



COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

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MARCH/APRIL 2005

Chicago Audubon Society Award Winners

On April 16th, Chicago Audubon will hold its 28th Environmental Awards Banquet. Even though we have only given one person more than one award, we have never run out of worthy people (or organizations) to honor for their work related to the environment and/or birds.

The Chicago Audubon Board considered a number of excellent nominees for each category at our February meeting, and it was very difficult to finally decide who to choose for many of those, as all those under consideration were worthy

and deserving.

Numerous people and organizations have done so much to further environmental improvement, protect and save habitat, and help birds and nature; their work needs to be publicized and they should be thanked.

The Chicago Audubon Society proudly gives its 2005 Environmental Awards to the following:

Excellence in Environmental Reporting (broadcast): Tom Skilling and Pam Grimes, WGN-TV.



Although best known for his excellence in weather forecasting and educating the public about meteorology, Tom Skilling of WGN-TV channel 9 has also done many news programs and stories on environmental and bird-related topics. These included topics such as the "Lights Out Program", Monk Parakeets, using radar to track bird migration, river clean up, wetland restoration, eagle and hawk migration and many more.

Pam Grimes was the producer in all of those programs and stories. Mr. Skilling said, "Pam Grimes is the true genius behind the environmental reports we've produced here at WGN". Local birders and environmentalists, including some members of National and Chicago Audubon, were interviewed for some of these stories.

Former Chicago Ornithological Society President Ken Wysocki said, "The stories [Skilling and Grimes] did really addressed cutting-edge topics, and presented them to a broad audience that might not ordinarily be exposed to them. The Lights Out piece was, in my opinion, the very best representation of what this program is about that I've seen (in any type of media)".

Thanks to Dennis Marinosci for providing the photo of Tom and Pam.

Excellence in Environmental Reporting (print): Steven D. Bailey, Ornithologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), Editor and Writer.



Steven D. Bailey spends much of his time doing ornithological research for the Illinois Natural History Survey. In summer, he spends most daylight hours surveying and cataloging Illinois' nesting birds for the Critical Trends Assessment Project called CTAP. Scientists survey randomly selected forests, wetlands and prairies to determine how land changes are affecting birds and plants in the state.

With all of that, Steve still finds time to educate the public, birders and nonbirders alike, about birds and conservation. He gives talks and presentations to Boy Scouts, park districts and forest preserves (including his much-in-demand owl talks). He also writes and edits extensively about birds and conservation - all as a volunteer.

In 2004, Steve and Sheryl DeVore authored "Birds of Illinois," published by Lone Pine Publishing. Steve spent innumerable hours researching, writing, drawing maps and reviewing the book for accuracy. This book helps birders of all skill levels understand birds, as well as the need to conserve them.

Steve also serves as associate editor of the Meadowlark, a publication of the Illinois Ornithological Society. He proof reads every issue and contributes articles and notes on a number of bird-related topics, including a wide-ranging scientific article on Northern Shrikes in Illinois. "He is a guiding scientific resource for this publication," says editor-in-chief Sheryl DeVore. "He knows so much about the past and present of the state's bird populations and distribution, and he is willing to share it with everyone."

Steve has written for Illinois Audubon Magazine, Illinois Steward and Birding Magazine. He has also become a resource for newspapers in Springfield and elsewhere who write stories about Illinois birds.

Besides research and writing, Steve has also served on the Board of IOS, on the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, and has led many field trips, including his famous Smith's Longspur extravaganza for the IOS.

Thanks to Joel Lerner for the photo of Steve.

Protector of the Environment - Avocation: Mary Glenn Kirkland, past President, IAS.



Mary Glenn, now retired, served on the board of Illinois Audubon Society for almost 40 years.

She has held the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer in IAS! She also chaired or ran several committees and activities for IAS, such as the IAS Wildlife Film Series at the Field Museum, Chicago Flower Show Committee, and annual meetings and campouts.

Ms. Kirkland prepared a very educational slide/sound program on Illinois Birds, and has presented talks to many area groups. She has led many field trips, and was involved with the Girl Scouts of America for years, also helping educate hundreds of girls on nature and the environment. She also has been a participant on the Barrington CBC for 32 years.

