

Bird Calls

Newsletter of the Evanston North Shore Bird Club

May 2019



Northern Shrike by Nancy Halliday

It was a Great Celebration !

ENSBC is now a centenarian! The March 26th birthday party at the Evanston Ecology Center was a time to reminisce, catch up with friends and enjoy the appropriately decorated anniversary cake. Many thanks to all who planned and joined us for the celebration.



Photo by
Kathy Stohrer

Highlights of the evening's program included historical tidbits from Gerry Ginsburg; information from Suzanne Checchia on Club field trip sightings and locations as far back as 1948; comments from author and long-time birder Joel Greenberg; and an entertaining and information-filled talk -- "Confessions of a Counter: From Birder to Scientist" -- by Richard Horowitz, from the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University in Philadelphia. An interesting piece of ENSBC history: Rich was Field Trip Chair when in high school and mentor to Joel, who grew up birding with the Club and later took on leadership roles.

Anniversary events will continue throughout the year. A couple of special activities will be a live bird program on September 8 at the Evanston Public Library and the Oct.1-5 trip to Cape May, led by Josh Engel and Red Hill Birding. Stay up to date by checking <http://www.ensbc.org> for details on these events, local field trips, and programs with noted speakers to be held in the coming months.

And now one more time, Happy Birthday ENSBC !



Sarah Miller, Kathy Stohrer, Libby Hill, Mayor Hagerty,
Jim and Carla LaRoche.

Evanston Mayor Stephen H. Hagerty proclaimed Tuesday, March 26, 2019 "Evanston North Shore Bird Club Day," in honor of the Club's 100th Anniversary, and presented a copy of the proclamation to members of the ENSBC Board.

Maybe the best Looney Trip ever, with 133 Loons!

By Dave Johnson ("The Loon Ranger")

As part of the centennial celebration of The Evanston North Shore Bird Club's founding in 1919, I led my Looney Trip on April 7th out in the "Chain O'Lakes" in Lake Co, IL with 20 other loonatics!

We were not disappointed as we observed 103 Common Loons, many of which were vociferously calling, on Bluff Lake in Antioch at Steitz's Resort. We ended the day observing 133 Common Loons. A high flying migrant Osprey was also seen at Bluff Lake.

American White Pelicans were on nearly every lake we visited including 28 on Diamond Lake. Lingered Common Goldeneye and Common Mergansers were on Long Lake along with 8 loons at Long Lake Park. On Mineola Bay on Fox Lake off the Historic Landmark Mineola Hotel, a raft of 49 Ruddy Ducks was observed.

Looned Out (if you could really say such a thing!), we took a brief break and had a delightful Mexican lunch at El Puerto in Fox Lake.

Horned Grebes were seen in good numbers including 27 at Lake Zurich, where we also saw many coot, Red-breasted Mergansers, Lesser Scaup, 8 loons, a pair of Canvasbacks and several Redheads.

All-in-all, a delightful Looney day!



*Photo by
Lin Johnston,
Bluff Lake*

*American White Pelican
and Common Loon*

It's Spring at Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary

Migration is in full swing and so are our volunteers!

This year we're focusing on the tree remnant on the north end and on areas #1 (by the beach house) and #2 (by the entrance gate, south of the west bump out). These areas got only weeding last year, but few plantings. We'll also carefully monitor area #3 where we did the bulk of our 2018 plantings, to be sure new plants are thriving and those pesky weeds stay under control, and we'll work on managing invasive Black Locust and Sand Bar Willow in area 4 (closest to the lake)

Weekly workdays are Thursdays from 3:00-5:30 and we're out there from 9:00-11:30 on the second Saturday of each month through October. Mark your calendars and invite your friends.

Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes and bring trowel or snippers if you have them. We look forward to seeing you and to another "growthful" year at the beach!

Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst

Congratulations are in Order!

Julie Dorfman and Jerry Herst, co-stewards of Clark Street Beach Bird Sanctuary, were recently honored by The Chicago Audubon Society Board of Directors as recipients of its 2019 Biennial Environmental "**Protector of the Environment - Avocation**" Award. Many ENSBC members attended the banquet to share the excitement.

