

The Habitat HERALD

April 2008

Volume 9, Issue 2

Raising Awareness through Rescue: Chicago Bird Collision Monitors

By Mary Cannon

Twice yearly migrating birds manage to navigate continents and cross oceans—only to lose themselves in the bright lights of big cities. According to volunteer Suzanne Checchia, “Eighty-five percent of bird mortality occurs during migration [and] more than a billion die each year from injuries sustained when they collide with glass.”

However, not all collisions result in death. Some simply leave birds exhausted, disoriented or stunned. Many will recover with assistance from friends. Annette Prince,

When I’m picking up a bird, ...
total strangers take a hotline card
... they cheer us on ...
It’s amazing.

director of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (CBCM) since 2005, says CBCM acts as those friends. “We encounter maybe 4,000 downed birds a year in the limited areas we are able to cover and are able to rescue 1,000 to 2,000.”

How does it work? Volunteers go out in teams: some cover 4:30 to 8:30 a.m. and some respond to hot-line calls. They do it before work, after work, and on weekends. They do it every day during the spring and fall migrations—and



Photo: Annette Prince

Chicago Bird Collision Monitors rescued five Saw-whet Owls in fall 2007, including this one, much more alert than when it was found stunned at the side of a window.

they’ve been doing it for more than five years.

“Most people see a situation and say, ‘What can I do? Who can I call?’ ‘Robbie Hunsinger found a way to help by starting CBCM in 2003 with a handful of volunteers,” says Annette. Kevin Carroll, five year veteran, agrees. “I was walking to work in the loop and counted eight dead flickers in three blocks. I was shocked and felt helpless, but then I attended a Wild Things* day and found CBCM. Now we’re out there raising public awareness. When I’m picking up

birds, passers-by ask about them; total strangers take a CBCM and actually call the hot line. It’s amazing.”

Suzanne echoes Kevin. “My first season pedestrians were somewhat oblivious, but now they cheer us on. They’re happy we’re out there doing something.” But rescue is only part of it. “I started about five years ago with the idea of helping birds but also attacking the problem at its source. We work to raise awareness of the hazards that exist where birds and glass interface and to promote practices that will reduce those hazards.”

Annette mentions that aspect of CBCM when she talks about some of its successes. The group works closely with the Chicago Lights Out program and with both private and commercial building managers and staff. “We distribute our hot-line number so they can call if they see downed birds. And some are even asking us for advice on how to reduce the hazards for birds at their buildings.” Working with other agencies is also important. “We have cooperative

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

The future of nature in Chicago Wilderness depends very much on the 995 site monitors and stewards and the thousands of other volunteers and staff who work for the wellness of animals and habitat. To help out at a site – or to adopt one yourself – see the opportunities below.

Grassroots Opportunities



WEEKEND WORKDAYS

[WWW.HABITATPROJECT.ORG/RESTORATION PROJECTS](http://WWW.HABITATPROJECT.ORG/RESTORATION_PROJECTS)
OR THE **VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP NETWORK WEBSITE:**
WWW.NATURE.ORG/WHEREWEWORK/NORTHAMERICA/STATES/ILLINOIS/VOLUNTEER/ART9844.HTML

SITE STEWARDS

TRAIN TO SUPERVISE VOLUNTEER RESTORATION OF A PRAIRIE, WOODLAND OR WETLAND PRESERVE. SEND YOUR NAME AND AREA OF INTEREST TO KGLENNEMEIER@AUDUBON.ORG OR CONTACT THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF YOUR NEARBY COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OR SIMILAR LANDOWNER.

ADOPT A PRESERVE

WATCH FOR MISUSE OR ECOLOGICAL THREATS. REPORT FOUR TIMES A YEAR TO THE HABITAT PROJECT AND THE LANDOWNER. SEND YOUR NAME AND AREA OF INTEREST TO KGLENNEMEIER@AUDUBON.ORG.

