



COMPASS

Navigating the world of birds and nature

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 4

JULY/AUGUST 2005

BIRDATHON 2005 - Four in a row for the Lake Forest College Team!

By Joe Lill
Birdathon Coordinator

The 6th Annual Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon Cup Challenge was a truly exciting event! Six teams competed for the Beecher Cup, and, for the first time, a Junior team joined in the fun. Along the way, a record 184 different species (plus the exotic Trumpeter Swan) were identified by the combined teams, which surpassed the previous record of 181 set last year.

In order to keep the Beecher Cup for a fourth consecutive year the Lake Forest College team had to set another record, as two other teams beat the old record of 149, set in 2004 by the LFC birders. They were up to the task, identifying 160 species in one day in Cook County! The 2001 champions, the BudBirders and a new entry, Team

Grandala tied for second place with 153 species each. The Steel Belted Kingfishers followed with 144, followed by the Past President's Posse (83) and the Chicago Birdlovers (63). The six teams were made up of 26 birders including two birders who made the trip up from central Illinois!

We also had our first Junior entry, The Hawks, comprised of nine-year-old Cameron Fife and thirteen-year-old Jacob Lill. They jointly identified 17 species while birding the Jarvis Bird Sanctuary and Montrose Point. We'd certainly welcome more junior teams next year!

Although the Beecher Cup is certainly a treasured reward, the real goal of the competition is to raise funds for the ongoing programs of the Chicago Audubon Society. Teams could go out on any day between May 11th and May

17th, had to stay in Cook County, and raise a minimum of \$100.00 in pledges. The total amount raised from last year's Birdathon was just under \$4000.00, and we're hoping to top that number this year! For those of you who've misplaced the pledge form, we're including another with this issue of the Compass on page 4. You can pledge a number of different ways: by total species seen (184), by the species total of your favorite team, or just a flat amount.

Highlights from the week included Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Pelican and Little Blue Heron. The entire species list may be seen (and downloaded in pdf format) at the CAS website (www.chicagoaudubon.org). We'd certainly like to invite you to join us next year, and maybe your team with end up with the Beecher Cup!

Birdathon Results

Chicago Audubon's Dr. William S. Beecher Birdathon Cup Challenge was held from May 11 - May 17. Here are the results:

The cumulative total from all teams was 184 species, topping the 181 from 2004. All species needed to be identified by at least two team members. 28 birders took part this year, comprising of six senior teams and one junior team. All birding was confined to Cook County.

The Hawks (our first Junior team!)

Cameron Fife, Jacob Lill
Saturday, May 14
17 species

Lake Forest College

Caleb Gordon, Ben Goluboff, Jeff Sundberg, Kris Sundberg
Saturday, May 14
160 species

The Bud Birders

Jill Anderson, Sue Friscia, Cary Hillemonds, Maggie Kurcz, Walter Marcisz, Wes Serafin
Saturday, May 14
153 species

Team Grandala

Josh Engel, Pat O'Donnell, Michael Retter
Tuesday, May 17
153 species

Steel Belted Kingfishers

Mark Agnor, Don Darnell, Caitlin Lill, Joe Lill, Jeff Sanders
Sunday, May 15
144 species

Past President's Posse

Michael Hillbruner, Barbara Kratochvil, Chris Lee, Stephen Lee, Chris Van Wassenhove
Saturday, May 14
83 species

Chicago Birdlovers

Roger Shamley, Jessica Simeone, Monique Wheeler
Sunday, May 15
63 species

Should someone feel moved to support one (or all, cumulatively) of these teams, feel free to download a pledge form at www.chicagoaudubon.org.

Thanks to all who participated, pledged or cheered!

--Joe Lill

Mayor Unveils First Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide

By Marci Buettgen

With the sun shining, birds singing, and a group of about seventy-five birders applauding, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced the publication of the first Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide, June 4th, during an outdoor press conference at Wooded Island in Jackson Park, on the south side of Chicago.

