



# **The Audubon Outlook**

**Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon**

Vol. 31, No. 2    [Audbirds@aol.com](mailto:Audbirds@aol.com)    847-362-5134    Apr/May 2006

## **General Meeting: Apr. 3, 2006**

### **Bees: The Latest Buzz**

Presented by

**Perry Plescia**

**7:30 pm**

**Libertyville Village Hall  
Second Floor Meeting Room  
118 W. Cook. Libertyville, IL**

**Perry Plescia** of the Lake County Beekeepers, Association will give a Power Point presentation and demonstration with props on the history and importance of these valuable and sometimes misunderstood insects. He will cover some of the basics of beekeeping and explain the structure of the hive, the differences between the queen, workers and drone. Perry will demonstrate the basic equipment that is needed for beekeeping (hive, smoker, suit, etc) and will also discuss the cycle of the bee year from February through October and dormancy during the winter. The Lake County Beekeepers' Association has been in existence for around 35 years and consists of 45 members who are primarily hobbyists.

## **General Meeting and Election of Chapter Officers: May 1, 2006**

### **Hummingbirds- Enjoy them for Longer than a Nanosecond**

Presented by

**Dr. Dave Willard**

**7:30 pm**

**Libertyville Village Hall  
Second Floor Meeting Room  
118 W. Cook. Libertyville, IL**

**David Willard**, from the Field Museum, will bring valuable specimens from the museum's collection. Dr. Willard will use a Power Point program as well as specimens from the Field Museum collection to help identify these beauties that we all hope to tempt into our yards. He plans to cover the basic biology of hummingbirds and, in addition, will go into detail on the species that occur north of Mexico, touching on some of the more extravagant species from South America as well. Dave has been collection manager of the Bird Division at Field Museum for the last 28 years. His research focuses on community structure and migration of birds, both on a local scale, nationally, and internationally.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

**The 2006-2007 General Meeting schedule will be published in the Sep-Oct newsletter in the fall.**

### **Lake Hennepin Redux:**

Due to the popularity of this outing last fall, we are planning to revisit the restored wetland called Lake Hennepin north of Peoria next fall. Gary Sullivan, Wetlands Restoration Ecologist, will once again act as guide. If you are interested in this trip, please contact us at [audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com) and we will keep you posted.

### **Special Program coming in October:**

**"John James Audubon" Visits Lake County.**

Brian "Fox" Ellis, nationally known performer, storyteller, and author, portrays Audubon himself in this hour-long program co-sponsored with the Liberty Prairie Conservancy. The program will be offered on Monday, October 2, 7:30 pm, at the Byron Colby Barn in Grayslake. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION

### **Bird House Kits:**

Houses to accommodate Bluebirds and Wrens will be available at each meeting of LCAS. The price is \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members.

## **Volo Bog drying up**

Excerpted from article by Art Peterson,  
Staff Writer, The News Sun, 10/28/05

For the Volo Bog State Natural Area, the aging process has been slow and steady for centuries. But the summer of 2005, too hot and too dry, has changed that drastically. Naturalist Tracy Iwanicki has worked 18 years at the Volo Bog and thought the bog's most visible, unique element would last another 100 to 200 years. After this summer, she has changed her mind. The central pond could be gone in one or two years, she said. The bog is the only "quaking bog" with a central pond in Illinois, so named, Iwanicki explained, "because the trees shake with our footsteps, because they're floating".

In the middle is a central pond of water that is surrounded by a floating mat of vegetation, a ring that varies from about 150 to 300 feet wide. The pond spans about a half-acre and the overall wetland is about 500 by 1,200 yards. The entire site covers approximately 1,140 acres. The pond, originally scoured out by glaciers, is about 50 feet deep. Since the big ice melted, plant life has slowly been reaching into the pond. Closest to the pond, the mat is thin; farther away it thickens and bushier plants and trees grow.

Currently, according to Iwanicki, the pond level "is three-and-a-half to four feet lower than previous high-water levels." A lot more of the bottom of the pond is exposed. What had been underwater is now exposed to the sunshine. "Last summer, there was open water to the edge," Iwanicki said. Now, visitors can reach down and touch the muck.

