



# The Audubon Outlook

Newsletter of the Lake County Audubon Society

Vol. 33, No. 3    [Audbirds@aol.com](mailto:Audbirds@aol.com)    847-362-5134    Sep/Oct 2008  
<http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org>

## **General Meeting: Oct. 6, 2008**

**Land of the Living Sands:**

**The Illinois Dunesland**

Presented by

**Ray Wiggers**

7:30 PM

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

This illustrated slide lecture focuses on that section of the Lake Michigan coast known, simply and evocatively, as the Illinois Dunesland. Comprising a multitude of plant species and other unique organisms, as well as some of the Midwest's most significant landscapes and ecosystems, the Dunesland is an important example of a priceless bulwark of nature preserved – and sometimes abused – in the context of a heavily populated region and conflicting social and political priorities. The presentation delineates the interplay of its remarkable plant communities and the landforms, soils, and geologic processes that have contributed to their diversity and evolution.

## **Bonus Program: Oct. 27, 2008**

**Co-sponsored with the Lake-Cook Chapter  
of the Illinois Audubon Society**

**Amphibian Ark**

Presented by

**Kevin Zippel**

7:30 pm

**Ryerson Woods Welcome Center  
21950 N. Riverwoods Rd.  
Riverwoods, IL**

Frogs are going extinct. So are toads, salamanders, newts, and the intriguingly unusual caecilians. In fact, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) estimates that at least one-third of known amphibian species are threatened with extinction. Dr. Kevin Zippel, program director for the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan, or Amphibian Ark, is working on developing and

implementing plans to stem the extinction crisis. Join him as he shares his work to ensure the global survival of amphibians, focusing on those that cannot be safeguarded in nature.

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

Welcome to our new program year! You are reading this *Audubon Outlook* because you receive it as part of your membership in the Lake County Audubon Society. Over the last year our goal has been to expand opportunities for members to learn and enjoy the benefits of membership. Some of these have been our popular monthly mid-week bird walks and installments of our skills-building birding programs.

For the coming year, these will continue, and we plan at least one bonus program in addition to our regular monthly programs (see October). We're working on a special trip to the Field Museum for a behind-the-scenes visit for Audubon members. You'll have a chance to submit your special nature photos, especially those of birds, to our website ([www.lakecountyaudubon.org](http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org)). Please check our website regularly for updates.

We encourage you to attend our monthly meetings and bring others you think would be interested in this year's topics related to Lake County.

– Chris Geiselhart, President

**October 6 –The Illinois Dunesland by Ray Wiggers**

**October 27–Amphibian Ark by Kevin Zippel**

**November 3 – Birds in the Brookfield Zoo**

**Conservation Program by Tim Snyder**

**December 1 – Pot Luck Dinner**

**February 2 –Watershed Planning in Lake County**

**by Mike Prusila and Patty Werner**

**March 2 – Birding 202: Bird Habits and Habitats**

**by Jeff Sundberg**

**April 6 – Decline of Wetland-dependent Birds in**

**the Chicago Region by Brad Semel**

**May 4 – Dragonflies in Lake County by Craig**

**Stettner**

## NEWS ABOUT CFLs

Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs are what many people are currently choosing to replace their regular incandescent bulbs for number of reasons. While initially more expensive than the standard bulb, they provide brightness and longevity of service while costing much less to operate. Eventually they do stop operating, and users are wondering how to dispose of them in an environmentally responsible way. Household chemical waste collections run by SWALCO in Lake County are natural places to take them. In addition to this, there are retail stores in the area that accept these spent bulbs at no cost, notably Ace Hardware, Home Depot, and Menards' stores.

What happens to CFLs once they reach a recycling center? Fluorecycle, Ingleside, is a company that is permitted and regulated by the EPA to handle such waste. According to Lenny Worth, a manager there, the bulbs have two metals that could be hazardous and are treated accordingly. The base, which is actually the ballast, contains lead. Mercury is used to ignite a powder inside the bulb to provide the light. At his plant, the lamp glass is broken from the base and fed into an enclosed machine that cleans the glass and captures any mercury vapor that might escape. The base with the lead goes to a scrap dealer who grinds the base and extracts the lead, which is then recycled. The extracted mercury is vaporized and returned to its liquid state form which it is further refined to be reused in new fluorescent lamps or in the gold purification process.