The Guide consists of 27 pages of four-color maps, photographs, and detailed information on more than seventy premier birding sites in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana. It is now available, free of charge, at park district field houses, airports, museums and visitor information centers.

"This Guide highlights the incredible natural gifts of our region and offers an opportunity to Chicagoans and visitors alike to enjoy birding in beautiful natural areas," said Mayor Daley. "The city can't be made up of just concrete and steel," he continued. "It must include and celebrate nature."

To the delight of all Chicago Audubon Society (CAS) members attending the press conference, after the formal announcements were over, the Mayor took general questions from reporters while sporting a Chicago Audubon Society cap given to him by CAS President Joe Lill's son, Jake.



"The Mayor was grateful for the hat and not only thanked Jake but put it on right away. When we watched the news later in the day Jake just kept pointing to the screen saying, 'That's my hat!'" according to Joe Lill.

The Chicago Department of Environment published the Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide in cooperation with the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), a coalition of 19 birding and environmental



organizations, including the Chicago Audubon Society. Additional funding came from Chicago Wilderness, the Illinois Bureau of Tourism, and Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises.

Jerry Kumery, a Chicago-based nature and bird photographer, supplied over eighty bird images, which brighten each page of the Guide, starting with a stunning Scarlet Tanager photo on the cover.

Inside, the Guide provides a wealth of information for each birding location. Details listed are: general description and history, address, directions, hours, telephone, best months for viewing, organized bird walks, handicapped accessibility and a website. Look for the helpful inserts with notes on where to find illusive species, such as Henslow's Sparrow (Rollins Savanna), the Cerulean Warbler (Waterfall Glenn), and

Upland Sandpipers (Midewin national Tallgrass Prairie).

The Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide is expected to increase ecotourism by attracting flocks of birders and other tourists from around the country. According to BCN President, Donnie Dan, "Now Chicago will no longer take a back seat to other birding areas, such as Texas, Florida and California. This Guide will help us reach out to the over 30 million tourists who come to Chicago each year and the 18 million birders who travel to pursue their hobby."

Publication of the Guide is the latest in a series of steps the city has taken to make Chicago a bird-friendly, and a birder-friendly, city. Recent efforts include:

URBAN CONSERVATION TREATY FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS: Commits the city to protect the millions of birds that migrate through Chicago each year.

LIGHTS OUT CHICAGO PROGRAM: protecting birds from building collisions during migration seasons.

CHICAGO NATURE AND WILDLIFE PLAN: comprehensive plan for creating and protecting bird habitat.

BIRDS' EYE VIEW: interactive and bilingual website with sections on bird migration and a Chicago bird gallery.

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA's): the Calumet region on Chicago's south side recently designated as an IBA, with Chicago's lakefront next in line.

Here are four easy ways to obtain the Chicago Region Birding Trail Guide:

- 1) Pick up a copy at your local park district, forest preserve, the Morton Arboretum or the Chicago Botanic Garden
- 2) Pick up a copy at the Chicago Audubon Society office (Call to check office hours.)
- 3) Order a copy by calling the

Chicago Department of Environment's hotline and leaving your name and address at 312-743-9283

4) Download a PDF version through the CAS website. Go to www.chicagoaudubon.org; you will find the download link right on the home page.



The Photo Corner



ABOVE: "Injured," by Denis Beck of Kenner, Louisiana. The photo was featured on the Canon Powershot Photo Of The Day web site on June 5, 2005. See more of Denis's photos at his web site: <http://members.cox.net/denisbeck/>



ABOVE: Hooded Mergansers taken by Greg Neise, Staff Photographer for Lincoln Park Zoo who served as CAS Guest Speaker for our June 23rd program. See additional photos by Greg at <http://www.lpzoo.com>.

LEFT: The Eastern Meadowlark photo comes to us from Robert Hambley of St. Francis, Wisconsin. It was taken at Van Patten Woods in Lake County, Illinois, on April 15th, 2005. Robert used a Canon 20D, f/4, 1/1250, ISO 100, 600mm. You can see more of his great photos at www.rlhambleyphotography.com.

