

Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club

April 2025



Northern Shrike by Nancy Halliday

It's Migration...Give Birds Safe Passage

by Leslie Shad

We bird lovers are aware of the problem of bird-window collisions. An estimated 500 million - 1 billion birds annually die in the United States from flying into windows. The collisions are not just eliminating the old and sick; healthy birds are often victims, and juveniles on their first migration are too often killed in the fall. Hummingbirds and owls have been found, showing all sizes are at risk.

ENSBC has been actively engaged in this issue for a decade. Bird Friendly Evanston (BFE), a program of ENSBC, has developed strong relationships with city staff, elected officials, developers and residents. BFE was instrumental in developing the Bird-Friendly Building Ordinance that was adopted by the city in 2022, and city staff continue to direct developers to meet with BFE to discuss proposed architectural or glass solutions to avoid window collisions. BFE continues to be available to consult with residents regarding their problem windows and possible solutions.

Does your home have a dangerous window? Many solutions are easy and inexpensive.

- * White ceramic pen (PEBEO at Blick, \$8.10) can be used to make horizontal lines 2" apart on the outside of windows.
- * Bird friendly tapes leave dots or other designs on windows. ENSBC is offering a free "Feather Friendly" tape kit. Other brands are Solyx, Collidescape or American Bird Conservancy Birdtape.
- * Hanging chords are another solution to alert birds to windows.
- * Outside screens also work if affixed far enough off the glass so that birds only hit the screen.

Upper story windows are the most difficult because solutions are on the outside of the window. a window cleaning business might be persuaded to apply lines with a ceramic pen or the dots. This is best done in moderately warm weather, ideally 50+ degrees.

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***American Woodcock
on March 27
by Lorra Rudman***



Remember –

Apply to the **outside** of the problem window.

Leave no gaps bigger than 4" x 2, but 2" x 2" is best to avoid hummingbird hits. Birds try to fit between spaces, avoiding lines but hitting next to them. This is why decals generally don't work.

No matter what solution, **monitor** for bird strikes afterwards to see if it is working.

Turn off or lower your outdoor lights from 10pm to dawn, and pull your blinds to avoid inside light from escaping and luring birds closer to windows.

More info on [Window Solutions HERE](#)...or on [Lighting Solutions HERE](#).

Email LeslieAShad@gmail.com for a free Feather Friendly kit.

Dark Sky Week...April 21 -28

Dark Sky Week is a worldwide event that draws attention to light pollution, promotes simple solutions to mitigate the issue and celebrates the irreplaceable beauty of stars and a natural night.

The night sky is a vital shared resource with ecological, cultural, and scientific value. But light pollution disrupts ecosystems, impacts human health, wastes energy and robs us of the stars. Throughout the year, nighttime lighting can affect birds by illuminating their habitats. This can cause them to avoid habitats essential for their survival, altering relationships between predators and prey because these areas have too much light.

You can help solve this problem with the flip of a switch!

Turning off lights at night or taking simple actions to limit lighting will make our night sky more naturally dark, helping to create a more natural, safe environment for people and birds. Let's each do our part during Dark Sky Week, especially during migration and throughout the year!



Golden-crowned Kinglet at Daniel Wright Woods, Lake County by Matt Tobin



Harlequin Duck and Common Goldeneye in North Point Marina, December 2024, by Carolyn Lueck

Interested in helping on Earth Day ?

Join ENSBC and Clark Street Beach Sanctuary volunteers at our booth on April 26 from 12-3 at Ladd Arboretum, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston. Help spread the word about birds, their habitat and behavior, bird photography, and upcoming field trips.

Email libbyhill@comcast.net to volunteer!

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY - CELEBRATE!

WMBD is an annual worldwide celebration of birds, this year on Saturday, May 10. The theme is "Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities. Here's what's happening in Evanston:

May 10: Libby Hill of ENSBC will lead a *Spring Bird Count Walk* at Ladd Arboretum, 7:30 a.m. The Ecology Center will sponsor "**How to Bird**" at Lighthouse Beach, 9-10:30 am; **Chicago River Day program** at Dammrich Rowing Center (with Friends of the Chicago River), 9-noon; "**Birding by Boat**" canoeing trip at Dammrich Rowing Center, 12:30-2:30. ENSBC's celebration of WMBD continues on Sunday, **May 11**, with "Drawing with the Field." Peggy Macnamara, Artist in Residence at the Field Museum will share her techniques and hints about how to draw your favorite birds! Join us from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm. at the Levy Center, 300 Dodge Avenue, Evanston. Register with libbyhill@comcast.net



Eastern Bluebird, Ryerson Woods, by Lorra Rudman

**Nominations for 2025
ENSBC Board Members**

President	Joseph Flanagan
Vice President	Open
Recording Secretary	Anita Lutkus
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Halliday
Treasurer	John Hockman
Membership	Ann Tanner
Conservation	Leslie Shad
Field Trips	Libby Hill
Programs	Libby Hill
Bird Calls Editor	Marj Lundy
Publicity	Amanda Engel
Archivist	Sarah J. Miller

At the Annual Meeting on April 22 we will vote on the new board for 2025-6. And, here's a heads up: our membership year is from May to May, so members should expect a dues reminder in late April.

