



The Audubon Outlook

Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon Society

Vol. 31, No. 4 Audbirds@aol.com 847-362-5134 Nov/Dec 2006

General Meeting: Nov. 6, 2006

Important Bird Areas

Presented by

Judy Pollock

Chicago Wilderness

7:30 pm

Libertyville Village Hall

Second Floor Meeting Room

118 W. Cook

Illinois IBA coordinator Judy Pollock will give a Power Point presentation on the Audubon Important Bird Area program. She will discuss the critical role that Illinois habitat plays in conserving bird populations of conservation concern. During her program, attendees will learn about the twelve sites that have been identified so far in the Chicago region and the scientific criteria that are used to determine designation of the site as a priority. Pollock is currently the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Chicago Region and was the founding president of the Bird Conservation Network.

General Meeting: Dec. 4, 2006

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

Special Guest

Karen Orenstein

National Outreach Coordinator

National Audubon Society

has been invited

Join us for this popular evening of good food, great company. Participants should bring a salad, a casserole, or a dessert. The time will be earlier than the regular meeting time of 7:30, and the location will be determined by the size of the response. Details will be given when you RSVP. Email audbirds@aol.com or call 847-362-5134 stating name and dish you will bring.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up.

Upcoming Meetings: Program Schedule for 2007

February 5 – Birds of Hawaii, Darlene Fiske

March 5 – To be Determined

April 2 – Birding Tips, Donald Dann, Bird Conservation Network

May 7 – Volo Bog, Stacey Iwanicki, Naturalist

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.

General meetings of the Lake County Audubon are held at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month October through May skipping January. These meetings are **open to the public** as well as to the members of the National Audubon Society and are typically held in the second floor meeting room of the Libertyville Village Hall at 118 W. Cook which is just across the street to the north of the Cook Memorial Library. This newsletter is mailed to our members two times in the fall and two times in the spring.

Email the Lake County Audubon

Lake County Audubon Society maintains an email list (name is only for our communication and will not be shared). If you would like to be on the list, please send your email request to Audbirds@aol.com

Visit the LCAS website for news on upcoming programs, field trips, important environmental topics, useful website links and other items of interest at <http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org>

ASK AUDUBON

(*Audubon Newswire, National Audubon Society, Vol. 4, No. 14, 7/20/06*)

Which is better, paper or plastic?

This is a great question, but the answer is not simple. There are pros and cons of using each. For instance, paper is more readily recyclable, but any non-recycled content in paper means trees were cut down. Bleached paper involves the release of the carcinogen dioxin. Plastic, however, is not always recyclable and involves many toxins in manufacturing. Yet plastic does last a lot longer than paper. So which is best?

The basic advice for environmental consumer choices is to consider the hierarchy:

Reduce
Reuse
Recycle

When making the decision to acquire something, first consider: can I **reduce** my overall acquisition of new items? For example, is there a way to avoid getting new bags every time I buy groceries or other items? This could reduce the toxins and environmental damage caused by the constant new production of either paper or plastic bags, in addition to the amount of trash going to landfills.

If I do acquire something new, I ask myself: Is this item **reusable**? For example, instead of getting a new paper or plastic bag every time I shop, I can carry a sturdy reusable bag of some kind. An item that lasts and lasts and doesn't need to be frequently replaced is a good choice.

And third, can this item I am acquiring be **recycled** when I can no longer use it? Paper is generally recyclable, but only some types of plastic are. Future *Ask Audubon* features will address these and other issues more thoroughly. But in the meantime, use the three 'R's as your guide, in that order, when making purchasing decisions.

Birdbath Tips:

Birds Need Water in Winter Too

Denis Dunlop and A. Boyd Sharp, *Bird Watchers Digest*, Vol. 26, No. 5, May/June 2004, www.birdwatchersdigest.com

Clean feathers are warm feathers. Typical urban sources of water in winter include snowmelt puddles in the street and roof gutters. Whether it's in a garden water feature or a simple birdbath, keep water unfrozen in any of these ways:

- A water pump that circulates the water
- An air pump that vigorously aerates the water
- A submersible water heater
- If you choose a submersible heater, use only a model with a thermostat that will turn the heater off when the water heats up sufficiently. They cost more but are much cheaper and far safer to operate. Make sure you plug your heater into a grounded outdoor plug with a ground fault interrupter to avoid electric shock.
- Avoid metal bird bath components to prevent wet feathers and toes from freezing to them.
- Self-contained baths with a built-in heating element are also available.

Bleach and Birdbaths

Kevin Cook, Question Box, *Bird Watchers Digest*, Vol. 28, No. 5, May/June 2006, <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com>

Chlorine bleach is a terrific sanitizing agent: It is highly effective and exceptionally cheap. It is also incredibly safe. Mostly. The familiar laundry bleach is a solution of sodium hypochlorite and water. Sunlight causes the chlorine to escape as a gas into the air, leaving behind sodium hydroxide, which is caustic to living tissues with or without chlorine as a killing agent.