While some rain fell in September and October, Iwanicki said it was only "a little bit and has not made much difference. The water level actually dropped a little." Rainfall for the past 44 months is about 21 inches below normal, she said.

By mid-summer, the pond water had been covered by water shield, a lily-like plant that floats atop still waters. The "pond" now is covered by a floating pad of muck made of moderately decomposed plant material. The muck allows intrusion by the light

plants in the first zone around the pond. "Once plants get their roots in the inner shore zone, you're at a point of no return," Iwanicki said.

Unless the muck is dispersed by heavy rains, snow and freezing, the plant intrusion next year could be extreme. Animals, muskrats and deer offer another hope: Twenty years ago, when cattails were choking the herb mat, those animals found the plant invaders to be most tasty and munched away the threat.

## **Education Update**

Students from Ms. Coutain's class at the A.J. Katzenmaier Elementary School, North Chicago have sent colorful pictures with "Thank you for the Audubon Materials". They are one of 21 classrooms in Highwood, Great Lakes, Libertyville, North Chicago and Waukegan schools receiving the Audubon Adventure Kits and finding them an exciting learning experience.

Teachers have adapted the Audubon Adventure Kits supplied to them by the Lake County Audubon Society to suit their teaching styles and to supplement curriculum goals. The Classroom Resource Guide for Teachers and Students contains lesson plans, hands-on activities, research material, interesting duplicating masters and links to websites among other materials.

The four tabloid-style papers for the students are colorful, informative and full of activities such as reading descriptions of birds and animal dwellers of the forest and then locating them on a poster, prompts for a writing project and a fill in the blank project for observing the natural world around them. Lake County Audubon Society has contributed a resource to these schools that keeps interest high for students and supports educators in our area.

**National Audubon Society is reaching out** to the Spanish-speaking community via the Audubon at Home program. Audubon at Home has printed a Spanish language version of "Guide to a Healthy Yard," with other Spanish language publications to follow soon. Contact [audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com) for copies.

## **Bird Watching**

Several organizations offer guided bird walks including Wild Bird Center, Libertyville (**WBC**), Lake County Forest Preserve District (**LCFPD**), **Lake/Cook Audubon**, a chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, **Volo Bog** State Natural Area plus Liberty Prairie Conservancy (**LPC**). Join one and increase your bird watching enjoyment and knowledge.

Visit their websites at:

### **WBC:**

<http://www.wildbirdcenter.com/stores/lib>

### **Lake County Forest Preserve District:**

[http://www.lcfpd.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=calendar.view\\_main](http://www.lcfpd.org/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=calendar.view_main)