Upon her retirement from IAS, the IAS Board established the "Mary Glenn Kirkland Volunteer Award", in recognition of her outstanding dedication and her many years of commitment as officer, board member and volunteer. It is now an honor for CAS to give HER an award too!

Thanks to Mary for providing the photo.

Protector of the Environment - Vocation: Brad Semel, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)



Brad has made a major impact on the preservation and enhancement of wetland habitat in northeast Illinois. Due to his efforts, the state now has successfully nesting Common Terns, and improved migrant shorebird habitat.

In 2000 Brad helped start restoration and habitat improvement for shorebirds and nesting birds at Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan. Putting in many more hours and hard work than his job required, he put up a protective electric fence, cleared much invasive vegetation, organized others, worked with officials at Great Lakes, and monitored the site. In 2002, Common Terns successfully fledged young, and it continues as the only successful nesting site in the state for that species.

Mr. Semel later put in similar and even greater effort and extra volunteer hours to help create and enhance wetland habitat at Chain-o-Lakes State Park, in Lake County. He worked with the Fox Valley Water Agency to help create a large but shallow island there. This area has proven to be a highly desirable resting and feeding area for migrating shorebirds, American White Pelicans and other species whose habitat is mostly absent from northerly Illinois. This has also resulted in a successfully nesting Forster's Tern colony there, the only site in the state where this endangered species nests. He also put in extra hours researching the predators of the tern nesting colony, in order to help protect the young.

He also has banded young at both the aforementioned locations. Wetland nesting bird and shorebird habitat has been greatly enhanced due to the extra efforts of Mr. Semel.

Thanks to Steve Bailey for the photo of Brad.

Service to Chicago Area Birders: Sue Friscia, Moderator of "Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts" (IBET) listserv



In 1996, Sue took it upon herself to start an e-mail service for area birders to exchange information about Chicago area bird sightings and other bird information. She had a lot of support from others, especially former Chicago Ornithological Society (COS) Presidents Mike Kutska and Geoff Williamson, but Sue was the



The Photo Corner

Welcome to The Photo Corner, a new feature in the COMPASS. Each issue will feature 2 or 3 photographs of birds or bird-related content. We are inviting and encouraging our members to participate. If you would like to share your bird photography with the readers of the COMPASS, all you need to do is submit it to the newsletter editor (that's me, George Sawyn). If you have a good-quality print, 4" x 6" or larger, I can scan it and return it to you. If you use a digital camera, simply email the original file to me at gsawyn@mc.net. Along with your photo, please include some information about yourself and the photo (date and/or place it was taken, title, bird ID, web page, etc.).



This photo of a Red-tailed Hawk comes to the newsletter courtesy of George Sawyn, the newsletter editor; taken at the Chicago Botanic Gardens on November 7, 2004. The photo is, perhaps, more through the courtesy of the Red-tailed Hawk, who sat there patiently while George took the picture.



This wonderful photo of a Blue Jay picking up some goodies comes to our newsletter courtesy of Jayne Gulbrand of Germantown, Wisconsin. She calls this one, "Suspended." I first saw her photos on the Weather Underground web site at <http://www.wunderground.com/>. You will find many more of her photos there, including lots of bird photos. Just click the "Wunder Photos" link, then click the "Search" link, and do a search using the handle, "Jayne."

This great photo of a Ring-billed Gull comes to our newsletter courtesy of Evan Graff of Chicago. To see this photo in full color, visit his web page at <http://www.philzworld.com/evanzworld/> where you can see other examples of Evan's bird photography.



PAID FIELDWORK INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

THE BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON RESEARCH PROJECT AT INDIAN RIDGE MARSH NEEDS YOU

Groundbreaking research begun last summer on the state-endangered black-crowned night heron colony at Indian Ridge Marsh will continue this summer. Research is assessing the impact of recreational activity on these birds before the site opens to the public as part of the Calumet Open Space Reserve. The Southeast Environmental Task Force, Department of Environment (Chicago), California State University—Long Beach, and the USDA Forest Service (Evanston) are partners in this project. The project was recently honored with a \$50,000 BP Amoco Foundation Leader Award in support of its efforts.

