

# The Habitat HERALD

April 2006

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Creative Lunacy: The Seeding of Bartel Grassland

By Mary Cannon

**D**ick Riner's a happy man. As the steward of Bartel Grassland, 340 lovely acres in southern Cook County, he's always looking for ways to improve his site as well as to add volunteers. Just recently he was able to do both.

"We had a grant that Audubon was managing, and we had \$10,000 left when Judy Pollock sort of challenged me. She said we could buy \$5,000 worth of seed and pay the other \$5,000 for professionals to put it in—or we could buy \$10,000 worth of seed for us to put in. There was no contest. I said, 'Shoot the seeds to me.'"

"We wanted to have some fun, so why not make it a record-setting seeding event?"



Photo: Dick Riner

John Panozzo has the best view in the house, as he and his dad Ron head out to spread some seeds.

working when it's cold outside? "You can play the sympathy card or the novelty card," he says. "As a junior high science teacher, I always went for creative lunacy to get kids interested; and I've tried to do that with adult volunteers."

While he and his wife, Peg, tossed ideas around, he thought

of the Guinness Book of World Records. "We wanted to have some fun, so why not make it a record-setting seeding event?" Settling on a date, Dick then contacted all the people in his computer groups, the local newspapers, and Chicago Wilderness. He did so well locally that even the *Sun Times* and the *Tribune* picked up the story from the local papers. He ended up with 98 people, from children in strollers to seniors over 80.

Dick is delighted to describe the day. "People came from as far away as Indiana, and Kankakee, and towns near Wisconsin. They mixed the \$10,000 worth of rare, local seed on December 1 and broadcast it all on December 3. Steve Packard and Judy Pollock helped by training 12 leaders who came early, and then they could act as trainers for everyone else. The 'Mad Baker of Bartel,' my wife Peg, baked 100 dozen cookies, yes 100 dozen." He adds, "We thought the seeding would take six hours; but, because we had such a turn-out, we were able to do it in three. Watching us, you would have thought there was an FBI search going on. I was glowing by the end of the day."

Dick is especially happy that he has gained about "40 or 50" people who want to be volunteers. And word has spread; Dick has been contacted by a Green Bay, Wisconsin grassland manager who would like to visit and confer with him. Maybe he's hoping Dick's "creative lunacy" is catching.



Photo: Dick Riner

The early leaders prepare to lead 98 people in spreading 15 million seeds at Bartel.



## The Habitat Project serves the grassroots of the Chicago Wilderness conservation community:

The future of nature depends on the thousands of volunteers and staff who conduct the controlled burns, combat the invasive species, fend off the off-road-vehicles, monitor the plants and animals, and generally work for the wellness of wild animals and habitat. The Habitat Project helps to provide resources for the thousands of grassroots scientists, monitors, land managers, and advocates who work side by side to assure the holistic and effective conservation of Chicago Wilderness.

### Do you love riding *bikes* almost as much as you love monitoring *frogs*?

A few of us Cook County monitors/cyclists are organizing the first ever **April Fool's Day Frog Lovers Bike Ride, Saturday, April 8th** (Yes, it's a week after April Fool's Day, but we loved the name!):

**What:** A 25 mile bike ride in the city through some established and possible monitoring sites, both forest preserve and park district. Sites may include Humboldt Park, Lake Shore Path, Gompers Park, Forest Glen, and LaBaugh Woods. We will make frequent stops to catch our breath and listen for frogs.

**When:** Saturday April 8th, in the early evening, exact time TBA.

**Where:** Meet at the Flying Saucer Cafe, 1123 N. California, Chicago.

**Contact:** Diane Aoki (773-342-9076; [dianeaoki@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeaoki@yahoo.com)), Mike Sinner ([MSINNER@weisshospital.com](mailto:MSINNER@weisshospital.com)), or Katy Murphy ([cmurph52@hotmail.com](mailto:cmurph52@hotmail.com)) for more information.

**Note:** This ride is free, non-sponsored. Riders should wear the usual safety gear and be prepared for the weather. We will call off the ride only in the event of severe weather. *We hope to see you there!*

### Spring 2006 – Learn From the Experts Kane County Naturalist Classes

**Beasts of the 'Burbs:**

**Living with Wildlife in Suburbia**  
Tuesday, April 11, 7-9 pm,  
Pottawatomie Community Center, \$5

**Naturalist Ramble with Jon Duerr**  
Friday, April 21, 6-7:30 pm,  
Bliss Woods Forest Preserve, \$5

**Soils: Earthy Fundamentals**

**Saturday, May 13, 9-11 am,**  
Tekakwitha Woods Forest Preserve, \$5

**Birding by Boat**

**Wednesday, May 17, 6-7:30 pm,**  
Pottawatomie Park, \$18

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*We welcome to our newsletter*