BIRD CONSERVATION NETWORK

LEE RAMSEY 847-501-4683

BIRD BLITZES TO MONITOR

GRASSLANDS, WOODLANDS, SHRUBLANDS, OR WETLANDS

JUDY POLLOCK 847-965-1150

CHICAGO WILDERNESS CALLING FROG SURVEY

KAREN GLENNEMEIER 847-965-1150

BUTTERFLY MONITORING

ILLINOIS BUTTERFLY MONITORING NETWORK, TOM PETERSON 630-443-8604

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

ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORK

WWW.SIERRACLUB.ORG/IL/ OR WWW.FOTFP.ORG (COOK COUNTY) OR WWW.HABITATPROJECT.ORG

GRASSROOTS EDUCATION

WWW.HABITATPROJECT.ORG

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We welcome to our newsletter
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To learn more, contact Mary
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Photo: Annette Prince

Volunteer Stephanie Touzalin prepares to rescue a downed Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

architects and encouraging the use of bird-safe glass. But continued success requires more volunteers. "They make it rewarding," she says. "They are out there in all kinds of weather, all times of day—advocates for these amazing creatures." Kevin agrees, "We need more feet on the ground."

If your feet are available, go to the CBCM website <http://www.birdmonitors.net> and offer them.

*Wild Things: A Chicago Wilderness Conference for People and Nature is a biennial gathering where hundreds of people learn from each other about our region's ecology and culture. Look for the next conference in March of 2009.



Photos: Widow Skimmer by Carolyn Fields;
Carex grass by John and Jane Bolduan; Cricket Frog by Mike Redmer

THE FIELD MUSEUM IS WORKING ON A SERIES OF RAPID COLOR GUIDES TO HELP IDENTIFY LOCAL SPECIES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS. THESE GUIDES CAN BE DOWNLOADED, PRINTED, AND TAKEN INTO THE FIELD WITH YOU. CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ARE GUIDES TO CAREX SPECIES, DRAGONFLIES, DAMSELFLIES, FROGS, AND TOADS. CHECK THEM OUT AT:
[HTTP://FM2.FIELDMUSEUM.ORG/PLANTGUIDES/DEFAULT.ASP?S=CR](http://fm2.fieldmuseum.org/plantguides/default.asp?s=cr)

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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 THE COMING YEAR, PLEASE CONTACT [JPEPPER@AUDUBON.ORG](mailto:jpepper@audubon.org) OR SEND US A NOTE AT 5225 OLD ORCHARD ROAD, SUITE 37, SKOKIE IL 60077.

Erosion control along ephemeral streams

By Ken Schaefer

In our restoration efforts, the removal of buckthorn often reveals additional problems. Where there are ephemeral streams, erosion is usually an issue. Two major problems in trying to heal the land are the lack of proper vegetation to hold the soil and a heavier water discharge because of human development. Seed cannot establish because of moving soil, and remnant plants may just erode away.

Using cut buckthorn or other thinned trees as a resource in slowing erosion is one solution that we are using to repair an ephemeral stream at Linne Woods along the North Branch of the Chicago River in Morton Grove. Two years ago, because of a water line break on adjacent property, torrents of water found their way to an ephemeral stream, badly eroding a section. A 3-4-foot wide, 1-2-foot deep, 100-foot long gash was carved into the soil.

During a workday with steward Marian Thill, a volunteer suggested a method of natural repair. If you fill the stream with small branches and put logs on top of these, water will filter through them, soil particles and leaves will catch, and the stream bed and sides can stabilize.

As we were cutting buckthorn in the area, we saved the ends of the branches in 2-4 foot lengths. They were arranged in the stream bed, up the sides, and lightly compacted by walking on them. When some branches were too long or unruly they were lopped to fit in place. We basically filled the stream with branches and put logs on top of them. For a stream 2-3 feet wide, we placed three or four logs parallel to the stream bank, and all along the problem area.

Because of the tangled nature of the small buckthorn branches, even when heavy logs are placed on them there is room for water movement and open spaces for plant growth. Using only native species such as green ash or maple may cause a denser compaction because the branches are so straight. You can mix buckthorn with ash/maple, or arrange ash/maple more carefully to allow spaces. If the ephemeral stream is part of a ravine, terracing with logs up the slope can also be used (see the January 2008 issue for a description of terracing).

After two growing seasons, everything at the Linne Woods stream is stabilizing nicely. Remnant grasses and sedges are expanding, with minimal erosion occurring. There was no further work needed during the second growing season, and the branches should last 2-3 more years.



Photos: Ken Schaefer

An ephemeral stream gouged out by erosion fills back with stabilizing vegetation after some smart use of buckthorn stems by the stewards and restoration workers.





What Do Amphibians Need?



