60646-6057**

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