Birdathon 2005

By Christine Lee

Journey with us, the PPP (Past President's Posse) into a new dimension – a dimension of sight and sound but not of place- it's called the "Pigeonless Zone".

Our more casual Birdathon team was composed of five: Barbara Kratochvil, Chris van Wassenhove, Michael Hillbruner, Stephen Lee and me, Christine Lee (past president) hence the name of our team. We were all set to do a Birdathon but at a less cutthroat manner than some of the other teams. Our goal was to get a few more species than we got last year, enjoy ourselves, see some great birds, begin at 7:00 a.m. and end by 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 14 began well. The sun was out, it wasn't too hot and birds were singing. Thatcher Woods, our first stop, was full of birds – scarlet tanagers (four of them), chestnut-sided warblers, bay-breasted warblers, wood ducks, and a black-crowned night heron. We hated to leave. Next we went to Concordia Cemetery to try to pick up some sparrows; we got one species, the white-crowned sparrow and a red-tailed hawk close up and personal. But it was too few birds for stopping there.

Leaving Concordia we drove to Bemis Woods in Westchester where we got more warblers. They were fly catching along Salt Creek and it was fantastic to see them flashing from one side of the creek to the other. We got to see good views of a Canada warbler and a blue-gray gnatcatcher but missed a hairy woodpecker (seen by only one person so it didn't count). By the parking lot we added a kingbird but missed a rufous-sided towhee in an area that usually has them. Our list was building but not quickly enough. We had not gotten some common species: the

mourning dove, yes, but not the rock pigeon: the goldfinch, yes, but not the house finch which we had at our feeder every day except this morning.

Leaving Bemis we went southwest to the Palos Forest Preserves. Along the way we kept looking for those missing common species but none of them materialized. It was already after twelve and we decided to check out McLaughry Springs, usually a good place for phoebes, gnatcatchers and perhaps a Louisiana waterthrush. We got the phoebe but not the waterthrush. A striking flash of red brought our binoculars up to see a brilliant scarlet tanager. He was beautiful but we had already counted this species. As Chris was scanning the trees for a look at the tanager she saw a bird that struck her as being different – a long tail and an unmistakable look. Cuckoo!! Yellow-billed! She didn't dare to take her binoculars off the bird for fear that she would lose it so she described where she was looking. We had trouble locating the cuckoo because the wind had risen and kept moving the leaves back and forth hiding the bird. However we persevered and all got to see this elusive and reclusive bird. Now we were ready for lunch. (See, I told you we were into casual). In previous years our lunch stop had been a good birding spot but not this year. No bluebirds. No turkey vultures. No white-eyes vireos. No luck.

We were running out of time so we finished lunch and rushed to our next site. Yes! A pair of ospreys. We were still on the lookout for rock pigeons and house finches but did not spot them on our trip to Duffy's Field, a grassland area, which we hoped, would yield four or five new species. This time we were in luck. We spotted a low flying turkey vulture, teetering precariously in the now 20-30 mile an hour wind. We heard and saw bobolinks right away but had to work harder for our sparrows. We

flushed a grasshopper sparrow but only after bushwhacking for twenty minutes over the grasslands. We got a field sparrow on the edge of the grassland and that was by song only. We had gotten meadowlarks here in the past but it seemed as if we were doomed to be disappointed. Fortune favored us once again. As we were walking out we again flushed a bird – a meadowlark. Just one, but one was all we needed.

Driving away we kept looking for pigeons. We drove through neighborhoods, industrial areas and woodlands. Not a sign. This was beginning to seem very strange. Twilight Zone strange. Stopping at McGuiness Slough we added a green heron and a pied-billed grebe to our list. Still searching for a bluebird we checked Cherry Hill but no bluebirds.