The award recognized Julie and Jerry as starting out fairly new to restoration and stewardship, educating themselves as they took on this project of restoration and management at CSBBS, sharing their knowledge and leadership with a large pool of volunteers, and making this project a top priority in their lives! They took on what was a small remnant with a lot of non-native or invasive vegetation, and, with volunteers, turned it into an impressive, well-designed, diverse habitat that attracts many migrant birds, as well as lots of butterflies and other insects. Julie and Jerry have been stewards for three years.

Welcome to the
following
new ENSBC members:



Anne Berkeley	Evanston
Rabbi Herbert Bronstein	Evanston
Jorge & Lori Catalan	Evanston
Daniel & Nancy Engel	Evanston
Michael Grady	Evanston
Jeffrey Hannan	Chicago
John Leonard	Glenview
Gary Mellman	Chicago
Matthew Rooney	Evanston
John Searles	Evanston
Leslie Shad	Evanston
Barbara Shelly	Evanston
Susan Terp	Evanston

A bit of ENSBC history....

In digging through some Club historical records, Suzanne Checchia found checklists from 1949. On field trips that year, ENSBC members saw 196 species, among them a Large-billed Tern, the first US record!

The range of this inland species is tropical South America from Colombia and Trinidad, south to Peru and Argentina, mainly along the sandy banks of South America's great rivers and estuaries. It breeds on sandbanks along large deep rivers.



Large-billed Tern, by Therese Smith

Cape May Migration Madness!

Join ENSBC's Josh Engel and his tour company, Red Hill Birding, September 25-30, for the best of East Coast fall migration. Check it out at

<https://www.redhillbirding.com/capemay>.

Field Trips — Mark your Calendar!

Perkins Woods, Thursdays, May 2 — 30. Look for warblers and other migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the corner of Ewing Ave. and Grant St. Park along Ewing Ave. Leader: John Bates or Josh Engel.

Skokie Lagoons, Fridays, May 3 — 24. These trips pack a great list of warbler species during spring migration. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Erickson Woods Forest Preserve parking lot, north of Willow Rd. just east of the Edens. Leader: Lynne Carpenter; John Leonard, May 10.

Northwestern University Campus, Saturdays, May 4 — 18. This area is a stopover for migrants of all kinds. Meet at 8:30 a.m. Park on the lake side, upper deck, south parking lot. Leaders: Libby Hill, May 4; with Sarah Flax, May 11; with Nancy Halliday, May 18.

Gillson Park, Sheridan Rd. and Clark St., north of Clark St. Beach. Leaders: **Sundays, May 5 — 26**. Sponsored by our partner, Go Green Wilmette. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the beach by the dog park. Non-residents may park there through May. For more information, contact kglenneimer@gmail.com.

Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary, Tuesdays, May 7 and 14. Join us for a morning at Montrose. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at handicapped parking. Leader: John Leonard, May 7; Tamima Itani, May 14.

The Grove, Wednesday, May 8. Expect warblers and other passerines. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at The Grove: east side of Milwaukee Ave., just south of Lake Ave., in the second parking lot that leads to the interpretive center. Leader: Nancy Halliday.

Jackson Park and Lakefront — Wooded Island, Sunday, May 12. We will be looking for migrating passerines. Meet at 7:00 a.m. Park south of the Museum of Science and Industry after driving on the east side of the building. Leader: Dick Young.

Kankakee Sands, Morocco, Indiana, Sunday, May 19. Near Morocco, Indiana, this 8,000-acre prairie and wetland is a Nature Conservancy site with over 200 bird species recorded since restoration began in 2001. A two-hour drive from Evanston, carpooling is recommended. RSVP to Leader: Mark Vaughan, markvaughan60201@gmail.com.

And after May....

Plum Creek Forest Preserve, Saturday, June 29. 6th Annual trip! Meet at 7:30 a.m., forest preserve parking lot, east side of Burnham Rd., about 1 mile south of Sauk Trail. We'll look especially for grassland and shrubland birds that are otherwise rare so close to Chicago. Limit of 10; RSVP to Josh Engel at josh@redhillbirding.com.