The research will determine the effects of hiking, dog walking and bike riding on nest building, breeding, sleeping and foraging. Data will be collected on how individual birds react to the presence, sound and movement

of people, and will help land managers decide how much human activity should be allowed at this site in the future.

Volunteers

Volunteers should have an interest in bird observation, and the ability to participate in recreation events quietly and according to a schedule. A time commitment of 2.5 or 5 hours is required on the first and third Saturdays in June and July. An electrical/photovoltaic consultant is also needed

Fieldwork Internships

Paid internships with competitive hourly rates are also being offered. If you are a current high school or college student, or a graduating student who is going on to college or graduate school, you can get paid to work in this

research project.

Starting in May 2005 and continuing through mid-August, you must be able to work a flexible 30-hour week. You should be in good health and physical condition, have reliable transportation, references, and be willing to work outdoors all summer and in marshy conditions (wet).

Natural resource, environmental science, or biology majors are preferred, but the right candidates will be trained.

For more information on either of these opportunities, or to apply or volunteer, contact Cherie LeBlanc, USDA Forest Service, by phone (847-866-9311, ext 12) or email (cleblanc@fs.fed.us).

Submitted by Gail Goldberger

COMPASS

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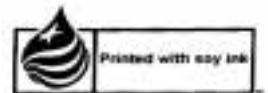
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Award Winners

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originator of the now over 690 strong IBET listserv.

Initially, birders would e-mail Sue with their sightings, and she would forward it to all others who signed up. Originally it was a fairly small group, but with much publicity generated especially by Sue herself, it grew in membership, and birders from all over Illinois would contribute.

Eventually Sue automated it, and although COS underwrites the cost, she still oversees management of IBET. This includes setting and maintaining the rules for posting, and what is or is not allowed. At times that part of the volunteer job gets a little difficult, as she has had to help transfer the entire membership to Yahoo groups one time (with the help of Michael Retter and others) and as tough decisions are sometimes required. Nevertheless, Sue has done a great job of keeping the proper perspective, and carrying the sometimes very hectic job of taking care of all sorts of questions and problems behind the scenes.

IBET has grown in number and stature, and has proven to be very useful, informational, educational, and also fun, both to Illinois birders and to those visiting from out of state.

Being a teacher at a school in far south Chicago, Sue has also done a lot to get her students interested in birds.

Protector of the Environment-Political Service: Illinois Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn

Lt. Gov. Quinn has become probably the most involved and concerned of all recent top Illinois Governmental officials. He has provided leadership, action and publicity on a number of environmental issues. On his website, he lists a number of issues important to the environmental community, and mentions ways that the general public can get involved. Residents can sign up for e-mail alerts on environmental issues. He recently announced the Conservation Initiative, to help provide funds for conservation programs and natural resource agencies.

Lt. Gov. Quinn got very involved in the effort to save and protect Plum Island, an area near Starved Rock State Park that was especially important to wintering Bald Eagles. He worked with Friends of Plum Island to help them save the island. He wrote letters on behalf of saving the island, held press conferences, and provided much publicity in the effort to oppose development on the island and conserve eagle habitat there and throughout Illinois. He also helped get other governmental agencies involved, and had many members of his staff work on the effort. We could use many more politicians who are as interested in conservation, the environment and birds and nature as Lt. Gov. Quinn is.

Thanks to Susan DeGrane of the Lt. Governor's office for providing the photo.



Protector of the Environment-Single Act Individual: Don Goerne

Don was probably the most important person working to get all the support needed to protect Plum Island, an important winter habitat for Bald Eagles, from development.

Marilyn Campbell, Executive Director of Illinois Audubon Society said of Don: "He did not leave a stone unturned in seeking help." From meeting with anyone who could (and did) help - the Corps of Engineers, IDNR staff and many more - to building a grassroots effort into the "Friends of Plum Island," to fundraising, publicity, calling, going to meetings and anything else that needed to be done, Don was involved. Don said he had help from many others, especially other members of the



Friends of Plum Island, Lt. Gov. Quinn, Marilyn Campbell of IAS, and more.

