



The Audubon Outlook

Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon

Vol. 31, No. 1 Audbirds@aol.com 847-362-5134 Feb/Mar 2006

General Meeting: Feb. 6, 2006

Banish the Midwinter Blues with Bluebirds

Presented by

Walt Sivertsen

7:30 pm

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

Walt Sivertsen will brighten the midwinter with a slide program on those beautiful bluebirds we love to see. Walt has been a birder all his life, and after retirement from Abbott became the Bluebird Monitoring Network Administrator for the Lake County Forest Preserves. Because there are a thousand bluebird houses in Lake County, he supervises 40 to 50 volunteers in their detailed data collection to determine success of efforts to expand a healthy bluebird population. Walt will describe the history of the monitoring program and explain the process involved in volunteering for the project, the problems presented by various predators, and the significance of providing habitat for these cavity nesters.

In addition, we will have our **birdhouse kits** available to build after Walt's program. Kits will include some houses for bluebirds. Cost will be \$7.00 for members and \$10.00 for nonmembers. Please bring your own hammer and a Phillips screwdriver.

General Meeting: Mar. 6, 2006

Controlled Burns: The Ecological Effects on our Plants and Animals

Presented by

Ken Klick

Lake County Forest Preserves

7:30 pm

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

For millennia, forest and grassland fires have been a driving force of our world's landscapes. Whether set by humans or lightning-started, fires have long influenced the distribution and abundance of plants and animals in very direct ways.

Ken Klick will present information on an increasing trend being used to restore our prairies. His program will feature images and discussion of diverse landscapes dependent upon fire; how plants and animals, including humans, respond to fire, and how natural resource managers utilize controlled burning to protect our rare flora and fauna. The effects of fires within the prairie and woodland communities of our region will be emphasized during this program. This should be of special interest because there is so much open space in our area being restored to prairie, and we often see the roaring fires and billowing smoke of the fall and spring burns.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 3 – Bees: The Latest Buzz. **Dave Bergman** of the Lake County Beekeepers will give a Power Point program on these valuable and sometimes misunderstood insects. He will bring some of his "co-workers" for an up-close view of an enclosed bee colony.

May 1 – Hummingbirds-Enjoy Them for Longer Than A Nanosecond. Based on his schedule, **Dave Willard**, from the Field Museum, will bring valuable specimens from the museum's collection to help identify these beauties that we all hope to tempt into our yards.

Audubon Adventures Classrooms

The AUDUBON ADVENTURES Classroom Resource Kit will be used in twenty-one classrooms in Lake County this school year. Teachers in Highwood, Libertyville, North Chicago and Waukegan have requested the kits for their classes. AUDUBON ADVENTURES is one of Audubon's most successful education programs for schools. Designed for students in grades 3-6, it presents scientifically accurate facts in a newspaper style format that is colorful and very appealing to students. The teachers who used these in their classrooms last year found the lesson plans, activities and additional materials invaluable. The integration of science and language arts was considered especially helpful.

Hundreds of students benefit from the AUDUBON ADVENTURES program and learning about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Plans are being made to have some of the participants join us at a meeting in the spring to share their experiences.

Audubon Center of the North Woods

The Audubon Center is a Residential Environmental Learning Center, wildlife rehabilitation facility, and retreat center located in east central Minnesota. The diverse 535 acre sanctuary includes a variety of habitats, including old-growth red and white pines, hardwood forests, restored wetlands and prairies. It offers a great variety of environmental learning experiences with programming in natural history and science, adventure programming, outdoor and environmental education. ACNW offers excellent environmental experiences and education for students as well as many teacher training opportunities.

LCAS Offers Partial Scholarships

Lake County Audubon Society is offering two \$350 partial scholarships for the Audubon Center of the North Woods Residential Camps in Sandstone, MN. The camp for 10-13 year olds (\$430) will be held June 25-30, 2006. The Absolutely Awesome Adventure Camp will include activities such as canoeing, wilderness navigation skills and wildlife

study will be held at a National Register of Historic Places Sight acquired by Audubon in 1968. The Wild Careers Camp for 14-16 year olds (\$495) is June 18-23, 2006 and provides hands on experience. Applications will be available from LCAS. For more detailed information contact Marjorie Glacking at (847)362-0472.

Visit the ACNW website at:

http://www.audubon-center.org/youth_camp.htm

http://www.audubon-center.com/about_acnw.htm

or contact them at:

audubon1@audubon-center.org

Recipe for a Great Field Trip

Take one restored wetland called Lake Hennepin near Peoria.

Add one Wetlands Restoration Ecologist, Gary Sullivan, to act as guide.

Combine a dozen bird enthusiasts, an easy two-hour trip, and a glorious October day.