When you clean a birdbath with bleach (a good mix is 9 parts water with 1 part bleach), the chlorine dissipates within minutes and the hydroxide is rinsed away. What residue remains is amply diluted by the bath water.

The reason that the bath becomes fouled again is because it is relentlessly re-inoculated by the wind and by the birds themselves.

Don't Be a Road Hog

(wildcrossings, September 2005:

- Be especially watchful for wildlife at dawn, dusk, and in the first few hours after darkness falls. Many species are most active at these times.
- Be particularly watchful for wildlife along roads that border agricultural fields and natural habitats, and wherever roads cross streams.
- Assume that animals do not know to get out of your way. Young animals, in particular, do not recognize cars as a threat.
- Lower your dashboard lights slightly. You'll be more likely to see your headlights reflected in the eyes of animals in time to brake.
- Every apple core, French fry, and smelly sandwich wrapper you toss out of a car attracts wildlife to roadsides—often with fatal results. Never throw litter from your car.
- Remember that where there is one animal crossing, there may be more on the way— young animals following their mother or male animals pursuing a mate.
- Try to slow down, especially after dark. Many animals needlessly become victims simply because people drive too fast to avoid hitting them, or too close to the car in front to see animals in time. Speed and tailgating pose a risk to human safety as well.

Saving Water Makes Good Sense

Water conservation makes sense for environmental and personal economic reasons whether your area's water supply is low or high. Recent articles in the Daily Herald and the Chicago Tribune have highlighted the magnitude of the problem. The average person uses about 50 gallons of water a day. Below, are a number of web sites listing ways to reduce your family's water usage. Most can be done for little or no cost. Making just one or two changes can make a major difference. Fixing leaky toilets, for instance, could save more than 100 gallons of water a day.

<http://www.americanwater.com/49ways.htm>
<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100ways/ne.shtml>

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/index.shtml>
http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/DATA/DROUGHT/save_water2.asp
<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/whatdo.html>
<http://www.semcog.org/OursToProtect/7SimpleSteps/SaveWater.htm>
<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/personal-finance/50-ways-to-save-water-805/index.htm>

Miles to Go Before You Eat

Paul Rauber, Sierra, May/June 2006, pp. 34-35

The next frontier for discriminating eaters may well be “food miles”, the distance products must travel to get to your market (reference is Iowa St. Univ. in Des Moines, IA). Transportation legs by sea are relatively more efficient than those by air.

	Gallons of gasoline	
Pineapple	Costa Rica 0.3 gal	Hawaii 2.8 gal
Apple	Iowa 1.7 tsp	Washington 1 cup
Potato	North Dakota 0.6 cups	Idaho 1.3 cups
Grapes	California 1.9 cups	Chile 2.2 cups

Take Your Temperature

Sierra, September/October, 2006, Vol.91, No. 5

According to the Department of Energy, for each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you save 3 percent on your heating bill. Visit eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/homes (click on "Renter Tips").

The **Wild Bird Center of Libertyville** is sponsoring a free program “**Amazing Bats**” presented by the **Organization for Bat Conservation** of Bloomfield Hills, MI. **7:30pm, Monday evening, October 16th** in the store at **1322 S Milwaukee Ave. in the Red Top Plaza, Libertyville**. A Bat expert will present a multi media program with the help of a few of his small, furry winged friends to educate and entertain all about the world of bats. This is a free event and seating is limited. Please call ahead to reserve a space. The WBC phone number is **847-573-1450**.

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Welcome New Members! (July-August)

Elizabeth Alleman	Inge Yde
Cynthia Boehm	Sophie Ziegler
Marcia Bregman	Samuel Amdur
Dean Caselli	Judy Bensinger
Pamela Craig	Kathleen Brandt
Lois Estes	Nancy Cheesbrough
Sandra Falkinham	Theresa Frice
Mary Fields	Cynthia Galbo
Linda Freund	Joe Gasick
Dorothe Himmer	Patricia Glicksberg
Edmund Jung	Deidra Gold
Sheldon Konowitz	Richard Johnson
Elizabeth MacArthur	Joe Koble
Ronald Michel	William Lueders
Rachel Miller	Beau Schaefer
Sharon Nichols	Patricia Sund
Shirley Nidetz	Michael Tierney
Linda Nyhart	Kailey Mullins
Stephen Packard	
Margaret Riley	
Lewis Rudnick	
Sally Rulli	TRANSFERS
Ray Schoonhoven	Betsy Garcia
Phillip Tobin	Martha Lemcoe
J. Welton	Gary Luebke
James Williamson	Marian Meyer

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National Audubon Membership

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makes its membership list available to carefully
selected organizations whose mailings you might
find of interest. To have your name omitted from
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