Calling it quits we decided to go home looking for a pigeon along the way. All five of us checked every underpass, overpass, electric pole and railroad track as we drove by – not a pigeon in sight. With our car windows open Barbara first heard the song of a house finch a few blocks away from home. Hurrah! Another species albeit one we should have gotten hours earlier. We were now up to 83 species, which was a little better than last year. Going out to dinner we drove over an overpass where pigeons always were found but – you guessed it – no pigeons today. Evidently there were none in Cook County – the "pigeonless zone". Perhaps we were being punished for being "too" casual. The next morning Stephen opened the curtains and, ironically, two pigeons flew by our bedroom window. We were back in our own space and time dimension.

In every Birdathon we have one oddity that makes it memorable for us. This year's oddity was finding a cuckoo but missing a pigeon.

COMPASS

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COOK COUNTY SPRING BIRD COUNT

SPECIES list (and number seen)

May 7, 2005

Total # species: 192, plus 2 hybrids and 2 other (1 non-native: Eur. Goldfinch, and 1 rooster- submitted by one observer but not wild)

SPECIES & NUMBER REPORTED:

Canada Goose - 2,187
Mute Swan - 43
Wood Duck - 253
Gadwall - 12
Mallard - 752
Blue-winged Teal - 79
Northern Shoveler - 14
Green-winged Teal - 2
Redhead - 1
Ring-necked Duck - 8
Lesser Scaup - 10
Bufflehead - 3
Common Goldeneye - 1
Hooded Merganser - 10
Common Merganser - 4
Red-breasted Merganser - 70
Ruddy Duck - 86
Ring-necked Pheasant - 4

Pied-billed Grebe - 19
Double-crested Cormorant - 646
American Bittern - 2
Great Blue Heron - 141
Great Egret - 233
Snowy Egret - 1
Little Blue Heron - 4
Green Heron - 67
Black-crowned Night-Heron - 518
Turkey Vulture - 28

Osprey - 5
Sharp-shinned Hawk - 4
Cooper's Hawk - 20
(Accipiter species - 2)
Broad-winged Hawk - 8
Red-tailed Hawk - 75
American Kestrel - 18
Peregrine Falcon - 2

Yellow Rail - 1
Virginia Rail - 9
Sora - 28
Common Moorhen - 3
American Coot - 127
Sandhill Crane - 6

Semipalmated Plover - 7
Killdeer - 118
Greater Yellowlegs - 10
Lesser Yellowlegs - 69
Solitary Sandpiper - 126
Spotted Sandpiper - 104
Semipalmated Sandpiper - 6
Least Sandpiper - 79
Pectoral Sandpiper - 93
Dunlin - 9
Stilt Sandpiper - 1
Short-billed Dowitcher - 1
Common Snipe - 6
American Woodcock - 3
Wilson's Phalarope - 4

Laughing Gull - 1
(Laughing X Ring-billed Gull hybrid - 1)
Ring-billed Gull - 12,906
Herring Gull - 96
(gull, species 17)
Caspian Tern - 1,059
Common Tern - 10
Forster's Tern - 32
Black Tern - 1

Rock Pigeon - 669

Mourning Dove - 464
Monk Parakeet - 117
Great Horned Owl - 9
Whip-poor-will - 4
Chimney Swift - 235

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 2
Belted Kingfisher - 27
Red-headed Woodpecker - 22
Red-bellied Woodpecker - 166
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 6
Downy Woodpecker - 179
Hairy Woodpecker - 38
Northern Flicker - 199

Olive-sided Flycatcher - 1
Eastern Wood-Pewee - 3
(empidonax species - 1)
Least Flycatcher - 28
Eastern Phoebe - 40
Great Crested Flycatcher - 168
Eastern Kingbird - 14

White-eyed Vireo - 3
Yellow-throated Vireo - 9
Blue-headed Vireo - 25
Warbling Vireo - 91
Philadelphia Vireo - 3
Red-eyed Vireo - 36