Photos: (from the top) Spring Peeper by Lake County FPD; Work day at Redgate by Roger Keller; *Ambystoma tigrinum* by Mike Redmer

Tiger salamanders, spring peepers, and the other amphibians of our region get help from people who restore their habitat.

They need water, they need to find food, and they need a place to hide from predators. Simple, right? Yes and no.

According to Ken Mierzwa of Winzer & Kelly Consultants, the larger the habitat and the more diverse its structure, the more likely a site will have a diverse, abundant assemblage of amphibian species. Hydrology is, of course, very important to amphibians, as they need ponds or streams in which to breed. Research by Dr. Bob Brodman of St. Joseph College has shown that the best amphibian habitat has many ponds (a dozen or more is best) with a mixture of hydroperiods – ephemeral ponds that dry in early summer, semi-permanent ponds that dry after July, and permanent ponds that retain water year-round. Of these three, the semi-permanent ponds sustain the greatest diversity of amphibian species; but having a mix ensures that good habitat will be present regardless of variations in weather.

Brodman has found that amphibians respond well to restoration efforts that increase the available breeding habitat. He documented an exponential increase in the numbers of amphibians in response to such a restoration by the Nature Conservancy in the Kankakee Sands area. Wetlands and ponds of varying sizes and hydroperiods were created and restored, and within five years the amphibians were breeding in 100% percent of the available habitat.

Mierzwa notes that some amphibians can live up to 25 years, so even an area that has been degraded for decades might still maintain adults who could successfully breed if their habitat were restored.

The range of an amphibian population generally can be regarded as the breeding pond plus about 200 meters of surrounding upland habitat, according to Brodman. Therefore, restoring breeding areas within 400 meters of each other gives the best chance that individuals will be likely to move between ponds, interbreed, and have a refuge in case one breeding area dries or is otherwise unsuitable in a given year. However, Mierzwa has found juvenile tiger salamanders 1.6 kilometers away from breeding ponds at Glacial Park in McHenry County, so animals can disperse quite broadly to find new habitat.

In cases where there are no existing amphibian populations near enough to colonize newly restored habitat, it might be necessary to bring animals in from other areas. Allison Sacerdote of Northern Illinois University has focused her thesis research on the translocation of frogs and salamanders. She had found that translocation can be successful but must be done with rigorous attention to the specifics of the sites, the species, and the conditions on the ground. Translocation should never be attempted without working closely with land owners and scientists.

Studies also have demonstrated that removal of invasive species improves amphibian habitat. Invasive shrubs such as buckthorn create dense, woody stands which suck water out of the ground through high rates of evapotranspiration. This water removal alters the site's hydrology and can cause ponds to dry before amphibian larvae have had time to transform into juveniles.

Amphibians respond well to restoration efforts

According to Jean Sellar, retired ecologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the best way to approach hydrologic restoration at a site is to go back to its pre-settlement hydrology. For example, if there is a ditch on a site, this is good indication that the site once held water and was drained, probably for agriculture. Blocking this ditch or disabling drainage tiles might help to restore that site's hydrology nearer to its original condition, as even a 6-inch deep ditch can significantly disrupt the ecosystem.

Sellar cautions that any hydrologic restoration must be done in conjunction with land owners, hydrology experts, and neighborhood representatives. For ambitious projects such as excavation, berms, or disabling tiles, funding can be obtained through grants from the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies.

This article was excerpted from a Habitat Project Winter Workshop held February 10, 2008, which focused on restoring habitat for amphibians. Presenters included Ken Mierzwa, Jean Sellar, Bob Brodman, and Allison Sacerdote.

Conservation Conversations: Being an ambassador for the Forest Preserve District

By Jane Balaban

Words matter. As we work in the Forest Preserves, volunteers often become the public face of land management. Curious passersby may stop to ask about the activities, or simply wonder about what they observe but don't stop to ask. One of the most important things we can do as advocates is explain the management in simple, friendly language that resonates with someone unfamiliar with the ecology.

A first response should identify who we are. "We're volunteers helping the Forest Preserve District make sure this woodland (or prairie or wetland or forest preserve) stays healthy." Wearing green vests or other identification reinforces our legitimacy.

Further responses may be guided by the visitor's questions, but at a minimum, it's good to at least identify the activity: "Today, we're:

- clearing brush to let the sunlight back in;
- pulling garlic mustard, a weed that damages the habitat;
- collecting seed of native plants to restore grasses and wildflowers that have been shaded out;
- collecting scientific data to measure the health of this woodland; etc

Having handouts from volunteer projects and the District is valuable. They provide details that you may not have time to discuss, and they reinforce your own words. They also tell how the interested observer can get involved!

