

Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club

March 2017

www.ensbc.org



Northern Shrike by Nancy Halliday



Bird Sanctuary Shines at Audubon Environmental Awards Program

On Saturday, March 25th, Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary (CSBBS) will be front and center at Chicago Audubon's biennial Environmental Awards Program and Annual meeting. This program recognizes people from many walks of life for their contribution to conservation and birding in the Chicagoland area. Two of the awards this year honor those who have been instrumental in the Sanctuary's creation and development.

Libby Hill and Paul D'Augustino, Environmental Services Bureau Chief, for the City of Evanston, will receive "Protector of the Environment Awards" for their work with CSBBS. This recognition is richly deserved since these tireless partners were instrumental in creation and development of the Sanctuary. Their commitment and leadership – together with the dedication and hard work of many volunteers – are what brought CSBBS into being. Special appreciation for organizing work days goes to Stewards Jerry Herst and Julie Dorfman.

Our grateful thanks and congratulations go to Libby and Paul .

Chicago Audubon's 2017 environmental awards banquet & annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 – reception at 5:15 p.m., dinner at 6:00 at the Silver Stallion Restaurant in Des Plaines

If you would like to register for the Awards dinner online, [click here](#).



Where were all the gulls this year?

Gull enthusiasts -- and those who just wanted to see other birders and eat the always delicious goodies -- flocked to Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club on Saturday, February 11 for this year's event -- the 16th annual. Hosted by IOS, and sponsored by a number of other organizations including ENSBC, this Frolic proved to be the warmest one on record with temperatures soaring to 52 degrees! Needless to say, ice for the gulls to rest on was hard to come by and, therefore, so were the gulls. The morning did provide good views of a flyby Great Black-backed Gull, a dozen White-winged Scoters and a few Long-tailed Ducks.

Featured speaker, Jean Iron, told of her shorebird surveys on the vast mudflats and coastal marshes of James Bay -- a finger of water pushing south into Canada from Hudson Bay. She focused on that area's specialty birds, including rufa Red Knots and Akimiski Island Marbled Godwits that were surprisingly found to winter in the Baja California, Mexico. The Frolic also had a number of exhibitors, including ENSBC and Club member Josh Engel with information about his new tour company, "Red Hills Birding," featuring trips to South Africa and northern Minnesota.

Meanwhile, the usual low-cal (just kidding) lunch was served, and nobody went away hungry. After lunch, gull-ing picked up with birders spotting at close range 2 Thayer's Gulls and an Iceland (Kumlien's) Gull in the small feeding flock.

Despite the spring-like weather, it was another successful Gull Frolic made possible by IOS, ENSBC, other sponsors and many volunteers who made it all happen. It was attended by at least 150 people, represented by 6 states and 3 countries (USA, Canada, Netherlands).

Who knows what the weather will be next year, but you won't want to miss this social event of the season!

Marj Lundy

Field Trips Comin' Up

Sunday, March 12

7th Annual Ralph Herbst Memorial Duck Trip. Bird the lakes and ponds of the Palos region for spring waterfowl. Contact Jeff Sanders, yellowstart5@yahoo.com, 847-657-6431.

Saturday, March 25

Air Station Prairie Woodcocks. Come see the spectacular aerial displays of the American Woodcock at dusk! Meet on the deck of the interpretive center at 6:45 p.m. Jeff Sanders, yellowstart5@yahoo.com, 847-657-6431.



*Dave Johnson
at the
Gull Frolic*

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Looney Trip, Lake County! A Dave Johnson specialty! Loads of loons, other birds (White Pelicans?) and lots of lakes. Travel is by van or bus, so the cost will be \$30 for a 5-hour trip. Lunch at a lakeside eatery. RSVP by email: djohnsoda@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Check out North Glenview. Bird Techney Basin Conservation Area, Lake Glenview, and Air Station Prairie for early migrants and lingering waterfowl. For info contact John Leonard. 847-845-5563.

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Northwestern University Campus and Clark St. Beach Bird Sanctuary. The campus is a stopover for migrants of all kinds heading north. Leaders: Libby Hill and TBA.

For more details on these trips and those scheduled after April -- there are lots in May! -- visit <http://www.ensbc.org/trips.html>

ENSBC Officers and Board Members

Every April, ENSBC elects a slate of officers. Thanks to their dedication, the Club offers excellent programs, great field trips, the annual Christmas Bird Count, special activities such as the 2016 Perkins Woods “Big Year” and more. *We are always looking for new ideas and the Publicity Chair position is open.* If you are interested, contact Gerry Ginsburg, gnginsburg@sbcglobal.net. The current slate of nominees is:

President <i>Gerry Ginsburg</i>	Corresponding Secretary <i>Nancy Halliday</i>	Field Trip Chair <i>Libby Hill</i>
Vice President <i>Jim LaRochelle</i>	Treasurer <i>John Hockman</i>	Assistant Field Trip Chair <i>Mark Vaughn</i>
Treasurer <i>John Hockman</i>	Program Chair <i>Libby Hill</i>	Bird Calls Editor <i>Marj Lundy</i>
Recording Secretary <i>Nancy Halliday</i>	Membership Chair <i>Kathy Storher</i>	Archivist <i>Sarah Miller</i>



*House Wrens fledging, summer
2016, by Jamie Godshalk*

Many thanks to Gary Hantsbarger for his 6 years as president of ENSBC. “Stepping up to the plate” as Gary has done is what makes the Club work. We wish him well and, of course, always “Good Birding!”



to the following new ENSBC members

Bethany Barratt, Chicago
Jesse Cole, Glenview
Emma Frankel, Evanston
Martha Huffman, Evanston
Tamima Itani, Evanston
Joanne Noonan, Chicago
Jeffrey & Martha Pattee, Evanston
Mary Polios, Evanston

Good News!

The City of Evanston has received a grant of \$100,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Service for migratory bird habitat improvement along the North Shore Channel, affecting Ladd Arboretum and three other parks, as well Ingraham Park at the Civic Center. Stay tuned for more information on this in a future issue of Bird Calls.



A Central American Adventure

At the end of January, Suzanne Checchia, our husbands and I, joined 8 other birders from various parts of the country for a winter getaway in Belize. We were whisked away from the Belize City airport onto a boat for a trip up the New River – Snail Kite, Northern Jacana and Boat-billed Heron among other sightings — to our first destination, Lamanai, a beautiful lodge and one of the country's prime birding spots. It did not disappoint. Highlights included Keel-billed Toucan, Lineated Woodpecker, Russet-naped Wood-rail and Masked Tityra, as well as a nighttime cruise through mangrove channels to search for nocturnal species.

Mayan ruins, excavated and unexcavated, are everywhere in Belize and many lodges are in their midst. But to reach these and many birding sites, we had to get off the main drag and navigate the unbelievably bumpy, potholed backroads, made more challenging by several days of torrential rain. It was the dry season but you couldn't prove it by us (3 days of rain out of 9). Nevertheless, we braved the elements and were justly rewarded.

Our stay at Pook's Hill, the second lodge, near the western border, provided great views of my two favorite birds of the trip – Blue-headed Motmot (spotted by Suzanne) and Agami Heron. Other species here included White-collared Manikin, Crimson-collared Tanager and Slaty-tailed and Black-headed Trogons. And the rum punches at the end of the day, as we went over our list, really hit the spot.



We headed to southern Belize for our final accommodation, the Lodge at Big Falls. Day trips produced Scarlet Macaws, Scissor and Fork-tailed flycatchers, Bare-throated Tiger-heron. One of the fun things about the trip was seeing many species of warblers in their wintering grounds. Our final day, after early birding, it was back to Belize City on a 15-person single-engine plane for our return home.

It was a super trip, to an interesting and demographically diverse country, with incredible birds. Great memories, photos to share and lots of stories to tell.

Above: Slaty-tailed Trogon by Bob Hill, Feb. 2017

Marj Lundy

We welcome articles from members to include in the "News of the Flock" section of Bird Calls.

*Bird Calls is published by the Evanston North Shore Bird Club, www.ensbc.org.
Please send suggestions, comments, articles and photos to Editor, Marj Lundy at catbird3@comcast.net*