In Memoriam: Sue Robert

Sue Robert was an enthusiastic member of ENSBC and a great friend to many in the Club. A woman of many varied interests, she was a rockhound, a beloved teacher, an adventurous traveler, a collector of bird carvings from local artists, an Evanston lighthouse docent, a music lover and a basketball player! Whatever the interest, she did it with deep passion.

I remember her best as a friend and birding companion. We birded many nearby sites and often met in Perkins Woods where she became the official bird monitor. Josh Engel remembers "running into her frequently at Perkins over many years, I think probably going back all the way to my high school years.... She was always so happy to see me and hear what I had seen. I pointed out birds to her, and whether she saw them or not, she was just happy to know that they were there. "

Sue loved the ENSBC programs. After she passed away on January 8, 2025, ENSBC received a \$5000 gift from her sister in her memory, \$1000 for Perkins Woods and the other \$4000 for the ENSBC Ruth Milgrom Fund. That gift enables ENSBC to offer travel expenses to bring in prominent speakers.

If you have suggestions for a speaker, please email me at libbyhill@comcast.net. Let's honor Sue and put her gift to work!



Red-breasted Mergansers
by Lorra Rudman

FIELD TRIPS COMIN' UP!!

The following trips require registration with libbyhill@comcast.net.
Click on the trip to see details.

- Sunday, April 27:** [Big Marsh Park, Calumet](#)
- Friday, May 2:** [Waukegan Beach](#)
- Saturday, May 10:** [Illinois Spring Bird Count at Ladd Arboretum](#)
- Tuesday, May 13:** [Montrose Point \(Rain date May 20\)](#)
- Saturday, May 31:** [Openlands Nature Preserve, Highland Park](#)

Information on many additional trips around the north shore, including traditional sites such as Perkins Woods, Northwestern University, West Ridge Nature Park, The Grove and more are at [Activities | The Evanston North Shore Bird Club](#).

**The following
are new
members of
The Flock!**



Joy Bowen	Winnetka
Joanne & Jeffrey Harrison	Glenview
Matthew Hill	Evanston
Cindy Madson	Mundelein
Amy Martin	Wilmette
Debby Pool	Evanston
Roger Prosis	Glenview
Kevin Zhang	Glenview

Memories of Dave Johnson's Looney Trip



Lunch at Sandbar in Antioch after the 2025 Looney trip.



American White Pelican seen on Looney Trip by Stacy Greenberg

Join the 2025 Illinois Spring Bird Count -- Saturday, May 10th!

Whether a veteran or new birder, you can participate. Count birds in your yard, in a local park or bird in the forest preserves.

From Alan Anderson, Cook County SBC coordinator, casresearch@comcast.net:

New to the count and want to help in Cook? Let me know. If you've counted in the past, please confirm you can volunteer again! A number of far south and southeast sections of Cook are often uncovered, so help there would be especially welcome. In 2024, 283 observers in 167 parties found 201 species in Cook County, the highest number of species in any Illinois County that year. Later this spring, I will share the 2025 species report for Cook.

Want to participate in Lake County? Contact Adam Sell, adamwardsell@gmail.com.

Many thanks to all who helped in past spring counts. Some birders have participated for decades! They deserve extra thanks!

Note: the official Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois Spring Bird Count homepage <https://spring-bird-count.inhs.illinois.edu/reports/> has more information on how to help, past reports and forms to use.

**Program and Annual Meeting coming up on Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 pm.
(In person at Robert Crown Center, 1802 Main St., Evanston, 2nd floor)**

We will vote in Board Members for next year. Be there to vote and to learn from the program described below; you won't want to miss it!

Those 2024 Cicadas...What Effects Did They Have on the Ecosystem?

Remember the summer of 2024? Cicadas were everywhere, in multitudes. This is your opportunity to learn about the effects they had on the natural world. In nature, populations of plants and animals occasionally explode in numbers, providing a temporary surplus of nutritious food for consumers. Our speaker, **Sean Menke, Professor and Chair of Biology at Lake Forest College**, and his colleagues studied the synchronized emergence of billions of Brood XIII periodical cicadas in Chicagoland this past summer. This was an enormous "pulse" of insect food for birds and ants, one of the most abundant and important groups of organisms on the planet. Come find out what they learned and still hope to find out!



Bird Calls is a publication of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club
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