But the outcome might have been different if not for the continued persistent efforts of Mr. Goerne, and the fact that Plum Island is saved from the developers, and is now an Illinois Audubon Sanctuary, is in the main due to Don's efforts.

John McKee of Starved Rock Audubon said, "Every individual and organization involved in this success ... recognizes that Don, through his determination to fight as long and as hard as it took, was the primary force behind the victory."

And "For Don, it was never just about the bald eagles ... but it was also the view from the top of Starved Rock ... it was the preservation of ancient Native American sites ... the idea that there should be some places just too special to be developed," Marilyn Campbell said. She added, "Don is tireless in his defense of the environment".

Don also conceived of the "Eagle Watch Weekend," conducted for the past 8 years in the Starved Rock area."

Thanks to Don for providing the photo.



Protector of the Environment-Group Project: Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

The Chicago Bird Collision Monitors is an all-volunteer, grass-roots conservation effort for migratory birds. The volunteers put in hundreds of hours during migration seasons, rescuing injured birds, driving them to rehab, handling hotline calls, monitoring lights, calling managers, recruiting allies downtown and simply pursuing their goal of helping migratory birds safely navigate the Loop. They have been a significant force in convincing Chicago managers to reduce collision risks for birds by turning their rooftop, lobby and office lights out during migration and by applying decals to particularly dangerous lobbies.

They have developed a wonderful network of sweepers, security workers and doormen downtown that now help them make rescues. They maintain an extensive database of information regarding bird strikes in Chicago with the hope that this information will shed light on this devastating conservation issue and how to further mitigate collision risks.

Their rescue numbers are increasing, and they actually rescued over 100 birds in a single day this past fall. The volunteer effort requires dedication, getting up very early in the morning and sometimes helping until 1pm, to help pick up birds hitting buildings. The volunteers are out in all kinds of weather, and use their own money for gas and supplies. Says CBCM founder Robbie Hunsinger, [the monitors] "are remarkable, dedicated people and I truly feel that they have earned this recognition."

(Thanks to Geoffrey Williamson for the CBCM photo.)

(Contributing: Ken Wysocki, Donnie Dann, Stephen Packard, Peter Dring, Marilyn Campbell, Sheryl DeVore, Holly Butlett, John McKee, Robbie Hunsinger, Karen Glennemeier, Jill Anderson, Alan Anderson)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE CHICAGO AUDUBON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS BANQUET to help honor our Award Recipients. See the Calendar of Events in this issue for details.

Bird Monitoring Workshops

The Chicago Wilderness coalition and the local Forest Preserve Districts need data about bird use of local preserves to help with their planning, and the BCN Census is working with them to provide that data. At least three major studies will use this year's monitoring data, as well as local land managers.

Bird Monitoring Workshops will be held this spring in three locations. New monitors and existing monitors are both invited. Would you like to put your birding skills to use for a good cause? Spend the afternoon with kindred spirits and hear the latest updates on how our data is being used? Please join us. All birders from Lake, McHenry, Cook, Kane, and Will counties, and NW Indiana who can identify most of our breeding birds by sight and sound are welcome. If there is a workshop in the county you want to monitor in, it is best to attend that one if you can.

Kane County

Saturday, March 19; 9:30-11:30 am
39W115 Main St. Batavia (About 1 mile west of Nelson Lake Road, behind a cement silo.
For more information: 630 232-5980

Cook County

Saturday, April 2; 1 - 4 p.m.
Camp Sagawa
12545 W. 111th Street, Lemont

If you like, come at 10 a.m. for a bird banding demonstration, and bring a lunch.

Please register. Call 847-965-9239 ext. 21 and leave a message with your name, phone number and email address.

Lake County

Sunday, April 10; 2-4 pm
Ryerson Conservation Area
21950 North Riverwoods Road, Deerfield
For more information: 847-968-3329

We have sites available in many habitats. A special focus this year is on grassland birds, so if you love grassland birds and have been thinking of getting involved, this would be a great year to try it.