Following are some words that may be helpful in explaining specific activities.

Burning brushpiles is an efficient way to get rid of the woody brush/debris that's cut. Careful safety procedures are followed. The District has permits from state, county and local officials, and local fire and police are notified before and after a brushpile burn.



Photo: Jane Balaban

It's important to provide helpful information to the public about our restoration work.

Small amounts of **herbicide** are carefully applied to the cut surface of a stump to prevent resprouting. Application is only by persons tested and licensed by the Illinois Dept of Agriculture. Garlon, a commonly used herbicide, is much safer than the insecticides and fungicides commonly found in lawn care products. Since it works by interfering with a hormone found only in plants, animals will not be harmed.

Invasive weeds are removed from both prairies and woodlands. Woodlands in our area were much more open in the past, and our native trees and wildflowers require sunlight to thrive and reproduce. In deep shade, many plant and animal species die off. Invasive trees and shrubs (both non-native and native) need to be thinned so that more sunlight reaches the ground. Encouraging the growth of flowering plants and shrubs is good for wildlife that

depends on the nectar, seeds and fruit produced by a healthy understory.

Controlled burns help keep the woods and prairies clear of invasive brush. Burning off the thatch returns nutrients to the soil, a natural fertilizer for the plants. Periodic burns restore the natural cycles that shaped the plant and animals of our region for thousands of years after the glaciers receded.

Seeds of natural prairie and woodland species are collected and spread into areas where so many species have been eliminated by weeds and too much shade. Sowing these seeds into areas where work has been done gives the native plants a head start, so that weeds have a harder time getting established.



Eighty volunteers showed their support for restoration by attending a work day at Sauganash Prairie Grove in March.

Few natural areas have seen as much need for these regular conservation conversations as the forest preserves within the northwest neighborhoods of Chicago. A ten-year moratorium on restoration work was finally lifted last year, and the misinformed neighbors who supported that moratorium have been visiting the work days in an attempt to fuel their campaign of fear and false information. Fortunately, these preserves have as their advocates hundreds of dedicated, knowledgeable citizens who have shown up in large numbers for the renewal of work days at these neglected preserves. The result has been the return of light to the woodland understory at Sauganash Prairie Grove and Bunker Hill Savanna, and the quieting of the dissenters, who see their anger diminished by the scores of positive, knowledgeable volunteers and forest preserve staff who happily go about their good work.

Here are some reports from the field, written by Jane and John Balaban to the restoration community:

Dear friends,

It was another blue-sky winter day as well over 80 volunteers gathered to work at Sauganash Prairie Grove, celebrating the return to work at this beautiful and unique site. People came from all directions, many traveling from south, west, and north in the county. Neighbors from the local communities joined in. All came together with North Branch stewards in solidarity and support of our shared commitment to nature. It was awesome!

As we cleared the brush that had encroached during the 10-year moratorium on management, we were suddenly aware of the lovely grove of swamp white oaks that define this part of the site. As Dennis Dreher put it, "the site began to reveal itself" as we worked.

The District again showed its much appreciated strong support of the volunteers. Richard Newhard, Bill Koenig, John McCabe, Joe Swano, Cheryl McGarry, and Steve Mayberry mingled with the volunteers, offering encouragement and making sure that all went well. Bill and Joe set up a tent with plenty of good information available. Forest Preserve District police were on hand, just in case they were needed.

It was wonderful to welcome friends, some we hadn't seen for years, and some we hadn't met before. There were smiling faces everywhere! We are grateful, inspired, humbled by your support, and privileged to be part of this community. We hope you will come back in the future to enjoy Sauganash Prairie Grove and admire the good work that you've done.

Many thanks from happy North Branch volunteers!

We're starting to run out of words to describe all the great work that's happening at Sauganash and Bunker Hill. Sunday, some 47 volunteers came to Bunker Hill and worked to clear encroaching brush from a high quality savanna. Buckthorn and invasive green ash were removed, leaving thickets of Viburnum, Blue-fruited Dogwood, and Illinois Rose that will provide nest and forage habitat for birds.

Once again, the District staff and FPD police were with us, supporting us and taking abuse from the half dozen habitual protesters so we wouldn't have to.