Calumet Marshes, Sunday, July 28. Explore the marshes and wetlands of the Lake Calumet area, looking for breeding marsh birds, early migrant shorebirds and wandering waders. Meet at O'Brien Lock & Dam at 8:00 am. Contact Walter Marcisz at wmarcisz@att.net or 312-206-9889.

Calumet Sewage Ponds, Sunday, August 18. Visit the region's premier shorebird site with ENSBC and Chicago Ornithological Society. Advance sign-up is required. Get registration form from Walter Marcisz, wmarcisz@att.net or 773-646-3034 or 312-206-9889 (cell). Completed form must be turned in by July 10 to Walter at 13416 S. Mackinaw Ave, Chicago, IL 60633. Limit, 25 people. No cameras.

ENSBC Board Members for 2019-2020

President	Jim LaRochelle	Conservation Chair	Suzanne Checchia
Vice President	Arden Davidson	Field Trip Chair	Libby Hill
Treasurer	John Hockman	Assistant Field Trip Chair	Mark Vaughan
Recording Secretary	Nancy Halliday	Bird Calls Editor	Marj Lundy
Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Halliday	Publicity	Open
Program Chair	Libby Hill	Archivist	Sarah Miller
Membership Chair	Kathy Stohrer		

Monarch Adventure



Photo by Caryn Hollander

Several months ago, Caryn Hollander and her husband visited Monarch butterfly wintering grounds in Mexico, seeing a truly spectacular sight. They visited 2 of several public Monarch reserves in Angangueo where the numbers of butterflies are up 144% from last year, 15+ acres compared to 6. Excellent news!

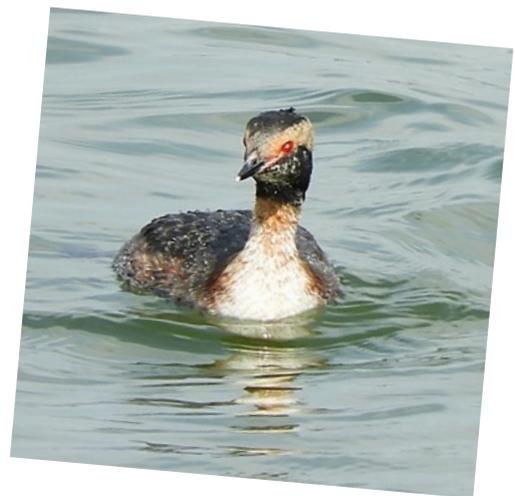
These butterflies make the remarkable journey from southern Canada and the US east of the Rockies, flying for over 2 months. This generation of butterfly can live 6-7 months with only one goal...migration. On their roosting grounds, the Monarchs survive temperatures into the low 30s as well as snowfalls at elevations of some 9000 feet. A few were seen practicing "mating" with no success since reproductive systems are turned off in winter, and there's no milkweed available for laying eggs. They'll be migrating north soon with most seen here in late summer.

Locations visited in 1948 and 1949 (70 years ago) by members of the then "Evanston Bird Club"

(Check out the names)

103 rd & Stoney Island	Long Johns Slough
Baker's Lake	Memorial Park Cemetery
Church Street Preserve (Linne Woods)	Memorial Park Marsh
Colfax & Ewing Forest Preserve (Perkins Woods)	Morton Arboretum
Doetsche Sand Pit, Evanston	Northerly Island
Eggers Grove & Wolf Lake	Orland Wildlife Preserve
Elk Grove (east of route 72)	Skokie Lagoons
Eustice Place	Touhy Clay Pit (Touhy at McCormick)
Harms Woods	Upland Lake
Lincoln Park	Waukegan Harbor & Public Service Ponds
Lincoln Park Sanctuary	Wilmette Harbor

Thanks to Suzanne Checchia for this historical look.



Horned Grebe, Looney Trip, Lake Zurich, Apr. 6
Photo by Lin Johnston

Upcoming Programs

Check www.ensbc.org for upcoming fall program dates and speakers as we continue our 100th anniversary lecture series.