For more information about the BCN Census, visit www.bcnbirds.org, or call 847-965-9239 ext. 23

Kane County sites

Burnidge
Freeman Kame
Helm Woods
Pingree Grove
Johnson's Mound
Campton FP
Big Rock FP
Nelson Lake Marsh (Dick Young FP)
Fox River Shores West
Hannaford

McHenry County sites

Fox Bluff
Larsen Prairie
North Branch Preserve
Spring Grove Fen
Weingart Road Sedge Meadow

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Stewardship Workdays

At the Skokie Lagoons: Saturdays
March 12, April 9, and May 14 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, brushpile burning and other management activities. Meet at the Tower Road parking lot, east of the lagoon bridge.

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

Member Program

Saturday, March 12, 2005
Eagle Optics Demo Day
 North Park Village Nature Center
 5801 N. Pulaski, Chicago, IL
 10:00-3:00

Bird Walks

Cook County Owl Walk
Saturday, March 12
 Thatcher Woods, River Forest, IL
 Contact Stephen or Christine Lee at (708) 485-8197.

Wooded Island
 These walks will resume on Saturday, March 26th, the birthday of Paul Douglas, at 8:00 a.m.
 Bring binoculars and field guides. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Darrow Bridge, just south of the Museum of Science and Industry. Questions? Call Doug Anderson (773) 493-7058.

Spring Tune-up For Birders: Sharpening Bird ID Skills
Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (After the Spring Bird walk, 8:00 AM-10:00 AM) at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL

This program will review birding ID skills to identify warblers and other spring migrants. Designed for intermediate skill level, but beginners are welcome. Free to CAS members, \$10 for non-members, or free with new membership. Advance registration required. Contact CAS at (773) 539-6793, or by email at: cas@chicagoaudubon.org.

Weekly Bird Walks

Saturdays in April and May at 8:00 AM at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Chicago
 Meet in front of the Nature Center. Bring binoculars and field guide or check out ours. Audubon guide: Don Klimovich, 773-878-4421.

'Early Birds' Spring Bird Walks For Beginning Birders
Saturday, May 14, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Saturday, May 21, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Saturday, May 28, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
 North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Chicago
 Get tips on identifying birds, how to use binoculars, and recommendations for field guides, websites, and top birding areas around Chicago. Then, take a leisurely walk with experienced Chicago Audubon guides to help you spot and identify birds. Bring binoculars or borrow our easy-to-use

binoculars and field guides. Open to all ages, but children under 16 should be accompanied by an adult. No fee, but advanced registration required. Contact CAS at (773) 539-6793, or by email at: cas@chicagoaudubon.org.

Other Events

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 16, 2005
Chicago Audubon Environmental Awards Banquet, 5:30 p.m.
 Silver Stallion Restaurant, 1275 Lee/Mannheim Rd. (just south of Algonquin Rd.) Des Plaines, IL. Cost is \$24 before April 1st, \$27 after.

Dinner choices include chicken marinated in lemon sauce, Pacific Salmon or vegetarian (eggplant parmesan).

Sign up by contacting Alan Anderson, 1633 Howard Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018 or by e-mail at casresearch@comcast.net. Let him know how many are coming and which food choice you prefer. Please send your check to Alan by Saturday, April 9, and make it payable to Chicago Audubon Society.

Our featured speakers this year will be Sheryl DeVore and Steve Bailey, authors of *Birds of Illinois*. Their topic will be: "The Wide, Wide World of Illinois Birds: Things We Knew and Things We Didn't Know About the Avian Species of the Prairie State." They will autograph copies of their book.

Banquet Details:
 Reception and Cash Bar: 5:30pm - 6:30pm
 Dinner: 6:30pm

Presentation of Awards Program (Sheryl DeVore and Steve Bailey)
 Events should conclude before 9:00pm .

Field Trips

Sunset, on Sunday, April 3rd, Saturday, April 9th, Saturday, April 16th, and Wednesday, April 20th; Woodcock Courting Flights.