I'm told that our calls and letters are beginning to be heard. We need to keep up the drumbeat of support for restoration. This is a very important time for each of us to contact our elected representatives and make it very clear that a few angry people should not be allowed to dictate the management of the forest preserves. We all benefit from healthy nature and the treasured preserves that belong to all Cook County citizens. It's both our privilege and our right to help care for them.

Sincerely and with many thanks!

Jane and John Balaban

Another local bird you should know: Field Sparrow

By Bob Fisher



Photo: Carolyn Fields

It's just past dawn on your first early summer day out in the field, monitoring the birds in one of our many wonderful forest preserves. You're feeling a little bit intimidated. At the training session you recently completed, the trainers and skilled birders all recited the same litany:

Get to know your songs. Much of your point count information will be based on what you hear, rather than what you see. You've been diligently listening to the Bird Conservation Network CD, which contains the songs and calls of the breeding birds of our region. Still...a little voice whispers, "Can I really separate out all the various species, there's so much to hear?"

But just then your newly trained ear picks out an unmistakable song; Sibley renders it as: Teew-teew-tew-tew-tewtewtetetetiti

Field Sparrows are stable throughout our region.... but rapidly declining ... nationwide

Your confidence returns; you know without looking that the mnemonic you learned, relating this song to a bouncing ping-pong ball, makes the ID simple. It's a Field Sparrow.

This diminutive, long-tailed spizella sparrow only partly lives up to its name, as it is primarily found in old, overgrown, brushy fields and edges. Territorial singing males are often seen at the tip of a tree on the edge of such a field while the female is busy nest building and then incubating a clutch of 3-5 eggs. As the fledglings get older and larger, the parents begin to 'specialize,' finding and bringing primarily grasshoppers to their offspring.

Field Sparrows are known to be persistent re-nesters if their first nest is disturbed or destroyed. There's an Illinois record of one female who built ten nests over the course of a season. That's dedication! Even when they successfully fledge their first brood, they will frequently raise a second and even a third. On rare occasions they've been known to hybridize with Clay-colored Sparrows; the male offspring of this hybridization usually sing a combination of the two species' songs. Now that would be something to hear – buzz – buzz – buzz – combined with –

Teew-teew-tew-tew-tewtewtetetetiti. Hard to imagine a mnemonic for that. A bouncing ping-pong ball meeting a buzz saw?

Perhaps because their distinctive song highlights their presence, data from our regional Shrubland Bird Blitz in 2006 and '07 found the Field Sparrow to be the most common species encountered during those two years of blitzing – over 1,300 were counted at 104 sites in the Chicago Wilderness area. Longer-term population trends (available at the Bird Conservation Network website at <bcnbirds.org>) indicate the numbers of Field Sparrows are stable throughout our region. Sadly, the same is not true nationally: the National Audubon Society identifies this species as one of the most rapidly declining species nationwide, among our 'common' native songbirds.

But there's hope! We may be able to slow, even reverse this decline, as we learn more about how to actively manage for shrubland habitat. Shrublands tend to be ephemeral; they can and will transition to woodlands, or become grasslands, when conditions dictate (the effect of fire is a major controlling factor). This interface between grasslands and woodlands or wetlands is sometimes described as a high-tension area – no pun intended -- though some of the highest quality shrubland habitat in the CW area is underneath and along the edges of the power line easements maintained by ComEd. This public utility's eagerness to partner with other land managers and conservation groups in managing for shrubland birds is terrific news. The result: Thousands of additional acres throughout our region may resound with that bouncing ping-pong ball song we've come to know so well, along with the equally familiar, sweet, double-noted phrases of the Brown Thrasher, the bizarre chortling of the Yellow-breasted Chat and the musical warble of Orchard Orioles. A shrubland symphony!



Photo: Arlene Kozlowski

Shrubland birds are an important conservation priority for Chicago Wilderness. The Shrubland Blitz is a means of collecting data on these birds at as many sites as possible, within about a week in June, to give us a snapshot of their relative abundances and distributions.

Please consider joining us for the third year of the Shrubland Blitz, during June 6-16 of this year.

