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# Audubon Outlook

Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon Society (LCAS)



## To contact us:

- [audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com)
- 847.362.5134

## Articles:

- Dutch Gap FP
- Kestrels
- Future Programs
- Tips: Refurbish a Birdfeeder
- Activities
- Bald Eagle Watch Weekend
- Audubon Adventures

## General Meetings

Libertyville Village Hall  
118 W. Cook Avenue  
Second Floor

Monday Dec. 6 7:30 PM  
**Asian Carp in Lake County???**

Monday Jan. 3 7:30 PM  
**Raptors of Illinois**

Monday Feb. 7 7:30 PM  
**Habitat Loss in the Gulf of Mexico**

## Activities

Sat-Sun Jan. 22-23, 2011  
**Bald Eagle Watch Weekend**  
Starved Rock State Park  
Lodge

## Editor

[Richard Hoppel](mailto:Richard.Hoppel@caudubon@gmail.com)  
[caudubon@gmail.com](mailto:caudubon@gmail.com)

## LC Audubon supports the Bird Conservation Network

LCAS is a member of the Bird Conservation Network (BCN). BCN is a coalition of approximately 18 organizations, mainly bird clubs, Audubon chapters, ornithological societies and conservation groups. BCN promotes bird conservation along with the preservation

and restoration of bird habitat in the greater Chicago region. Check out the website [www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org) for information on bird monitors, a birding calendar and "green" papers. Some current green topics include; "Monitoring the Impact of Wind Turbines on Lake

Michigan," "Window Collisions: The Deadliest Hazard for Birds," and "What Red-headed Woodpeckers Really Want."

**Diane Rosenberg**

*Vice President*

*email: [audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com)*

**General Meeting: December 6 7:30 PM Libertyville Village Hall**

## Asian Carp in Lake County???

Are they coming? Are they here?

by [Tammy Mitchell](#)

Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan Coordinator

IL EPA

The possible invasion of the Asian carp is just one of the many threats to the health of Lake Michigan and its food web. Join us for an intriguing program on a subject that has produced dramatic concerns about Lake Michigan. Tammy Mitchell of the Illinois EPA will give a presentation that will trace the history of the most recent threat to the Lake Michigan food web, the Asian Carp. It will discuss the introduction of the Asian Carp, the Bighead and Silver Carp to the Mississippi and Illinois River Basins and trace their journey through these systems. The behavior of these fish, both natural and those considered unnatural in their native environment, will be explored.

Tammy will review the planning undertaken by local, state, federal and international partners to prevent the introduction of the Asian Carp and into Lake Michigan. These efforts include research and development from the public and private sectors, and have involved nearly all parts of the scientific community.



**General Meeting: January 3 7:30 PM Libertyville Village Hall**

## Raptors of Illinois

Raptor migration along Lake Michigan with unbelievable raptor photography

by [Vic Berardi](#)

[IL Beach State Park Hawk Watch](#)

Coordinator & Raptor photographer

A presentation about raptors (hawks, eagles and falcons) that breed in and migrate throughout Illinois. The state of Illinois has a diverse number of species that only a handful of states can compare. Vic will present detailed photos showing breeding territory and migration routes. Endangered species and conversation issues will be presented. Hawk Watch will be discussed.

Vic's breathtaking raptor photos have been featured at the [Wild Things Conference](#). The next conference is March 5, 2011.



# Dutch Gap FP – Ready for Restoration

One of the newest acquisitions of the Lake County Forest Preserve is Dutch Gap Forest Preserve in Newport and Antioch Townships. It is named after the Dutch Gap Canal that begins in Bristol, Wisconsin and joins the north branch of Mill Creek near Edwards Road and Route 45 in Antioch Township.

The Dutch Gap Canal is a sub-watershed of the Des Plaines River. The “canal” was built between the 1880’s and 1916 in the township of Bristol, Wisconsin. An existing stream was straightened and deepened in order to drain wetlands so they could be converted into farmlands. Most of the work was done in 1916 with an early steam shovel mounted on a barge. The canal begins near Highway C, just east of Lake George and continues into Illinois. Water is diverted from the Bristol fields, down the nearly seven mile long canal into the north branch of Mill Creek, which flows east into the Des Plaines River.