The glass is cleaned and tested, then crushed. Some states encourage its use in roadbeds mixed with asphalt. Not so in Illinois, where some is presently used as cover on landfills.

If you accidentally break a CFL bulb, the best thing to do, according to Lisa Parker's recent report on Channel 5, is to "put on gloves, scoop up the broken CFL using cardboard, put it into a bag, double-bag it, and take it to a household chemical waste collection or throw it away. Wet-wipe the area or use duct tape on carpet. And whatever you do, **don't** vacuum. That will only spread the problem."

For information on Household Chemical Waste collections, which will resume in mid to late spring 2008, please go to [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org).

Lake County Audubon Society would like to acknowledge the many generous donations that were made in memory of James Zaricor, who passed away recently. We also thank the family for remembering Jim's enthusiasm for nature by suggesting the Society as recipient of memorial donations.

## Fall Bird Walk Schedule

(see LCAS website for calendar <http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org>)

### SEPTEMBER

**24 LCAS at Rollins Savanna 7:30AM**

### OCTOBER

**22 LCAS @ Independence Grove 7:30AM**

LCAS= Lake County Audubon Society, 847-362-5134,

<http://www.lakecountyaudubon.org>;

Lake-Cook Aud.= Lake-Cook Chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, 847-831-0331; [http://www.lakecookaudubon.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.lakecookaudubon.org/Home_Page.html);

## Bird Conservation Network

Your Lake County Audubon Society is one of the member organizations of BCN ([www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org)). BCN is a strictly volunteer led coalition of ornithological and conservation organizations whose mission is to conserve both birds and the habitat necessary for their survival. At the present time BCN membership includes about 20 member organizations (approximately 40,000 people) located mainly in the Chicagoland area.

Each member organization is represented at the BCN meetings which are held four times a year. At the most recent meeting, April 19, 2008 at Camp Sagawau, Lemont, Il., some of the topics discussed were: an update on snowmobiling at Rollins Savanna; a report on workshops for prospective bird monitors; BCN financial support for an up-coming issue of the Illinois Steward Magazine that focuses solely on birds; the Wild Things conference in Spring of '09; and the USDA environmental assessment on wildlife damage management in Illinois.

BCN strives to be a strong influence in environmental affairs in our area. As a coalition of member organizations, BCN expresses its support or opposition to various actions and policies. As pertinent issues arise, BCN representatives meet with public bodies (for example, forest preserve districts), attend other public forums where public opinion is requested, and participate in sign-on letters.

The BCN website offers practical information on feeding birds, window kills, what to do if you find a dead or injured bird, and why keeping cats indoors protects bird populations. Also listed on the website are reports written by professional conservationists. Among the current "Green Paper" reports are: Migrant Bird Habitat Study; Tree Species Preferred by Migrant Birds; The Lake Michigan Flyway; Deer Culling: A critical tool in Conserving Local Habitat Diversity; and Chicagoland's Role in the Miracle of Bird Migration. For more information visit the BCN website!

**Notice:** If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically by e-mail or on our website please let us know. We could save paper, printing and postage costs.

## **Flowers' Fragrance Diminished by Air Pollution**

News Release from the University of Virginia, April 10, 2008  
<http://www.virginia.edu/uvatoday/newsRelease.php?id=4814>

Air pollution from power plants and automobiles is destroying the fragrance of flowers and thereby inhibiting the ability of pollinating insects to follow scent trails to their source, a new University of Virginia study indicates. This could partially explain why wild populations of some pollinators, particularly bees - which need nectar for food - are declining in several areas of the world, including California and the Netherlands. The study appears online in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*. "The scent molecules produced by flowers in a less polluted environment, such as in the 1800s, could travel for roughly 1,000 to 1,200 meters; but in today's polluted environment downwind of major cities, they may travel only 200 to 300 meters," said Jose D. Fuentes, a professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and a co-author of the study. "This makes it increasingly difficult for pollinators to locate the flowers."

The result, potentially, is a vicious cycle where pollinators struggle to find enough food to sustain their populations, and populations of flowering plants, in turn, do not get pollinated sufficiently to proliferate and diversify. Other studies, as well as the actual experience of farmers, have shown that populations of bees, particularly bumblebees, and butterflies have declined greatly in recent years. Fuentes and his team of U. Va. researchers, including Quinn McFrederick and James Kathilankal, believe that air pollution, especially during the peak period of summer, may be a factor.