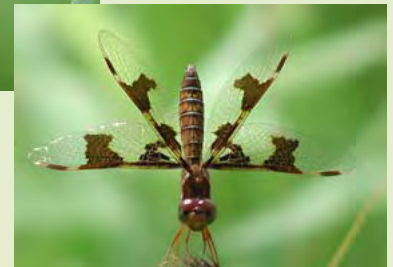
2006	
Species	Total Count
Field Sparrow	825
Willow Flycatcher	334
Eastern Kingbird	242
Brown Thrasher	177
Eastern Towhee	150
Orchard Oriole	111
Bell's Vireo	31
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	25
Blue-winged Warbler	21
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	21
Northern Bobwhite	18
Yellow-breasted Chat	17
American Redstart	13
Loggerhead Shrike	8
White-eyed Vireo	8
Black-billed Cuckoo	5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3
Lark Sparrow	3
Prairie Warbler	1
Total	2013

2007	
Species	Total Count
Field Sparrow	550
Eastern Kingbird	278
Willow Flycatcher	290
Eastern Towhee	167
Brown Thrasher	139
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	101
Orchard Oriole	82
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	37
Black-billed Cuckoo	30
American Redstart	26
Chestnut-sided Warbler	26
Yellow-breasted Chat	25
Blue-winged Warbler	16
White-eyed Vireo	14
Bell's Vireo	7
Lark Sparrow	3
Prairie Warbler	2
Loggerhead Shrike	0
Northern Bobwhite	0
Total	1793

Total numbers of each species counted in the Shrubland Bird Blitz for 2006 and 2007.

Dragonfly Monitoring Workshops

Please join our network and help keep track of dragonflies and damselflies! Attend one of the following workshops to get started or to refresh your monitoring skills.



Photos: Carolyn Fields

Saturday, April 12, 8:30am – 11:30am

Sugar Creek Administration Center (FPDWC)
17540 West Laraway Road
Joliet, Illinois 60433

Saturday, April 19, 10:00am – 1:00pm

McHenry County College, Room A240
8900 US Hwy 14
Crystal Lake
<http://www.mchenry.edu/>

Friday, April 25, 10:00am – 1:00pm

College of Lake County
19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake
<http://www.clcillinois.edu/>

Saturday, April 26, 10:00am – 1:00pm

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
2430 N Cannon Dr
Chicago, IL 60614
<http://www.chias.org/>

RSVP appreciated, but not required (RSVP is required at Peggy Notebaert in order to have the museum entrance fee waived.)

Please note that additional workshops took place on the following dates prior to press time: Saturday, April 5 in Palatine; and Thursday, April 10 in West Chicago.



Become a Bee Spotter

Our goal is to shed light on the question of whether or not native bumblebees and honey bees are in decline. Right now, we are restricting the scope to include only the 11 bumble bee species that occur in Illinois, plus the honey bee.

In this interest, we would like people to go to places where there are bees, and do a very informal inventory, mainly involving taking pictures of the bees and posting them to us. You will be able to use an interactive key to identify the bee(s) that were photographed, and we will also have some of the bee experts in the Entomology department on hand to help us with the identifications.

Interested persons can subscribe to become photo contributors to BeeSpotter by using the "Log in/Create an Account" button at: <http://beespotter.mste.uiuc.edu/>

The Bee Spotter program is a joint effort between the Entomology Department and the Office for Mathematics, Science, and Technology Education at UIUC, with historic bee records provided by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

The 6th Annual Breeding Bird Blitz

This year, it's Shrublands

June 7th is Breeding Bird Blitz Day

Between June 6 and 16, and especially on June 7, we will count the birds in the shrublands of Chicago Wilderness. We need to identify all potentially important shrubland sites and count the birds in as many as possible. If you can identify all of the target shrubland birds (see list below) and would like to spend a morning counting them with a team or on your own, contact:

Cook – Alan Anderson; 847-390-7437; casresearch@comcast.net

DuPage – Jim Green; green9698@sbcglobal.net,
– **Jeff Smith;** mrqmagoo@comcast.net

Indiana – Barb Dodge; 219-992-2413

Kane – Roger Hotham; 847-697-7484

Lake – Donnie Dann; 847-266-2222; donniebird@yahoo.com

McHenry – Doug Crane; 815-338-0046; mdcrane1024@sbcglobal.net

Will – Dick Riner; 708 720-5683; rrinersprint5@earthlink.net

Look for a "countdown lunch" in every county to compare notes, celebrate our great finds, and hang out with other birders on June 7.

Shrubland birds of conservation concern: 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. Other shrubland species of interest: American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Note: If you already cover a shrubland for the BCN Census, your June 2008 data will be included in the Shrubland Bird Blitz.