### **Volo Bog State Natural Area:**

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/INTERPRT/volo/VOLOBOG.HTM>

### **LPC:**

<http://www.libertyprairie.org/events.html>

**If you have a favorite birding spot, tell us about it and we will share it in an issue of this newsletter.**

## **Spring Bird Walk Schedule**

### **MARCH**

**26 Lake/Cook Aud.- Lake County Loons 8AM**

### **APRIL**

**1 WBC @ Crab Tree Nature Center 8AM**

**8 WBC @ McHenry Dam/Black Tern Marsh 8AM**

**15 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Turner-Reed 8AM**

**15 WBC @ Rollins Savanna 8AM**

**15 LCFPD Woodcocks@Middlefork Savanna 6PM**

**22 LCFPD @ Middlefork Savanna 7:30AM**

**22 LPC/WBC @ Almond Marsh 9:00AM**

**23 LCFPD Woodcocks@Middlefork Savanna 6PM**

**28 LPC Woodcocks at Oak Openings 6:30PM**

**29 WBC @ Volo Bog 8AM**

**30 Lake/Cook Aud. @ The Grove 8AM**

### **MAY**

**6 LCFPD @ Reyerson Woods, 7AM**

**6/ WBC @ Morraine Hills State Park, 8AM**

**7 LCFPD @ Reyerson Woods, 7AM**

**13-14 LCFPD @ Horicon Marsh**

**13 WBC @ Turner-Reed Woodland 8AM**

**14 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Reyerson 8AM**

**14 LCFPD @ Wright Woods, 7AM**

**20 WBC @ Wright Woods w/ M. Hurley 7AM**

### **JUNE**

**3 WBC @ Middle Fork Savanna 8AM**

**4 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Botanic Gardens 7AM**

**10 WBC @ McHenry Dam/Black Tern Marsh 8AM**

**17 WBC @ Rollins Savanna 8AM**

## **Birding Resources and Publications**

### **ONLINE BIRD GUIDES**

#### **All About Birds**

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/>

#### **The Birds of North America**

<http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA>

#### **Audubon's Birds of America**

[http://www.audubon.org/bird/BoA/BOA\\_index.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/BoA/BOA_index.html)

#### **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>

#### **Living Bird Magazine**

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/>

#### **The Illinois Ornithological Society**

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

#### **Bird Conservation Network**

<http://www.bcnbirds.org/index1024BK.html>

#### **Bird Watcher's Digest**

<http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/index.aspx>

#### **The Backyard Bird Newsletter**

#### **Birder's World Magazine**

<http://www.birdersworld.com/>

#### **Wild Bird Magazine**

<http://www.wildbirdmagazine.com/wb/>

#### **Audubon Magazine**

<http://magazine.audubon.org/index.html>

#### **Illinois Audubon Magazine**

<http://www.illinoisaudubon.org>

## **News from the Audubon Board of Directors Meeting in Dallas Texas**

For the past ten years Audubon has had limited involvement with **global warming**. The situation is now changing. We now know with greater certainty that global warming is the most important threat to our mission, and there is potentially a pivotal role for Audubon that would use our unique grassroots strengths as we work toward changing attitudes in this country. There will be more discussion and proposals brought to the May Board Retreat.

**National Audubon Society**  
**Lake County Audubon Society**  
**P.O. Box 332**  
**Libertyville, IL 60048**

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**DATED MATERIAL!!**

### **Welcome New Members!**

Dean Ayres	Patricia Barthel
Arthur Berman	Franklin Bermed
C.H. Brenner	Patricia Burckhalter
Evan & Paula Craig	Gisela Carlander
Philip Danley	Charles De Paepe
Diane Eubanks	H. Finkle
Ted Frydrychowicz	Rosalie Giles
Sallie Goding	Susan Grinath
Mark Helgelson	Mr-Mrs Quintin Guerin
Gary Hogrefe	Steve Holecsek
Brian Ibbotson	Debbie Johnson
Jeff & Kelli Kalish	Janet Kendrick
Anna Knoll	William Lambert
Juanita Mata	Julius Miller
Mr-Mrs Sudarshan Nad	Mr-Mrs Thomas Nathan
Rosemary Morris	Jan Muligano
Edwin Sullivan	Elizabeth Oster
J.M. Payne	Danny Perski
Thomas Rohr	Anthony Setterlund
Mark Smitter	Susan Stift
Gladys Thiel	Teresa Thornton
Shirley Wexler	Norman Woodruff
Mr-Mrs Bots Young Jr.	Robert Zahdrik
Louise Bergman	Bill & Diane Nowak
Steve Nowak	Diane Armi

### **Welcome New Members!**

Lisa Biggins	Denis Bohm
Mary Brodhead	Marlene Brown
Dawn Brumm	Margaret Burke
Barbara Cantrell	Marvin Cantrell
Yngve Carlson	Jane Carpender
Brent & Anita Circle	Mary Dalryuple
Luciana Diambri	Carol Dorge
Jennifer Engel	Eugene French
Mary Gilray	George Goldstern
Peg Groff	M-M Nig Kong
Audrey Krueger	Maxine Lamagdeleine
Alan & Sandee Laven	Elizabeth Legrand
Barry Lezak	Dolores Lienesch
Joan Marubio	Len Messineo
Alan Miller	Lily Oberlander
Lyn Pearson	Margie Porter
Marvin Sabido	Norma Schemansky
Amy Schuetz	A. Sethness
Yvonne Sylvester	Valerie Thiele
Matthew Vogel	Ann Kelley Happ
Pat Sayerstad	Jim Sullivan
Sonja Velins	Evonne D'Agostino

**We hope to get to know you at one of our  
future programs**