You don't have to go far to see the high-flying courtship of this unusual looking bird. Join us at sunset (7:30 PM) at Wolf Road Prairie (31st St. and Wolf Rd. in Westchester). We have had very good luck in the past 8 years in seeing the woodcock flights on the Prairie. This year these trips will be co-sponsored by Save the Prairie Society. For more information call Stephen or Christine Lee by phone at (708) 485-8197 a day or two before the trips, or by e-mail at stephenchris@sbcglobal.net.

Friday, May 20—Sunday, May 22, 2005. Chicago Audubon birding trip to Northwest Ohio--Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, Crane Creek SP, Magee Marsh, Metzger Marsh, and a bird-banding station.

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.

Drive on your own, or we'll try to arrange car/van pooling. Details to follow in next issue of COMPASS. The leader will be Alan Anderson (casresearch@comcast.net).

The Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

WANT TO SAVE MORE BIRDS!! BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:
 EARLY MORNING MONITORS
 MID-MORNING MONITORS
 MONITORS FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS (YOUR OFFICE OR RESIDENCE)
 OCCASIONAL "SOS" MONITORS FOR HEAVY DAYS
 HOTLINE DISPATCHERS

DRIVERS TO TRANSPORT THE INJURED

MOST BIRDS ARE RELEASABLE IF WE CAN JUST RESCUE THEM!
 PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP OUR BEAUTIFUL WARBLERS, THRUSHES, SPARROWS & BROWN CREEPERS SURVIVE THEIR STRIKES WITH OUR BUILDINGS

PLEASE HELP US RESCUE THESE BIRDS!!
 WE START IN LATE MARCH & WE PROVIDE TRAINING & SUPPORT

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<http://www.birdmonitors.net>

SPRING TUNE-UP FOR BIRDERS

By Marci Buettgen

Get ready for those wonderful warblers by attending the next Chicago Audubon Society program, "Spring Tune-Up for Birders: Sharpening Bird ID Skills," Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Chicago.

This workshop is designed to help intermediate level birders refine a set of tools to identify spring migrants, such as warblers, sparrows, and flycatchers. ID tools include the use of sight, sound, movement, and habitat. The program will close with a review of local and national resources offering ways to continue upgrading skills.

Beginning birders are welcome to attend. Be prepared to tackle a lot of new information! Workshop speakers, Wally Mah, Roger Shamley, and Don Klimovich promise a lively, fast-paced program with plenty of time for questions and answers. All three speakers are experienced birders and bird walk guides. Each has delivered CAS workshops for a wide range of audiences, from Cub Scouts to "Early Birds" new birders to fifty members of the University of Chicago Alumni Association. Workshop participants should bring along notepaper or laptops, binoculars, and favorite field guides. Registration begins at 9:30 AM, but everyone is invited to the regularly scheduled Saturday morning spring bird walk at the Nature Center, which starts at 8:00 AM.

"Spring Tune-Up for Birders," is offered free of charge to CAS members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members, or, no charge with a new membership. Light refreshments will be provided. Ample free parking is available at the Nature Center.

Advanced registration is required for CAS members and non-members. To register, contact CAS: by phone at 773-539-6793, or by email at cas@chicagoaudubon.org. For more details, contact Marci Buettgen, CAS Program Chair, 773-878-4421, mdchgo@aol.com.

Birders Needed in Cook County for West Nile Virus Study

Why did West Nile Virus spread so quickly in 2002? What will happen in future years? You are invited to join the University of Illinois, Audubon Chicago Region and the Bird Conservation Network in a three-year study of West Nile Virus to answer these questions. Experienced birders are needed to work with U of I researchers for the segment of the study which will determine whether there are differences in bird species composition between WNV hot spots and

other areas. The larger study will pull together layers of data on mosquitoes, demographics and landscape features as well as birds, in order to model the spread of the disease.

Birders are needed during the nesting season to count birds along pre-set routes in and around key neighborhoods in Cook County, including a number of routes in Chicago. This avian population census is key to understanding the role of birds in disease transmission and to better protect

both birds and people from West Nile Virus.

A training workshop will be held at Northerly Island on Saturday, April 9 from 2 - 4 pm with Jeff Brawn and other researchers from the U of I. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Judy Pollock: jpollock@audubon.org. (847) 965-1150

Submitted by Gail Goldberger.