The origin of the name Dutch Gap is unknown, though speculation is that it was to honor Dutch settlers in the Bristol area or because the task was seen as similar to the Dutch draining their land and reclaiming it from the sea.

Four adjoining properties were approved to be purchased in May 2010 to create this 748-acre forest preserve. This new preserve is ideally situated between two neighboring preserves, the 253-acre Pine Dunes to the east along Crawford Road and 287-acre Prairie Stream to the west along Route 45. A small section of the Dutch Gap acquisition is located on the west side of Route 45 and will be designated as an addition to adjacent Prairie Stream Forest Preserve, increasing that preserve’s total to 287 acres. Linked together, these three preserves form a 1,300-acre greenway in northern Lake County, and provide opportunity for a future trail system that would connect the properties. In addition, future connections to nearby 534-acre Raven Glen and 486-acre Ethel’s Woods on Route 45 just south of Route 173 could create a long-distance loop trail system connecting the five preserves and expanding this northern greenway.

The properties are primarily agricultural planted in corn and soybeans. Eventually these areas will be restored to prairies and wetland communities to improve grassland and wetland bird habitat. The oak woodlands along Mill Creek will be protected and expanded. This new preserve also protects and buffers a portion of the Dutch Gap Canal/North Mill Creek watershed. It also offers an opportunity to restore the one and a quarter mile section of the canal that lies in Illinois from State Line Road to just south of Edwards Road. Chicago Wilderness identified the area as critical for wetland restoration.

Lake County Storm Water Management Commission is working on a cooperative plan with residents of Wisconsin and Illinois and local and state government agencies to develop a watershed plan for Dutch Gap Canal/ North Mill Creek to improve water quality, prevent flooding, and preserve natural resources in Wisconsin and Illinois.

At this time the site is undeveloped and there is no designated access. The area can be viewed from Route 45 and from State Line Road.



**Dutch Gap FP**  
<http://j.mp/aUGo0m>  
 (link to PDF)

*“Eventually these areas will be restored to prairies and wetland communities to improve grassland and wetland bird habitat.”*



by Don Wilson

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### Future Programs

	Dec. 6	<a href="#">Asian Carp</a> in Lake County???	Tammy Mitchell
		<i>Are they coming? Are they here?</i>	Illinois EPA
2011	Jan. 3	<a href="#">Hawk Watch / Raptors of Illinois</a>	Vic Berardi
	Feb. 7	Habitat Loss in the Gulf of Mexico	(TBD)
	Mar. 7	Prescribed Burns: Challenges and Effectiveness?	Leslie Berns/LCFF
	Apr 4	The Fungus Among Us: Local Mushrooms!	Bob Kaplan
	May 2	The <a href="#">Des Plaines River</a> Waterways: Then & Now	<a href="#">Ralph Freese</a>

### LCAS on Facebook and Google Photos

#### Facebook

Subscribe to our group page “Lake County Audubon Society” to get the latest program and activity information. You can also see photos and videos submitted by members. Our page can be found at <http://bit.ly/aQwIUA>

#### Google Picasa Web Albums

View photos submitted by members of local interest. These include local forest preserves and natural areas primarily of Lake County. Our page can be found at <http://bit.ly/adCZg2>

#### “Audubon Outlook” Google group

Subscribe to the PDF version of the newsletter, view additional resources, and access our newsletter archive. <http://bit.ly/cMQV6T>

### LCAS Activities Calendar on the “Google”

[LCAS Activities](http://bit.ly/buXGlj) or <http://bit.ly/buXGlj>

# American Kestrel

by Glen Moss

Name the smallest Falcon in North America. If you said Chris Owens of the Atlantic Falcons who weighs in at 179 lb. and is 5' 9" tall you might be spending too much time watching football on television. In between games you might spot The [American Kestrel](#) or Sparrow Hawk by getting outside. The most common falcon is also the smallest measuring 8 to 12 inches in length and weighing 2.8 to 5.8 oz. Their wingspan is 20 to 24 inches. They eat grasshoppers, lizards, mice and other birds such as sparrows and starlings. They can be seen across North America and are considered by many to be the most colorful raptor. They nest in tree cavities, snags, on the eaves of buildings and in depressions found in a bank or cliff. In Lake County Forest Preserves you may see a

nesting box for kestrels. These simple boxes look similar to the wood duck boxes, but are smaller and have smaller openings and are located near open areas such as prairies, and old fields. The birds lay 3 to 7 pinkish white, white or slightly spotted eggs. If you would like plans to build your own nesting box I suggest one of the sites on line such as:

<http://j.mp/9vEVzy>

**Now a question for those who know their Illinois history, what Native American was also known as the Sparrow Hawk?**

The answer is [Black Hawk of the Sauk Tribe](#), a distinguished chief who led his people using evasive military strategies during the [Blackhawk War of 1832](#).



American Kestrel



By Glen Moss

## Tips: How to Refurbish a Birdfeeder by Glen Moss

If you have a typical cylinder bird feeder that has had the bottom dish crack or break you can replace it with a Frisbee. If the plug is still good you can just drill a hole in the center of the Frisbee and push the plug back in. You may want to drill in some drainage holes too if the feeder is not protected from rain and snow. If the plug is missing use a cork and also drill two sets of holes on each side of the bottom perches. Run coated copper wire up and down and around the perches and twist off on the bottom to keep the perch from tilting from heavy birds. If you have a large triple feeder that has damage to the tray, just add a plastic bucket top like the ones that wallboard compound comes in by drilling screw holes through the old tray and the top and add stainless screws, nuts and lock washers to hold it on. The Frisbee and the top all have lips that keep the seed on the tray.



## Lake County Audubon Society Activities

### Bald Eagle Watch Weekend

You don't have to go too far to visit one of the Midwest's premier Bald Eagle viewing locations during the winter months. It is not unusual to see thirty bald eagles perched in trees and soaring downstream of the [Illinois River Locks](#) adjacent to Starved Rock State Park. <http://j.mp/dCVAzO>

Be sure to wear warm clothes as it can be quite chilly as the winds whip along the river.

A number of LCAS board members are headed to the [Bald Eagle Watch Weekend](#) <http://j.mp/bQKbGF> sponsored by the Illinois Audubon Society Jan. 22-23, 2010. It is a free event featuring live birds of prey and raptor awareness programs. It is taking place at the Lodge at [Starved Rock State Park](#). <http://j.mp/cfq31t>

If you would like accommodations overnight you can stay at the Lodge (books early) or at the Best Western Oglesby Inn.

<http://j.mp/d2dBFc>

Hope to see you there!



## Non-LCAS Activities

Date & Time	Event	Location	Group
Jan. 22-23 2011	<b>Bald Eagle Watch Weekend</b> <a href="http://j.mp/bQKbGF">http://j.mp/bQKbGF</a>	Starved Rock State Park Lodge	Illinois Audubon Society
Sat. March 5 2011	<b>Wild Things Conference</b> <a href="http://j.mp/9mWfQ9">http://j.mp/9mWfQ9</a>	U of IL @ Chicago	Chicago Wilderness

[Lake County Forest Preserves Activities](#) <http://bit.ly/dshYp4>

[Lake-Cook Audubon Programs](#) <http://bit.ly/c2dLA9>

[Lake-Cook Audubon Field Trips](#) <http://bit.ly/buvnCb>

## Educators! Use "Audubon Adventures"

Your Lake County Audubon Society provides classroom sets of [Audubon Adventures](#) to interested and eligible classroom teachers, libraries, and school district science providers.

Audubon Adventures is a nationally acclaimed environmental education publication for children in grades 3-5.

The 2010-2011 series focuses on three types of animal migrations; birds, monarch butterflies, and marine animals.

If you know a Lake County educator who would be interested in receiving Audubon Adventures, please email the contact information to [audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com).

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**Lake County Audubon Society**

[audbirds@aol.com](mailto:audbirds@aol.com) 847.362.5134

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**Bird Feeder Kits**

Bird feeders kits will be available at each general meeting of the LCAS. The price is \$8 for members and \$11 for non-members.

**a new look for the Audubon Outlook**

- There is a new look and a new editor, Rick Hoppel, for the Audubon Outlook. Let us know what you think by sending an email to [lcaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:lcaudubon@gmail.com)
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