Gently **stir** in a thousand pelicans, dozens of shore birds, and a hike in the woods accompanied by many woodland species.

Finish with a dollop of gentle prairie grasses and forbs waving in the breeze.

Yield: a very satisfied and happy group of bird watchers.

Repeat in Spring 2006.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The GBBC, a joint project of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, returns for the 9th season Feb. 17-20. Birdwatchers of all ages and abilities can participate. For more information and to get involved, see the following website:

<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

Get Audubon, Save a Forest

Tired of renewal notices that consume precious forests? Call 800-274-4201 and sign up for Audubon's Paper Free Renewal Program. Instead of mailing you renewal reminders, Audubon will automatically renew your membership each year. You'll simply receive a bill, as with a newspaper subscription. Of course, you can cancel at any time.

Bird Watching

Many of us enjoy watching the birds which appear in our yards. It is fun to see how the species of birds change through the year as they migrate north and south, some of whom reside here only seasonally. Many birds, however, are not usually seen in populated areas. The number and variety of migrant and resident birds in Lake County is astounding. The spring and fall migrations of waterfowl, warblers, and shorebirds, for example, can only be seen by getting out in undeveloped places. With spring coming soon, the bird activity will really get started again.

It is hard for the beginner and even the intermediate bird watcher to learn how to be an effective bird watcher and have fun when they struggle to see birds and then to identify them.

My wife and I have found that a terrific way to increase our enjoyment of our new hobby of bird watching is to participate in guided bird walks. The benefits are many. Through them, we have visited many Lake County Forest Preserves, State Natural Areas and State Parks that we are so fortunate to have in our county. Guided walks are conducted by experienced birders who are able to see and identify birds rapidly. This enhances the learning process for the participants by allowing them to focus on observing the bird rather than fumbling through a field guide based upon a less than thorough observation. It is so exciting to be able to see a new bird well enough to positively identify it and add it to your life list or to see large numbers of beautiful and exotic wood ducks swimming on a pond in autumn.

Our favorite place would have to be Almond Marsh because of the variety of birds that we see there and it's proximity to our house. We have seen many species of dabbling and diving ducks, herons plus sand hill cranes. The nesting colony of great blue herons and cormorants are especially interesting. A spotting scope is particularly advantageous for viewing the water fowl. We have also seen hawks, vultures, sora, swallows, bluebirds, flycatchers, thrashers, thrush, warblers, a yellow-headed blackbird and others.

...Vic Taylor

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

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

Guided Bird Walk Schedule

March 2006

26 Lake/Cook Aud. Lake County Loons 8:00

April

15 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Turner-Reed Pres. 8:00

30 Lake/Cook Aud. @ The Grove 8:00

May

6 LCFPD @ Reyerson Woods, 7:00

7 LCFPD @ TBA, 7:00

13-14 LCFPD @ Horicon Marsh

14 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Reyerson Conserv. Area 8:00

14 LCFPD @ TBA, 7:00

June

4 Lake/Cook Aud. @ Chicago Botanic Gardens 7:00

Dallas B. Saunders made a donation to LCAS in memory of her brother, Michael Kennett of Lake Bluff.

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

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DATED MATERIAL!!

Welcome New Members!

Tom and Maryan Atwood	Vernon Hills
Ruth Barnard	Ingleside
Jack and Patricia Barthel	Libertyville
Peggy Bernthal	Lake Forest
Mary Browne	Zion
Karen Byers	Waukegan
Yolande Crosby	Lindenhurst
June Druba	Gurnee
Chris Edwards	Libertyville
Ed Esler	Wauconda
Kenneth Finkelstein	Highland Park
Kathleen Flynn-Barnett	Lake Forest
Robert Garnett	Grayslake
Lorraine Gerloff	Antioch
Gayle Hall	Mundelein
Ning and Jinn Kong	Vernon Hills
B. Levine	Lake Forest
Lolly Lindemann	Round Lake Bch.
Judy Manning	Waukegan

Welcome New Members!

John Medd, Jr.	Deerfield
Deborah Mikasser	Highland Park
Patricia Patrick	Lake Forest
Beth Pendley	Lindenhurst
Diane Rammelsberg	Libertyville
Herbert Rozoff	Highland Park
Helga Schwarten	Lake Bluff
Duane Shaneyfelt	Lindenhurst
Michael Stablein	Lincolnshire
Patricia Tarter	Zion
VA Medical Center	N. Chicago
Sandra Whitmore	Libertyville
Sheri Wiley	Island Lake
Margaret Zeszutek	Vernon Hills
Arthur Heinicke	Round Lake Pk.
Shaina Keseley	Round Lake
David Segal	Highland Park

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