To investigate this, they created a mathematical model of how the scents of flowers travel with the wind. The scent molecules produced by flowers are very volatile and they quickly bond with pollutants such as ozone, hydroxyl and nitrate radicals, which destroy the aromas they produce. This means that instead of traveling intact for long distances with the wind, the scents are chemically altered and the flowers, in a sense, no longer smell like flowers. This forces pollinators to search farther and longer and possibly to rely more on sight and less on smell.

The scientists calculated scent levels and distances that scents can travel under different conditions, from relatively unpolluted pre-industrial revolution levels, to the conditions now existing in rural areas downwind from large cities.

"It quickly became apparent that air pollution destroys the aroma of flowers, by as much as 90 percent from periods before automobiles and heavy industry," Fuentes said. "And the more air pollution there is in a region, the greater the destruction of the flower scents."

The National Science Foundation funded the investigation.

## **Swan Restoration Takes Off**

Zoo Views, Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield Zoo, Fall 2007

Once abundant in North America, trumpeter swans were all but eliminated a century ago when the human population expanded across the continent. In April 2007, however, a team of zookeepers from the Chicago Zoological Society, which manages Brookfield Zoo, assisted in releasing two endangered trumpeter swans near Kewanee, Illinois, close to the Iowa border. The release at Johnson Sauk Trail State Park was a welcome- and historical- event since it marked the first time the rare birds have ever been released in this part of the state as a part of a restoration program.

The society has made significant contributions to successful reintroduction programs in neighboring states for some time. The society provided 10 eggs and 28 cygnets to Minnesota's Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project between 1984 and 1992 and have participated in Iowa's swan restoration program since 2001 releasing 10 birds overall. Thanks to joint restoration efforts like these, North America's largest waterfowl are starting to make a comeback- and the beautiful calls of the trumpeter swans will be heard across the Land of Lincoln again someday.

## **Wild Bird Center Offers 10% Discount to Audubon Members**

Here's a reminder from owner Mike Schudrowitz that Audubon Members are entitled to a 10% discount on seed and suet. "All you have to do is mention your membership," he said recently. His Wild Bird Centers are located in Libertyville in Red Top Center, 1322 S. Milwaukee Avenue and in Fox River Grove at 934 Route 22 at Route 14.

## **Rain Gardens**

With all the rain we have had this year, one is reminded that water running off our roofs is filling storm sewers and already overburdened streams and rivers. In our area the Des Plaines has shown its force more than once lately. Rain gardens are one way of helping to improve water quality and manage the storm water while increasing beautiful seasonal gardens, attracting birds, and decreasing Kentucky Blue Grass areas that need to be cut frequently. Some interesting sites out of many on the internet on rain gardens are:

[http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rg\\_index.php](http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rg_index.php)

A site specific to Illinois rain garden initiatives

[www.rainkc.com](http://www.rainkc.com)

A well done site from Kansas

<http://stormh2o.com/may-2008/rain-gardens-management.aspx>

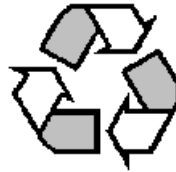
This site explains the Kansas City rain garden projects and ones in other states.

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

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### **Welcome New Members!**

**There have been 118 new G64 chapter members reported by National Audubon in the period February-May.**

**We hope to see you soon at a general meeting so come on down! If you attend a meeting and introduce yourself, you will be offered a 50% discount on either a bird house or bird feeder for your yard.**

### **Bird House and Feeder Kits**

Houses to accommodate Bluebirds and Wrens and feeders will be available at each meeting of LCAS. The price is \$7 for members and \$10 non-members for houses and \$8 for members and \$11 for non-members for feeders.

### **National Audubon Membership**

New memberships only...sorry not for renewal.  
Join or give a gift subscription today at the special  
**Introductory rate just \$20**...43% off the basic rate  
Mail your check and this form to:

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

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Make checks payable to National Audubon Society.  
Dues include \$15 for AUDUBON magazine. Please allow 4-6 weeks from receipt of payment to receive your first issue of AUDUBON.

\_\_\_The National Audubon Society occasionally makes its membership list available to carefully selected organizations whose mailings you might find of interest. To have your name omitted from this list, please check here.

**Chapter Code G64 (Lake County Audubon)**  
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