Blue Jay - 422
American Crow - 228
Purple Martin - 85
Tree Swallow - 301
Northern Rough-winged Swallow - 402
Bank Swallow - 56
Cliff Swallow - 43
Barn Swallow - 567

Black-capped Chickadee - 248
Tufted Titmouse - 14
Red-breasted Nuthatch - 20
White-breasted Nuthatch - 57
Brown Creeper - 1

Carolina Wren - 13
House Wren - 139
Winter Wren - 5
Sedge Wren - 5
Marsh Wren - 17

Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 391
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 291
Eastern Bluebird - 34
Veery - 71
Gray-cheeked Thrush - 16
Swainson's Thrush - 48
Hermit Thrush - 50
Wood Thrush - 48
American Robin - 3,212

Gray Catbird - 159
Northern Mockingbird - 3
Brown Thrasher - 84
European Starling - 3,224
American Pipit - 16
Cedar Waxwing - 35

Blue-winged Warbler - 44
Golden-winged Warbler - 28
[Brewster's Warbler hybrid - 1]
Tennessee Warbler - 72
Orange-crowned Warbler - 45
Nashville Warbler - 220
Northern Parula - 41
Yellow Warbler - 281
Chestnut-sided Warbler - 37
Magnolia Warbler - 29
Cape May Warbler - 18
Black-throated Blue Warbler - 20
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 1,895
Black-throated Green Warbler - 231
Blackburnian Warbler - 34

Pine Warbler - 11
Palm Warbler - 1,446
Bay-breasted Warbler - 10
Blackpoll Warbler - 10
Cerulean Warbler - 4
Black-and-white Warbler - 108
American Redstart - 50
Prothonotary Warbler - 3
Worm-eating Warbler - 3
Ovenbird - 70
Northern Waterthrush - 122
Louisiana Waterthrush - 3
Kentucky Warbler - 2
Mourning Warbler - 1
Common Yellowthroat - 111
Hooded Warbler - 3
Wilson's Warbler - 4
Canada Warbler - 1
Yellow-breasted Chat - 2

Summer Tanager - 2
Scarlet Tanager - 34
Eastern Towhee - 60
American Tree Sparrow - 8
Chipping Sparrow - 327
Clay-colored Sparrow - 4
Field Sparrow - 101
Vesper Sparrow - 1
Lark Sparrow - 2
Savannah Sparrow - 307
Grasshopper Sparrow - 2
Henslow's Sparrow - 2
Le Conte's Sparrow - 10
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow - 2
Song Sparrow - 378
Lincoln's Sparrow - 81
Swamp Sparrow - 575
White-throated Sparrow - 1,811
White-crowned Sparrow - 2,025
Dark-eyed Junco - 5

Northern Cardinal - 548
Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 131
Indigo Bunting - 12
Bobolink - 95

Red-winged Blackbird - 2,588
Eastern Meadowlark - 67
Yellow-headed Blackbird - 6
Rusty Blackbird - 3
Common Grackle - 1,625
Brown-headed Cowbird - 529

Orchard Oriole - 16
Baltimore Oriole - 208
Purple Finch - 2
House Finch - 172
American Goldfinch - 1,017
House Sparrow - 1,680

Other species reported:
European Goldfinch - 7
Rooster - 1

Earliest daylight time: 5:09 a.m.
Latest daylight time: 8:24 p.m.

Owling hours: 2.25 (4:00am start ... til dawn, and dusk til 8:30pm)

HOURS:
a) Driving: 52.75
b) Walking: 284.0
c) Other: 8.5 (6 feeder, 2.5 kayak)

MILES:
a) Driving: 491.75
b) Walking: 192.5
c) Other: 2 (kayak)

Alan B. Anderson,
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2005 SPRING BIRD COUNT — Cook Co. PARTICIPANT LIST

Thank you to the following people, who helped contribute data for Cook County in the May 7th Illinois Spring Bird Count:

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Anderson, Douglas
Anderson, Jill
Anderson, Mary Alice
Antlitz, Debbie
Baker, Margaret
Bates, John
Bezouska, Bob
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Oberlander, Ken
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Parke, Kelly
Parmet, Sharon
Pershing, Ray
Pollock, Judy
Puljung, Michael C.
Rader, Jennette S.
Repp, Jeanette
Rice, Mary
Robert, Sue
Robison, Eric
Rossiter, Kay
Serafin, Wes
Shamley, Roger
Shonkwiler, Randy
Sidney, Mary
Sliwinski, Robert
Slodki, Nancy
Staudinder, John
Stec, Stan
Stettner, Craig
Strand, Carol
Strand, Paul
Suchar, Ken
Szabados, Anton
Thayer, Barb
Thayer, Craig
Thomas, Carol
Thompson, Brenda
Thompson, Mark
Vogt, Jenny
Wachtel, David
Wachtel, Eugene
Wachtel, Richard
Wagner, Dave
Willard, David
Williamson, Chris
Williamson, Geoff
Zawacki, Jaclyn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weekly Bird Walks

At the Skokie Lagoons: *Saturday, July 9 and August 13 at 10:00 a.m.*

Chicago Audubon conducts regular monthly workdays at the Skokie Lagoons on the second Saturday of every month. Activities include buckthorn cutting, 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

Bird Walks

Wooded Island

Saturdays through August at 8:00 a.m. Wednesdays through August at 7:00 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.

Thatcher Woods Bird Walk
SATURDAY, September 10 - 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Join us for a bird walk to look at all 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. Any questions? Call Christine or Stephen Lee at (708) 485-8197.

North Park Village Bird Walks
Saturdays in September and October at 8:00 a.m. at North Park Village Nature Center, 5801 North Pulaski Road, Chicago

Meet in front of the Nature Center. Bring binoculars and field guide. Audubon guide: Don Klimovich, (773) 878-4421.

Field Trips

Wolf Road Prairie
Saturday, July 23 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Come enjoy the native prairie plants at Wolf Road Prairie in Westchester. In July the prairie is in full bloom with compass plants, rattlesnake master and prairie dock. Wolf Road Prairie is on 31st Street at Wolf Road in Westchester. There are three parking bays on 31st St. We will meet by the kiosk at the middle bay. Be prepared for hot weather and dress accordingly. For more information or specific directions, call Barbara Kratochvil at 708-485-3678 or Christine Lee at 708-485-8197.

Lake Calumet Wetland Birds

Sun., August 28, 11:00 a.m.

Sponsored by COS. Leader: Walter Marcisz 773/646-3034 or wjmarcisz@aol.com. Walter's annual

August shorebird trip has been a favorite of Chicago Audubon members for many years. Since conditions change every year, the locations for this year's trip will be determined in August. This year we will begin the trip later than usual, at 11:00 a.m. This will give us better light conditions for scoping the birds. Bring a lunch since we will be there later.

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 & Dam. Turn left after the railroad underpass and proceed along the river to the car park.

Saturday, October 15: Botanic Garden/CAS bus trip to Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin to view waterfowl. Details to be announced.

SOUTHEAST SIDE SHUTS DOWN LANDFILL

In a stunning show of strength and will, residents of the Southeast Side led by Citizens for Landfill Alternatives, with the tenth ward alderman John Pope right behind them, convinced the City Council to shut down Waste Management's landfill on 130th St. for twenty more years.

Orders by the City Council in December, 2004 for a two-year shutdown did nothing to quell Waste Management's attempts to convince the community that a park and a "community foundation" would justify five more years of noxious smells and ever-growing mountains of trash.

This only pumped up an active band of citizenry, who stepped up their efforts to counter Waste Management's attempts at public relations. With unprecedented speed, Alderman Pope took a proposal for a 20-year shutdown to the Environmental Protection Committee of the City Council, who passed the proposal unopposed. The proposal then sailed through City Council on Wednesday, June 8, 2005.