*team new writers, editors, stamp*

*lickers, photographers, graphic*

*artists, staplers, and anyone else*

*who would enjoy getting involved.*

*To learn more, contact Mary*

*Cannon at 847-375-8301 or*

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## Can't we all just get along?: Blues and their ant protectors

*by Mel Manner*

Many people think that butterflies have an easy life flitting around. In reality, they're mainly food for someone else. From egg to adult, they wage a battle for survival. Some of the caterpillars in the Lycaenidae family (commonly called "blues") have developed a brilliant defense strategy. They hire ants as bodyguards. The payment for protection is a sweet secretion that the ants lick off the caterpillars. In return, the ants fight off parasitic wasps and flies that try to lay eggs on or in the caterpillars. Laid eggs will hatch and the parasitic larvae will literally eat the caterpillar alive. Not a pleasant way to die!

This mutualistic relationship is called "myrmecophily", meaning ant-loving. Both species benefit: the ants from the secretion for food, and the caterpillars from the protection. It takes various forms depending on the species involved. In some relationships, the ants are only somewhat attentive. These blues can survive without the ants, but have a better chance with the ants. Other blues are always attended by ants and need them to survive.



*These ants protect the Karner blue caterpillar in exchange for sugary snacks.*

This is a huge topic which can only be touched on here. But there are some incredible facts about myrmecophily. In Karner blues, the ants that tend them are also their main predators in the egg life-stage. So they go from war to peace. If we could only do the same.

The Large Blue Butterfly, on the other hand, has taken the mutualistic relationship a bit too far. It attracts the ants, then the ants take the larva back to their nest to tend. They will feed it regurgitated food, or in some cases it will actually eat the ants' larvae. It stays in the nest through pupation. It's not until it hatches into the adult that the ants have had enough. At that point, they attack the adult which has only a short time to make its escape.

But the Large Blue has another trick up its sleeve. It has developed deciduous scales which come off easily when the ants attack. So they only get a mouth full of scales, and the adult gets away. Once it's safely out on the surface, it can pump up its wings and fly away.

*Isn't evolution amazing?*

For more information, type butterflies + myrmecophily into Google.

THE HABITAT HERALD IS PRODUCED BY AUDUBON TO SUPPORT THE GROWING CONSERVATION COMMUNITY. AUDUBON-CHICAGO REGION WORKS EXCLUSIVELY ON LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ISSUES, AND WE RAISE ALL THE FUNDS FOR OUR WORK OURSELVES. DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR FUNDING, AND GIFTS FROM OUR FELLOW MONITORS AND STEWARDS ARE ALWAYS PARTICULARLY TREASURED. (MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY SUPPORTERS.)

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR FAMILY OF CONTRIBUTORS, OR IF YOU'D LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY OF OUR ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSIDER OUR PLANS FOR 2006, PLEASE CONTACT [SANCHETA@AUDUBON.ORG](mailto:SANCHETA@AUDUBON.ORG) OR SEND US A NOTE AT 5225 OLD ORCHARD ROAD, SUITE 37, SKOKIE IL 60077.



# Banana boats, brats, and buckthorn

By Josh Kemeny

I'm not a part of the restoration community – or at least that's not how I used to think of myself. I'm an advertising copywriter and my wife is a graphic designer. I guess we represent "outreach," but the way things work at these work groups, it doesn't feel like outreach. It feels like hanging out with friends.

The group is called simply "the 20s-30s group" and it has a heavy social component. As Don Parker, a co-founder of the group tells me, "It's a lot easier to get people to come out for a party than to come out for work. You work all week. The politicians knew that if they brought a keg of beer to their speech people would come out. That's a good quote."

It's true as well. During a typical work day anywhere from 10-40 people show up, many of them completely new to restoration work, as I was two years ago. Our work days usually start at around 1 pm so there's no excuse for late sleepers like myself not to make it. After a few hours of hand-sawing buckthorn and tossing it into the bonfire, we have a cookout and everyone enjoys their beverage of choice. We hang out, laugh, talk, and stare into the fire.

"People who have been doing this restoration work for a long time think the social aspect of this is very important," says Rebecca Blazer, the other co-founder. "We have to bond. We have to be a team. It has to work like a church or a boy scout troop, where everybody believes in the mission but everyone also enjoys each other's company. If we didn't enjoy each other's company, maybe we wouldn't stick with it."

**"It doesn't feel like outreach. It feels like hanging out with friends."**

An important part of this bond is food. Two dishes in particular come to mind: One is bratwurst with onions, peppers and beer made in a dutch oven by regular Joe Walsh, a biology professor at Northwestern. This is very delicious. In fact, I bought a dutch oven myself so I could make more stews.

The next dish is called a "banana boat," and it involves holding a banana like a boat in your hand, stripping one peel off, cutting dice sized pieces of banana out, and filling the holes with chocolate and marshmallows. Then you put it straight on the coals and wait about 10 minutes until perfection is achieved.

Of course I've learned about a lot more than just cooking. I suppose the most important thing I've learned is that you can do some good for the world AND have a great time doing it. Wow. Who knew?

To get on the e-mail list or to find out more about the 20s-30s group, contact Don Parker at [dparker@chicagowildernessmag.org](mailto:dparker@chicagowildernessmag.org).



Photos: Chip Williams

These restorationists know how to have a good time while doing good deeds.

# Grassland Audit Documents Grassland Condition: The Glass One-Quarter Full

The first audit tackled the woods. Now it was time for the grasslands. We wanted to know what condition they were in across the region, and the only way to find out was to get out there and have a look ourselves.

A very detailed, scientific look, that is. We laid down quadrat frames 1/4m<sup>2</sup> in area and recorded every species and its cover within the quadrat. We did this for more than 1,600 quadrats in six counties, at 84 randomly-selected locations within our protected grasslands. Sixty-one of us headed out in the hottest, driest summer in recent history to conduct the first-ever nationwide assessment of grassland condition within our Chicago Wilderness.

What we found tells a story of neglect and degradation, but also of hope. The mean Coefficient of Conservatism (Mean C) within each quadrat provides a measure of the composition of species – higher quality prairies have higher Mean C values, while weedy grasslands have low Mean C values. Twenty-five percent of Grassland Audit quadrats had Mean C values that ranked 'good' or 'excellent.' Let's look at the glass as half full: These data tell us that, of more than 58,000 total acres of grassland, we have nearly 15,000 acres of prairie that have the potential to be outstanding, because they have the species characteristic of high quality prairies.

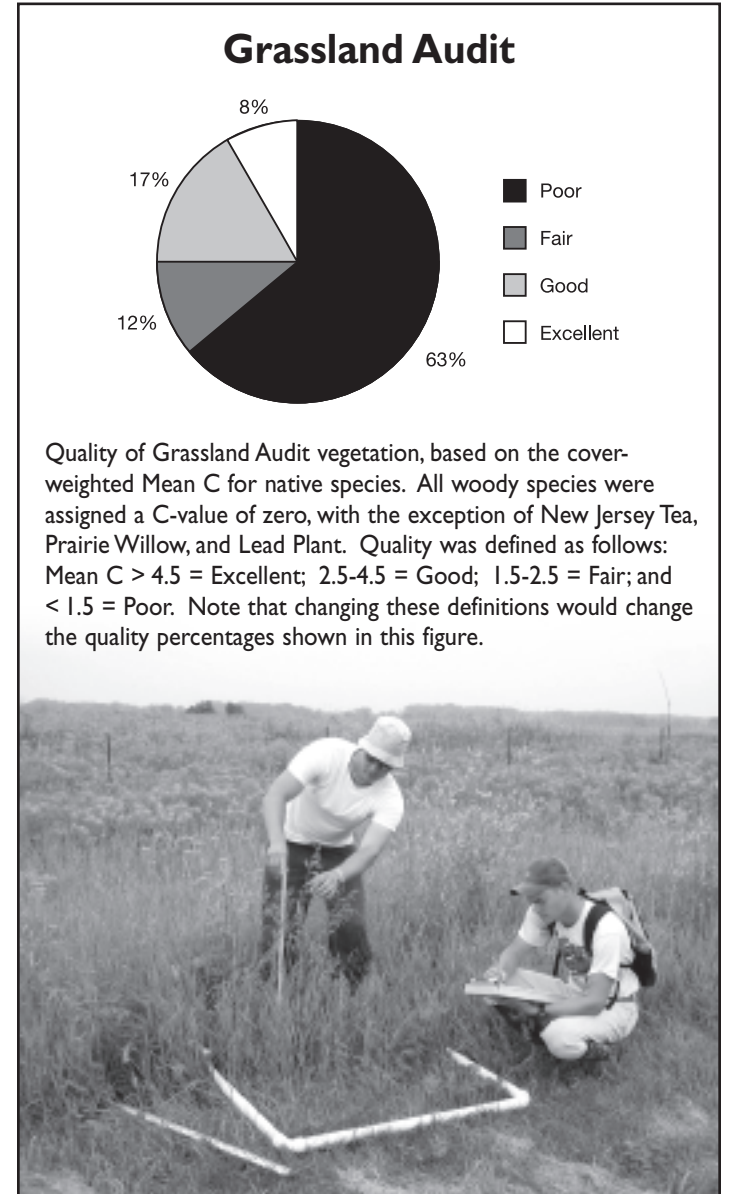
And what about the other 43,000 acres that are in only fair or poor condition? It will take a long time and a great many wonderful people, and we can begin to move acres up and out of these categories. We'll do it in part with seed from the higher quality grasslands. Thirty percent of Grassland Audit quadrats contained woody species, so we'll also need controlled burns to keep these species in check.

These data allow us to quantify how our grasslands are doing. Stewards and land managers can use the data to help prioritize management activities. Chicago Wilderness is using the data to track our progress toward regional biodiversity goals and to focus resources where they are needed most. The CW Report Card uses data from our plant audits to provide an assessment of the "state of the region."

We'll have another look in five or ten years to see how we're doing. If the great work described elsewhere in this newsletter is any indication, we're on our way up.



Illustration: Kathleen Garness





# Know the Facts, Have a Conversation, Change the World

By Lisa Nagel

Grassroots Advocacy? Do I have to make phone calls? Attend meetings?? And doesn't advocacy mean selling a cause to people that might disagree with me, people that might be mean?? And what if they ask me a question I can't answer?

These were my feelings and fears about grassroots advocacy before I went to Washington, D.C. for a workshop on advocacy with the National Audubon Society. I was more than a bit skeptical about going. In fact, I think I can fairly say I thought it just might be uncomfortable! So why did I decide to go? I guess it's because I am a bit of an idealist. Deep down I really believe a person can make a difference.

**"I learned that advocacy can be fun."**

So what did I learn? I learned a lot...but mostly I learned that advocacy can be fun. In fact, it was more than fun, it was intoxicating.

Our job was to talk to our elected officials about habitat. Our first priority was to learn the facts. The Audubon Society is a highly respected group with a lot of credibility on Capitol Hill, largely because every time they go to lobby on an issue they have done their homework. They know their issue and what the various viewpoints are on both sides of the debate. Our trainers passed this knowledge on to us newer advocates, so that we became a part of this well-informed, effective team ourselves.

We learned that the most effective advocacy involves getting a dialogue started – a conversation, not a debate. When we

*If you are interested in trying similar advocacy strategies, contact Lisa Nagel, who is working to develop advocacy training on local issues for citizens of Chicago Wilderness here at home: nagel4@ameritech.net; 847-256-3018.*

are interested in hearing the other person's views, we are more likely to be heard and can build trust and credibility. It is also important to be nice. If my representative had supported an issue I support, I was sure to thank him and to ask whether there was something I could do for him – get information, help with an issue, and so on. This goes a long way toward building a relationship with the people that eventually will have the power to make things happen.



Photo: Herbert Carl Meyer

*"Red Tape Day" in Miami Woods helped to end a restoration moratorium there in 2001. Good advocacy can produce major results.*

This weekend of advocacy training and on-the-ground (or the Hill) action was one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. It felt empowering to become educated on an issue, know how I felt about that issue, and then to convey that information to another person. I really believe that if you can help a decision maker to stop and just think about the issue, even if they hear only one thing you say, it is a good thing, an amazing thing. Again, it may be the idealist in me, but I really do believe that this kind of exchange is what begins the momentum of change. This is what I got out of my first advocacy experience. Don't you want some of that fun??

## Brunch for Bird Monitors

The BCN invites all BCN Census monitors to a Birding and Brunch event on **Saturday, April 29** to honor the contributions of a number of birders who generously contribute their time and talents to making the BCN Census successful. We will fete our dedicated data entry crew, **Lisa Nagel, Joan Coster, Dan Buckley, and Cheryl Hayes**; our enterprising recruiters, **Bob Fisher, Ann Haverstock, and Dick Riner**; and our rockin' data guru, **Eric Secker**.

The event begins at **7:30 am at Paul Douglas Forest Preserve** (just off Route 90 in Hoffman Estates) with a birding field trip led by site monitor **Stan Stec**. We will bird the wetland near the parking lot til 8 am, to allow time for those coming from far-flung counties, and then walk through the grasslands and woods til 10:30 am. Then we're off to a nearby restaurant for brunch. The BCN will treat the honorees; other monitors are encouraged to join us and pay for their own meals.

We're looking forward to a morning of good company and good birding. Please RSVP or send any questions to [chicagowildthings@yahoo.com](mailto:chicagowildthings@yahoo.com). We will reply with all the details.

- Lee Ramsey and Judy Pollock

# Do you want to help build the Chicago Wilderness grassroots?

**We are looking for all those people who make things happen, large and small, in our Chicago Wilderness.**

A growing number of us are becoming a part of the new Grassroots Action Taskforce for Chicago Wilderness – a team that would seek to facilitate the great work of Chicago Wilderness that requires a citizen component, from recruiting to stewardship to teaching kids and more. This taskforce sprang from the great momentum of the 2005 Wild Things Conference, and the ideas are flowing.

Might you want to help make any of these great ideas happen? If so, contact Karen Glennemeier to get hooked up with the other folks working on the issues you care most about ([kglennemeier@audubon.org](mailto:kglennemeier@audubon.org); 847-724-5226).

- 1. Wild Things Conference 2007.** People needed to pull together: exhibits, plenary speakers, concurrent workshops, exhibits, outreach, and logistics (room arrangements, food, etc.).
- 2. Inventory of people, places, and causes.**
  - Who are the folks who can serve as **mentors** to new recruits in the areas of stewardship, monitoring, advocacy, and education?
  - Where are the **needy preserves** that most deserve a steward?
  - Where are the scraps of **remnants** that need advocates, rescue, etc? (We could call these inventory-ers the Corps of Discovery.)
  - What are the **sites, causes, and issues** in our region that need more advocates? Who are our friends in the media?
  - Who are the contacts for all the **local groups** (neighborhood groups, park districts, national group chapters) that are working on conservation throughout the region?
- 3. Recruitment and training blitz.** Identify mentors, identify sites that need attention, then hold several large, regional recruiting events where we channel people to mentors near sites that need attention, with the goal of moving these new folks onto their own sites eventually.
- 4. Smaller, local offerings** in between the Wild Things Conferences. Skill-building and knowledge-building for volunteers. Field clinics.
- 5. Stewards training.** Several days in the field, learning how to be a steward. Hold these trainings at sites identified in the inventory as needing attention.
- 6. Grassroots news** that connects us all to each other and tells our success stories – for the **Habitat Herald** and other grassroots newsletters.
- 7. A database** that reflects the findings from the inventory of people, places, and causes.
- 8. Youth outreach.**
- 9. Advocacy tool-kit and training** to enable advocates to be more effective. Names and numbers of public officials. Facts and statistics about nature to be used in advocacy. Training citizens to speak to public officials about specific conservation issues.
- 10. A calendar** that lists all events that new recruits might attend – walks, tours, workdays, and so on. To be handed out at recruitment blitzes, as a window into the conservation world for those not sure what it's all about.

## Dragonfly Monitoring Workshops:

The first two hours will cover dragonfly monitoring; the second two hours will cover damselflies. All new and returning monitors are encouraged to attend. Registration is appreciated but not required.

**Saturday, April 8, 10 am-3 pm** — McHenry County College (Crystal Lake)

**Saturday, April 22, 10 am-3 pm** — Joliet Junior College

**Friday, April 28, 1-5 pm** — College of Lake County (Grayslake)

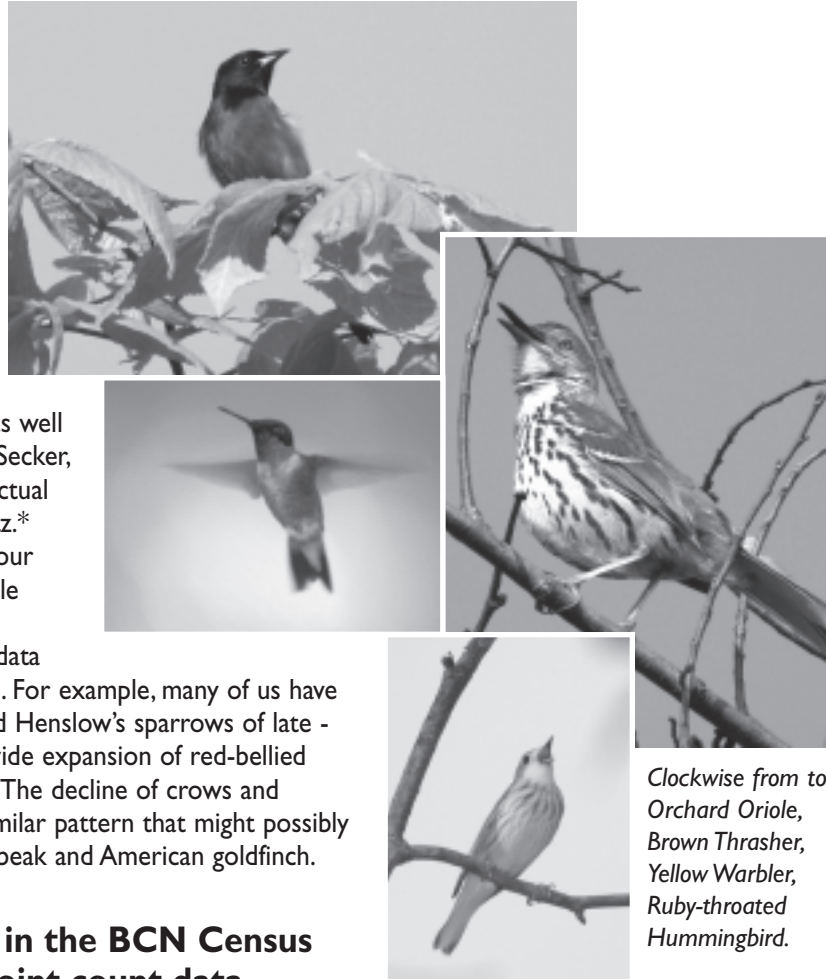
**Saturday, April 29, 10 am-3 pm** — Harper College (Palatine)

Contact Craig Stettner for more information or to register: (847) 925-6214; [cstettne@harpercollege.edu](mailto:cstettne@harpercollege.edu). And check out the dragonfly monitoring website as well: [www.anisoptera.org](http://www.anisoptera.org).



# Bird Data Very Trendy

By Judy Pollock



Photos: Hays Cummings, Miami University

Clockwise from top:  
Orchard Oriole,  
Brown Thrasher,  
Yellow Warbler,  
Ruby-throated  
Hummingbird.

**H**ow are our local birds doing? Thanks to a Bird Conservation Network (BCN) project, we are now able to use our monitoring data to begin to answer that question. We looked at our Point Count data from 1997-2004, as well as the larger, complete data set from 1988-2004. Eric Secker, local birder and web designer extraordinaire, did the actual data crunching, advised by Fred Ramsey and Doug Stotz.\*

One important question we have always had about our database is, when will it be big enough to give us reliable trend information? By comparing our results to other sources, we found that we have reliable and accurate data for many birds, and that we need more data for others. For example, many of us have noticed that there are more blue-gray gnatcatchers and Henslow's sparrows of late - and those trends appeared in our analysis. The rangewide expansion of red-bellied woodpecker to the north was confirmed by our data. The decline of crows and chickadees was captured; other birds that showed a similar pattern that might possibly be related to West Nile Virus were rose-breasted grosbeak and American goldfinch.

## Shrubland Birds Represented in the BCN Census Analysis of 1996 – 2004 point count data

Species	Trend	Data Quality	Number of Records	Confidence Interval (Trend +/- this number)	CW Indicator
Orchard Oriole	35	Moderate	35	45	*
Blue-winged Warbler	30	Mod Poor	28	39	*
Eastern Towhee	16	Mod Good	136	17	*
Common Grackle	12	Good	416	10	
Warbling Vireo	6	Moderate	94	18	
Northern Cardinal	3	Very Good	702	6	
Eastern Kingbird	2	Moderate	174	14	*
Mourning Dove	1	Good	210	12	
American Goldfinch	1	Good	759	6	*
Brown Thrasher	0	Moderate	118	17	*
Field Sparrow	0	Good	383	7	*
Common Yellowthroat	-1	Good	560	7	
Yellow Warbler	-3	Good	360	7	
Brown-headed Cowbird	-4	Mod Good	511	7	
Gray Catbird	-5	Good	496	6	
Yellow-breasted Chat	-12	Mod Poor	15	47	*
Willow Flycatcher	-12	Very Good	260	8	*
Ruby-thr'd Hummingbird	-12	Poor	17	40	
Chipping Sparrow	-13	Poor	28	36	*

Some results have us wondering – what do the declines we noted in willow flycatcher or great-crested flycatcher tell us? Over the next few issues, we will profile some of these results.

This first round of data analysis is encouraging. Our advisors tell us that we could make the analysis more powerful by comparing the amount of coverage we have to the amount of habitat available in the region, so we hope to find funding in successive years to make that improvement. Also, we know that we need more data, so that we can understand the local trends of more birds. In the table to the left, note that the

Continued on page 9

Trend = An index which shows how percentages have changed with respect to the base year; suggests population trend of the species (negative number suggests declining population)  
CW Indicator = Chicago Wilderness Indicator species for a particular habitat.

Bird Data, continued from page 8

larger the sample size, the smaller the range of error and thus the more confidence we have in the data's accuracy.

Information about the trends for each bird, as well as for which habitat the birds use, is on the website, [www.bcnbirds.org/trends](http://www.bcnbirds.org/trends). Check it out – we think you'll be fascinated by the findings.

One caution – despite the great pictures and simple-looking graphs and presentation, you will be entering a heavy statistics zone – hard hat required! Use care in interpreting the graphs on the web site. The Average Yearly Rate Of Change gives an easy to understand picture of the bird's population trends, while the graphs, we've found, make more sense to statisticians. We used analysis software that is designed for counts like ours with many participants, where sites may not always be monitored every year. The analysis method we used is designed to do a good job of determining the overall trend from beginning to end, but it may not accurately depict year to year changes. Also, the analysis assigns average values to years without data, which may further generalize the slope of the line. So, for example, while crows do show a big decline between 1997 and 2004, the large drop after 2002 is not easily visible in the graph.

**You can help** by becoming a monitor. If monitoring's not for you, please consider contributing data from your birding trips, especially during the breeding season. If every local birder would contribute one or two checklists to the website each June, we could really increase the accuracy of our analysis. The "BCN Census" tab at [www.bcnbirds.org](http://www.bcnbirds.org) has all the information about how you can get involved.

\* Other important contributors were Steve Kelling, Brian Sullivan, Chris Wood and Wes Hochachka of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (our partner in the web site), Jeff Brawn, Dan Niven, Scott Meister and Geoff Levin, Dan Gooch and Chris Mulvaney of Chicago Wilderness. Glenn Gabanski and Judy Pollock coordinated the project, and Jerry Kumery and Eric Secker generously donated the great bird photos on the site, which Eric designed.

## Brother Act

Readers of this newsletter will be familiar with the name of Lee Ramsey, who often writes articles and is a leader in the BCN Census organizing group. If you know Lee, you know he is prone to disappear for weeks at a time to exotic birding locales, often in the company of his brother, Fred Ramsey. Fred, by lucky coincidence, happens to be a wildlife statistician and a professor, and has advised several local citizen science projects. Fred really rolled up his sleeves with us for this analysis, reviewing our work at every critical juncture, making invaluable suggestions, and employing his considerable pedagogical skills as he helped us to understand the statistical issues. Fred actually lives in Corvallis, Oregon. It's great to have someone from the Pacific northwest contributing to Chicago Wilderness.

## Habitat Project Monitoring Opportunities

### BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK CENSUS

LEE RAMSEY 847-501-4683

### BIRD BLITZES TO COVER GRASSLANDS, WOODLANDS, SHRUBLANDS, OR WETLANDS

JUDY POLLOCK 847-965-1150

### CHICAGO WILDERNESS CALLING FROG SURVEY

KAREN GLENNEMEIER 847-965-1150

### BUTTERFLY MONITORING

MELANIE MANNER 847-464-4426

### DRAGONFLY MONITORING NETWORK.

CRAIG STETTNER 847-925-6214

### PLANT COMMUNITY AUDITS OF WOODS, PRAIRIES, OR WETLANDS

KAREN GLENNEMEIER 847-965-1150

### PLANTS OF CONCERN RARE PLANT MONITORING

SUSANNE MASI 847-835-8269



# Spring Butterfly Monitoring Workshops

## For Beginners and New Monitors

Learn how to monitor butterflies and how to identify 25 common species. It will run 2 to 2 1/2 hours, with a short break between parts. This workshop is being presented twice this year. *You only need to attend one workshop.*

### Session One

**Saturday, April 1, 10 am-12:30 pm**

*Presented by Tom Peterson*

**Location:** Fermilab, near West Chicago, Lederman Science Education Center. Enter the West entrance at Pine Street off of Kirk Road, go to the first building. You will be directed from there to the room.

**Registration is required.** Call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at [ibmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibmn@sbcglobal.net). Registration deadline is Friday, March 31, 5 pm.

### Session Two

**Saturday, April 22, 1-3:30 pm**

*Presented by Ed Doty*

**Location:** Midewin National Tall-grass Prairie, Headquarters building on IL Route 53.

**Registration is required.** Call Julie Sacco at 815-423-2148 or e-mail her at [juliesacco@fs.fed.us](mailto:juliesacco@fs.fed.us). Registration deadline is Wednesday, April 19, 5 pm.

## Intermediate Workshop

### For monitors with some identification experience

Improve your data and data entry methods. Learn to identify 32 species of butterflies. Some species of swallowtails, sulphurs, coppers, hairstreaks, checkerspots, fritillaries, and skippers will be covered. This workshop is being presented twice this year. *You only need to attend one workshop.*

### Session One

**Wednesday, April 5, 6:30-9 pm**

*Presented by Mel Manner*

**Location:** McHenry County College, 8900 U.S. Highway 14 in Crystal Lake. Room TBA.

**Registration is required.** Call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at [ibmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibmn@sbcglobal.net). Registration deadline is Tuesday, April 4, 5 pm.

### Session Two

**Saturday, April 29, 1-3:30 pm**

*Presented by Tom Peterson*

**Location:** Fermilab, near West Chicago, Lederman Science Education Center. Enter the West entrance at Pine Street off of Kirk Road, go to the first building. You will be directed from there to the room.

**Registration is required.** Call Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or e-mail her at [ibmn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ibmn@sbcglobal.net). Registration deadline is Friday, April 28, 5 pm.

# Welcome Rare Plant Enthusiasts!

## Come Join us for one of our 2006 Plants of Concern Monitoring Workshops

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8** • BLACKWELL FOREST PRESERVE  
WARRENVILLE, DUPAGE COUNTY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23** • GLACIAL PARK  
RINGWOOD, MCHENRY COUNTY

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30** • CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN  
COOK COUNTY

### WORKSHOPS WILL BE HELD FROM 9:30 AM TO 3 PM.

THIS WORKSHOP WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MONITORING SKILLS AND TO SELECT A MONITORING ASSIGNMENT OR WILL REFRESH YOUR SKILLS FOR THE NEW SEASON.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ANY MONITORS WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TO A WORKSHOP TO ATTEND.

## What the Workshop Provides:

- AN INTRODUCTION TO PLANTS OF CONCERN, A RARE PLANT MONITORING PROGRAM FOR NE ILLINOIS, FUNDED BY CHICAGO WILDERNESS, THE WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND, USFS (MIDWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE), AND CORLANDS.
- TRAINING IN THE BASICS OF MONITORING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING MEASURING AND MAPPING POPULATIONS AND USING A GPS UNIT.
- A CHANCE TO SEE AND TALK TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICTS AND ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THEIR MONITORING OPPORTUNITIES. MONITORING POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE IN COOK, KANE, LAKE, DUPAGE, MCHENRY, AND WILL COUNTIES.
- AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SEASONED MONITORS WHO WILL SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

**BRING A LUNCH.** MORNING REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** PLEASE CONTACT EMILY HUDSON, POC PROGRAM ASSISTANT:

[EHUDSON@CHICAGOBOTANIC.ORG](mailto:EHUDSON@CHICAGOBOTANIC.ORG); (847) 835-6873.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION - [WWW.PLANTSOFCONCERN.ORG](http://WWW.PLANTSOFCONCERN.ORG)**

Photo: Bruce Marlin www.cirrusimage.com



Photo: Tom Bentley



Photo: Dick Riner



Photo: Bruce Marlin www.cirrusimage.com



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Butterflies from top: Monarch, Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Baltimore Checkerspots, Orange Sulphur, Little Wood Satyr.

Photo: Jenna Tuine



Chicago Wilderness Habitat Project

 **Audubon** CHICAGO REGION

5225 Old Orchard Rd., Suite 37  
Skokie, IL 60077

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# Join Us For the 4th Annual Breeding Bird Blitz This Year, it's Shrublands

**June 10th is Breeding Bird Blitz Day - Call it B<sup>3</sup>!**

**Between June 9 and 19, and especially on June 10,  
we will count the birds in the shrublands of Chicago Wilderness.**



*Eastern Kingbird*

Photo: Hays Cummins, Miami University

Chicago Wilderness has recognized shrubland birds as a top priority for data collection in 2006, following the release of a regional Report Card that showed a major need for data on the numbers and distributions of shrubland bird species. We need to identify all potentially important shrubland sites and **count the birds in as many as possible**. We'll learn the relative population size and distribution of rare and important species, and we'll identify sites that have great potential for shrubland bird habitat. In the future, we'll track changes and learn how our habitat management efforts are affecting shrubland birds.

### ***Spend a Fun Morning Helping our Birds!***

If you can identify all of the shrubland birds (see list below) and would like to spend a morning counting them with a team or on your own, please contact: Judy Pollock at 847-965-1150 or [jpollock@audubon.org](mailto:jpollock@audubon.org)

**Note:** If you already cover a shrubland for the BCN Census, your June 2006 data will be included in the Shrubland Bird Blitz.

*Shrubland birds of Chicago Wilderness:* Bell's Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Towhee, Field Sparrow, Golden-winged Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Bobwhite, Orchard Oriole, Prairie Warbler, Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

***B-cubed or be square.***