*The BCN invites you to our
third annual ...*

Bird Monitor's Brunch

The BCN will treat some very important people to brunch ... anyone who has monitored every year since our project began in 1998. Consistent data is critical to the success of our analysis. All bird monitors and their friends are invited to join us in honoring them on July 6 (non-honorees pay for their own brunch.) We will bird at Rollins Savanna in Lake County then go out for brunch. Contact Suzanne Checchia for more information 847-328-8286; smchecchia@aol.com.

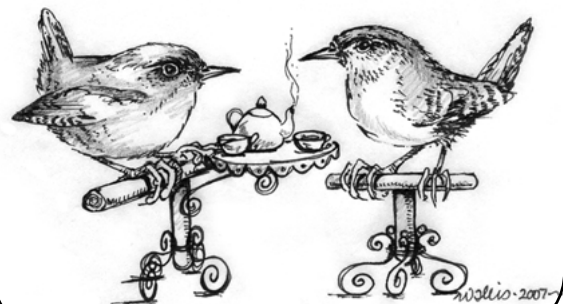


Illustration: Linda Wallis

2008 IBMN Training Workshops

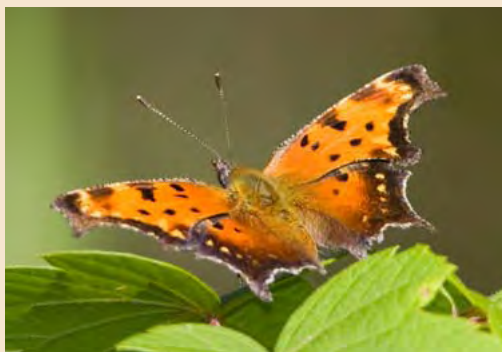
The Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network is a citizen scientist program begun in 1987 to monitor the health of the state's butterfly populations. This is a multi-year project for adults. If you think you might be interested, we strongly suggest you go to www.bfly.org and click on the link About Us/How to Join. This will give you all the information on what it means to be an IBMN butterfly monitor, and a form to fill out to apply to the network. We have trainers presenting workshops this year. We hope you can join us.



Photo: Great Spangled Fritillary by Mary Kay Rubey



Photos: (left to right) Baltimore Checkerspots, by Dick Riner; Gray Comma and Eastern Tailed Blue by Mary Kay Rubey



BEGINNER'S TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Strongly recommended for **new monitors**.
- You only need to attend one of the sessions.
- The workshop is broken into two parts. Part One is an orientation covering all the details on how to monitor. Part Two teaches how to look at butterflies for identification and goes over the markings of 25 common species. The entire workshop, covering both parts, will run 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Session One Presented by: Tom Peterson

Location: Fermilab, West Chicago, DuPage County
Date and time: Saturday, April 12, 2008, 10am

Session Two Presented by: Doug Taron

Location: Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Cook County
Date and time: Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:30am

Session Three Presented by: Mel Manner

Location: Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Will County
Date and time: Saturday, May 17, 2008, 12pm

INTERMEDIATE'S TRAINING WORKSHOP

- Recommended for monitors with some identification experience, although new monitors may also attend.
- *Only one session in 2008.*
- The workshop is broken into two parts. Part One is "Improving your Data" and data entry methods. Part Two is the identification marks of 32 species of butterflies. Several Beginner's Checklist species were used as springboards to groups of related species. Some species of swallowtails, sulphurs, coppers, hairstreaks, checkerspots, fritillaries, and skippers will be covered. The workshop, covering both parts, will run 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Session Presented by: Tom Peterson

Location: Fermilab, West Chicago, DuPage County
Date and time: Saturday, June 7, 2008, 10:00am
Optional Tour: Weather permitting, Tom will lead a tour after the workshop for those interested. Only open to workshop participants.

Registration Required: Register with Mel Manner at 847-464-4426 or ibmn@sbcglobal.net. Directions and meeting locations will be sent to all registrants.

Chicago Wilderness Habitat Project

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Help make Wild Things 2009 a reality!

If you would like to play a key role with any of the following, contact Judy Pollock: jpollock@audubon.org, 847-965-1150 x 15.

- Develop the programs
- Find speakers
- Organize logistics
- Work on public relations
- Get the word out

Wild Things 2009 is ours to shape and create.
Let's get started!