Kudos to the Southeast Side, Citizens for Landfill Alternatives, John Pope, Alderwoman Rugai (head of the Environmental Protection Committee), Marian Byrnes, Aaron Rosinski, Tom Shepherd, and all the people who rallied to support the shutdown—the liveliest testament to democracy that a city could muster.

For those of you who are wondering how this relates to birds and conservation, the six million more tons of trash that Waste Management proposed piling onto the already looming landfill mountain at 130th Street and the Bishop Ford Freeway, would have juxtaposed the new Ford Calumet Environmental Center, slated to be finished and operating by 2007. This Center is being built on a parcel of land containing Hegewisch Marsh, a marsh that harbors endangered species of birds. The landfill would not only have been an eyesore, and smelly, but not a very clean habitat for plants and wildlife.

—Gail Goldberger

Audubon Art Party, October 15, 2005

This coming October 15 please join your peers at the first ever Chicago Audubon Society Art Party.

To be held at the Lill Street Studios on Ravenswood Ave. and Montrose, the Chicago Audubon Society Art Party is a chance for all local Chicago birdwatchers and nature lovers to exhibit their art, socialize with their friends in a different kind of setting, and take in the artwork of other wildlife enthusiasts in a fantastic studio space.

Many who enjoy nature are also avid creators of art - come see what your birding buddies are up to in their spare time!

If you are a member of the birdwatching/nature community and are a serious artist, or just take some pictures or draw on the side, please think about exhibiting at the Audubon Art Party.

Many who appreciate and observe nature also enjoy making art. Some artist/naturalists, like Audubon, produce some of the most-recognized, inspiring and educational artwork.

Submit up to four pieces of your original artwork (photography, painting, drawing, sculpture) for display during this one-night "art show." You may elect to place a price tag on your work with the proceeds going to the Chicago Audubon Society to support our programs and conservation efforts.

The party will feature live music, beverages and d'oevres, and will certainly be a very unique night to remember.

If you are interested in participating by showing some of your art, please contact Sharon Parmet for more information at (773) 519-0404 or by e-mailing sparmet@yahoo.com. Watch The Compass and the Chicago Audubon Society web page (<http://www.chicagoaudubon.org>) for additional information on the Audubon Art Party.

Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup Event – Saturday, September 17th

Please mark your calendars and join hundreds of volunteers along the shores of Lake Michigan for the annual September Adopt-a-Beach cleanup event to be held on Saturday, September 17th from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The September Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup serves to raise public awareness about beach pollution and encourages responsible behavior through education and outreach.

As you know, the shores of Lake Michigan contain a wealth of biological diversity, a migratory pathway and at times a feeding ground and nursery for fish and

aquatic birds. Also the shorelines pose threats in forms of pollution, which can be dangerous for wildlife. In 2004, 42% of the trash recorded at Lake Michigan beaches was food-related items. When animals mistake trash for food, this can lead to starvation or strangulations. That is why it is so important to join others to make a difference.

Since 1991, the Alliance for the Great Lakes (formerly Lake Michigan Federation) has enabled volunteers to spend a morning collecting trash along Lake Michigan's beaches and record their data during

the annual cleanup. The cleanup goes beyond Lake Michigan. Volunteers worldwide join in on this international event that is coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy, and the data collected is valuable in contributing to the passing of clean water legislation and educating individuals.

To become involved in this important yearly event, go to <http://www.greatlakes.org/> or contact Gina Lettiere at glettieri@greatlakes.org or 312-939-0838, ext. 321.

BIRDATHON '05 PLEDGE FORM	
<input type="checkbox"/> My tax-deductible gift of \$_____ is enclosed.	_____ Name of contributor
<input type="checkbox"/> I am happy to pledge \$_____ per species.	_____ Street Address
Team I'm sponsoring (optional): _____	_____ City, State, Zip Code
Make check payable to: Chicago Audubon Society 5801-C N. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60646	_____ Telephone
Credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> VISA	CAS Member? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> My donation will be matched by my employer's Matching Contribution Program
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGE	